

## **Abstract**

The study addresses the Religions of the Arabs before Islam, and focusing on Arabic idolatry and Arab idols, and its subject is to understand the Arabic gods and its nature by studying the divine names of the Arabic Idols and gods which were worshipped by the Arabs before Islam, and also to illustrate the effect of the Southern Levantine civilization on the Arabic idolatry, just as Christianity and Judaism spread out into Arabia from the Levant by trade and political and cultural factors, it is also reasonable that part of the Southern Levant idolatry had spread out in Arabia in the same way. And this was reflected clearly through the worship of a main and central gods.

The study attempts to shed light on the Arab idols and some of their religious rites, it also reviews the various and different names of the Arabic gods by clarifying this difference and variety of gods, and if this stems from a natural variety or it's just many titles given to the same god, since the abundance of names does not necessarily indicate the worship of many gods, so it is controversial, because it might be that the same god has several names and titles according to each Arab tribe, due to each one of these tribes used to call god according to its environment and to its perspective and philosophy of god's nature. And thus appears to each Arab tribe a different names for the same god, and maybe all the matter is about a main god who was worshipped by all the Semitic people in different ways and titles.

This research studies the religions of the Arabs before Islam, by reading some of the Arabic Islamic sources and narratives as well as review some different Arabic inscriptions in particular that in which mention the Arabic idols and gods and its symbols.

The search is divided into an introduction and three main chapters, the first chapter entitled "The religions of the Arabs before Islam" is divided into three parts, the first part talks about the benefit from the knowledge of Arabian religions before Islam, and the second part deals with the sources of our knowledge of the Arabic idolatry, and part three deals with the Arab connection with the neighboring peoples in Iraq and Syria, and a summary of this chapter.

Chapter two entitled “Arabs idols before Islam” is divided into three parts, the first part deals with the worship of idols by the Arabs according to the Islamic narrative, and the second part deals with the worship of the god El by the Arabs and the other Semitic people, and the third part deals with the worship of the mother goddess by the Arabs and the Semitic people in different ways and titles, then a summary of this chapter.

Chapter three entitled “Tendency towards Monotheism” is divided into three parts also, the first part addressing the god “Baal Shamiam” as the main god in which appeared in many inscriptions and practices of the first century BCE. Part two deals with the origin of the Sabians sect their beliefs and rituals and their influence on the Arabs, as well as dealing with the veneration of stars by some of the Arabs, and part three addressing the “Haneefs Sect” which deals with Abraham’s religion according to the Islamic concept and that some of the Arabs were Haneefs, as this religion is not far from the monotheistic religions like Judaism and Christianity.

And the end of this research is the highlight of the results, and finally the main list of sources and references and appendices.