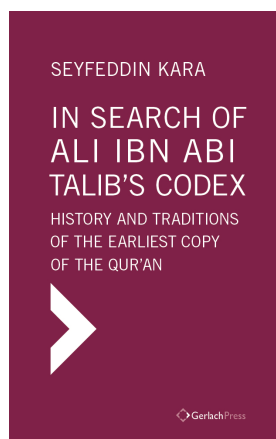Seyfeddin Kara

IN SEARCH OF ALI IBN ABI TALIB'S CODEX: HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF THE EARLIEST COPY OF THE QUR'AN.

With a Foreword by James Piscatori

The history of the text of the Qur'an has been a longstanding subject of interest within the field of Islamic Studies, but the debate has so far been focused on the Sunni traditions about the codices of Caliphs Abū Bakr and ʿUthmān b. ʿAffān. Little to no attention has been given to the traditions on ʿAlī b. Abī Ṭālib's collection of the Qur'an.

This book examines both Shiʿi and Sunni traditions on the issue, aiming to date them back to the earliest possible date and, if possible, verify their authenticity.

To achieve this, the traditions are examined using Harald Motzki's *isnād-cum-matn* method, which is recognised as an efficient tool in dating the early Islamic traditions and involves analysis of both *matn* (text) and *isnād* (chain of trans-mission) with an emphasis on finding a correlation between the two.

"*Kara's application of hadith criticism to Shiʻi sources is innovative as well as constructive. Respectful of others' contributions, he nonetheless subverts conventional sceptical and starkly sectarianised approaches to Scriptural textual history.*" (From the foreword by James Piscatori)

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