

Ṭahāwī's approach to the different readings of the Qur'an: redefining orthodoxy
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This paper analyses how Abu Jafar al-Tahawi (d. 321) deals with the different recitations of the Qur'an that existed at his time. The orthodox position highlighted traditionally in books of *ulum al-Qur'an*, often state that one reading is not to be preferred over the other different of the Qur'an (*qira'at*) based on *ijtihad*. Evidence from the way al-Tahawi deals with this topic suggests that whilst he does see all the readings as coming from God, sometimes he clearly prefers some readings over others based on logical as well as narration-based proofs. This paper will argue that much of what makes al-Tahawi's approach unique, can be attributed to the era he was living and something he shared with his contemporaries like al-Tabari.

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