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### АННОТАЦИЯ

Ушбу мақолада Абу Райхон Берунийнинг қиёсий диншуносликдаги ўзига хос методологияси таҳлил қилинган. XI асрнинг буюк олими Беруний ислом ва ҳиндуийлик динларига мурожаат қилган ҳолда, эмпирик таҳлил ва чуқур интеллектуал қизиқиш асосида қиёсий диншуносликка асос солган. Унинг методи бевосита кузатув, танқидий таҳлил ва маданий бағрикенглик тамойилларига асосланган бўлиб, ўз давридаги анъанавий диний чегаралар ва таассублардан холи бўлган. Тадқиқотда Берунийнинг тизимли таҳлил ва тарихий контекстлаштиришга асосланган ёндашуви замонавий қиёсий теология ва диншунослик фанларининг методологияларига пойдевор бўлганлиги кўрсатилган. Унинг асарлари ханузгача динлараро мулоқотни ривожлантириш, маданий турфаликни англаш ва интеллектуал мафқурани шакллантириш учун муҳим илмий манба бўлиб хизмат қилмоқда.

**Калит сўзлар:** Беруний, қиёсий диншунослик, диншунослик, динлараро мулоқот, эмпирик таҳлил, маданий контекст, ҳиндуийлик, ислом, методология, тарих.

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## НАУЧНЫЙ ПОДХОД БИРУНИ В СРАВНИТЕЛЬНОМ РЕЛИГИОВЕДЕНИИ

### АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье анализируется уникальная методология Абу Райхана аль-Бируни в области сравнительного религиоведения. Великий ученый XI века аль-Бируни подходил к сравнительной теологии с глубоким интеллектуальным любопытством и строгим эмпирическим анализом, особенно уделяя внимание индуизму и исламу. Его метод включал прямое наблюдение, критический анализ и культурную эмпатию, выходя за рамки традиционных догматических ограничений и предрассудков своего времени. Исследование подчеркивает, как систематический анализ и историческая контекстуализация, характерные для подхода Бируни, превзошли современные методологии сравнительного

религиоведения. Его работы продолжают служить важным источником для развития межрелигиозного диалога, культурного взаимопонимания и интеллектуальной скромности в современной религиоведческой науке.

**Ключевые слова:** Бируни, сравнительная теология, религиоведение, межрелигиозный диалог, эмпирический анализ, культурный контекст, индуизм, ислам, методология, интеллектуальная история.

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## AL-BIRUNI'S APPROACH IN COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### ABSTRACT

This article explores Abu Rayhan al-Biruni's unique methodology in comparative religious studies. Al-Biruni, an eminent scholar of the 11th century, approached comparative theology with rigorous empirical analysis and deep intellectual curiosity, particularly engaging with Hinduism and Islam. His method emphasized direct observation, critical analysis, and cultural empathy, transcending traditional dogmatic boundaries and biases prevalent during his era. The study highlights how Al-Biruni's systematic analytical techniques and historical contextualization anticipated modern methodologies in comparative theology and religious studies. His works continue to provide significant insights for fostering interfaith dialogue, cultural understanding, and intellectual humility in contemporary religious scholarship.

**Index Terms:** Al-Biruni, comparative theology, religious studies, interfaith dialogue, empirical analysis, cultural context, Hinduism, Islam, methodology, intellectual history.

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### Introduction

In exploring the intricate landscape of comparative theology, one cannot overlook the significant contributions of the polymath Abu Rayhan al-Biruni. His approach, characterized by a profound curiosity and a commitment to intellectual rigor, serves as a distinctive lens through which the dialogue between diverse religious traditions can be examined. Born in the early 11th century in the Khwarezm region, Biruni engaged with various faiths, primarily Hinduism and Islam, while also delving into philosophical inquiries. This introduction sets the stage for understanding how Biruni's methodology transcended mere academic study; it was rooted in a genuine respect for the beliefs of others, accompanied by meticulous empirical investigation. By analyzing his writings, we uncover not only his nuanced perspectives but also a framework for contemporary comparative theology that encourages dialogue, fostering a greater understanding among different cultural and religious communities.

### Main part

Abu Rayhan al-Biruni stands out as a pivotal figure in the study of comparative theology, utilizing a unique analytical framework that transcended the dogmatism of his time. His meticulous examination of various religious beliefs and practices, particularly through the lens of Hinduism and Islam, is significant for understanding religious diversity. Biruni's approach emphasized empirical observation and critical inquiry, fostering a respectful dialogue between differing faiths. Notably, his works underscore the sociocultural dimensions of religion, reflecting on how these elements shape belief systems, thereby positioning his inquiries within a broader social context (al-Gharbi et al., 2021). Furthermore, Biruni's historical methodology illuminated the importance of language and documentation, as seen in the underutilized Persian documents related to religious life. In this way, his contributions not only enriched the field of comparative theology but also promoted an early form of social science that acknowledged the complexities of human belief systems.

