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WHO IS THE 'OTHER' PARACLETE?

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THE QURANIC PARACLETE: AḤMAD

In *Sura* 61:6, we read this well-known announcement: *And when Jesus the son of Mary said: "Children of Israel, verily I am the messenger of Allah to you in order to confirm what was before me from the Torah and to announce the message that shall bring the messenger who is to come after me and whose name is Aḥmad"*. As Wansbrough noticed, this Aḥmad can be compared to a similar prophecy that we find in S 33: 40, but in this case referring to the name Muḥammad.¹ In the following lines, dedicated to the scholar who marked and reoriented the Quranic studies of the last decades so profoundly, we will try to further explore the meaning of this striking variation of names.

It has long been remarked that the verse of *Sura* 61 is a free citation from the Gospel of John (14:16), where we read: *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter (παράκλητος), that he may abide with you for ever, or, rather, from chapter 15, verse 26: But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me. Indeed, the preceding verse 25 might contain the reference to*

¹ Wansbrough, J. *Quranic Studies. Sources and Methods of Scriptural Interpretation*, 64. London Oriental Series, 31. Oxford, 1977; Urvoy, M.-T. "Annonce de Mahomet." In Amir-Moezzi, M. A., ed. *Dictionnaire du Coran*, 55. Paris, 2007.

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