

Mystical Interpretation of Prophet Isa in Bursawi's Qur'an Commentary *Ensar Cutahija*

Ismail Haqqi Bursawi (1652-1725) lived in the Ottoman Empire, where remarkable contribution to the Islamic science and knowledge was made and under whom the Sufi *tafsir* experienced its bloom so the appropriate room is dedicated to this period and development of exegesis in it. *Ruh al Bayan fi Tafsir al Qur'an*, written and compiled by the Ottoman exegete Bursawi, is a gem of Sufi hermeneutics (*tafsir*), sharing its outstanding commentary characteristics and a long existence. Since Isa/Jesus is, along with his mother Maryam, an inspirational figure for Muslims, Christians and others too, and Bursawi's commentary is *ishari* (allusive) in its nature and inspired by Ibn Arabi and some other great Sufi scholars, it rightfully deserves a scholarly scrutiny. This study aims to analyse layers of meanings hidden in *ishari* inspired commentary made by Bursawi on Isa/Jesus - Allah's Word and the Spirit from Him - as well as the prophethood and the relationship of other messengers with Allah.

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