Al-Biruni's methodology in comparative theology reveals a profound commitment to understanding the nuances of various religious traditions without the imposition of personal bias. His approach was grounded in rigorous analytical practices, best exemplified by his assertion that he believed in the importance of direct observation and personal experience in understanding religious phenomena "Al-Biruni's approach to comparative theology was characterized by a rigorous methodology that involved a deep understanding of the texts and practices of various religions. He believed in the importance of direct observation and personal experience in understanding religious phenomena." (Seyyed Hossein Nasr). By meticulously analyzing texts and engaging with practitioners of different faiths, Al-Biruni crafted a framework that emphasized both critical analysis and cultural context. His work offered a historical overview that resonates with modern concepts of information literacy, as indicated in various studies of ancient sources and the educational methods prevalent in the madrasas of his time (MUGHAL et al., 2014). Furthermore, his efforts to synthesize diverse religious perspectives highlight the potential of comparative theology as a means to foster intercultural dialogue and understanding (N/A, 2025).

In the realm of comparative theology, Beruni's analytical techniques stand out for their systematic approach to understanding diverse religious beliefs. By employing a methodical inquiry that emphasized observation and critical reflection, he was able to transcend simplistic interpretations, which often obscure the complexities of belief systems. This analytical rigor is evidenced in his writings, where he examined the foundational principles of various faiths, allowing for a nuanced understanding that challenges prevailing stereotypes of religions. Furthermore, Beruni's emphasis on contextual understanding situates beliefs within their cultural and historical frameworks, enabling deeper insights into practices and doctrines. His scholarly contributions not only facilitated dialogue between different religious traditions but also positioned him as a pioneer in the field, anticipating modern methodologies in religious studies. This intersection of rigorous inquiry and cultural sensitivity has made Beruni's work a cornerstone for scholars exploring the intricacies of faith, as highlighted in various academic analyses (N/A, 2014) (MUGHAL et al., 2014)(Shukla-Bhatt N, 2023).

The cultural context in which Al-Biruni conducted his comparative analysis significantly influenced his theological investigations, particularly in his seminal work, *Kitab al-Hind*. By engaging deeply with Indian culture, language, and practices, he demonstrated a unique ability to transcend typical sectarian and cultural biases. His method involved not merely observation but also a profound immersion into the local customs and beliefs, which allowed him to present an empathetic understanding of a complex society. As noted, Al-Biruni's comparative approach to understanding different cultures, as seen in his *Kitab al-Hind*, reflects a methodological rigor that was ahead of its time. This commitment to a nuanced analysis is further underscored by the historical and cultural richness of regions like Banaras, which serve as a backdrop for diverse religious interplays, as indicated in the extensive accounts of the areas cultural significance (Singh VL, 2019). Ultimately, Beruni's approach fosters an essential dialogue between faiths that continues to inform interdisciplinary studies today .

Beruni's cultural background significantly shaped his approach to comparative theology, allowing him to uniquely interpret and juxtapose diverse religious traditions. As a scholar deeply entrenched in the Persian intellectual milieu, he was both a product and a critic of his society's religious pluralism. This environment influenced his appreciation for different belief systems, evident in his meticulous comparisons between Hinduism and Islam, which he regarded with respect rather than condescension. His critical examination extended beyond mere theological constructs; it encompassed the socio-cultural contexts of these religions, demonstrating an awareness of how local traditions impacted broader religious narratives. Moreover, Beruni's insights can be seen as a response to the challenges faced by modern Muslim scholars in reconciling secular and religious epistemologies, echoing the argument that a profound understanding of one's cultural heritage is essential for addressing contemporary issues in faith and learning (Виктория Петровна Устинова et al., 2019)(Paskaleva E, 2015).

## Conclusion

In conclusion, Beruni's approach in comparative theology reveals a sophisticated understanding of religious discourse and philosophical inquiry, marking a significant contribution to the field. His meticulous examination of various religious texts, as well as his embrace of diverse philosophical traditions, encourages a dialogue that transcends cultural boundaries.

The enduring significance of Beruni's approach to comparative theology is evident in contemporary religious studies, where the necessity for interfaith dialogue and understanding has never been greater. Beruni's meticulous methodology, which emphasized the objective examination of diverse religious traditions, provides a foundational framework that is particularly relevant today. His ability to transcend cultural and theological boundaries fosters a spirit of inclusivity that encourages scholars to appreciate the nuances of various belief systems rather than dismiss them. In an increasingly pluralistic society, Beruni's emphasis on patience, intellectual humility, and respect for differing viewpoints serves as a guide for modern researchers navigating complex religious landscapes. By employing Beruni's analytical techniques, contemporary scholars can address contemporary issues such as religious intolerance and extremism, ultimately contributing to a more harmonious coexistence among diverse faith communities. Thus, his legacy continues to inspire critical reflection and dialogue in the field of comparative theology.

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