

Religious Intertextuality in Ayman Otoom's Novel His Name is Ahmed

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Abstract

Ayman Otoom, a Jordanian novelist, poet, and intellectual born in 1972, is recognized for his profound integration of religious intertextuality into modern Arabic literature. Otoom has an academic background in civil engineering and Arabic studies, and his literary corpus includes poetry collections such as *My Heart is with You, My Love* (2013), plays such as *Kingdom of Poetry* (2002), and novels such as *Oh, Mason's Face* (1999), *My Prison Fiend* (2012), *Soldier Talk* (2014), *A Group of Jinn* (2014), and *His Name is Ahmed* (2017). This study examined the distinctive role of religious intertextuality in shaping the narrative and thematic structure of *His Name is Ahmed*. It employed an inductive, descriptive, and analytical approach. The results revealed that Otoom's use of intertextuality not only enriches the novel's literary depth but also engages with cultural and sociopolitical discourses. This study analyzes intertextual references to religious texts and their integration into the novel's fabric, thereby bridging the gaps in the existing research on Otoom's stylistic innovations. The findings of this study advance our understanding of religious intertextuality as a narrative strategy in modern Arabic literature.

