

The Khurāsāniyyah

Commentary of

“The Creed of the Two Rāzīs”

(Aṣl al-Sunnah wa I’tiqād al-Dīn)

Consisting of what Abū Hātim & Abū Zur‘ah gathered
from the scholars of Ahl-us-Sunnah in all regions

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

This book is a commentary of the Creed of the two Rāzīs, Abū Ḥātim and Abū Zur‘ah, may Allah have mercy upon them. It is among the creedal works affiliated with the way of the Salaf al-Ṣāliḥ (Pious Predecessors), Ahl-us-Sunnah wal-Jamā‘ah.

The Salaf – from among the Ṣaḥābah, the Tābi‘ūn and those who followed them in good – would rely on the texts of the Qur’ān and Sunnah, being guided by its guidance and halting at its limits, not parting away from it concerning anything big or small. That is why the works of the Imāms of the Salaf were distinguished by frequent citation of texts (of the Qur’ān and Sunnah); and so their works were replete with verses of the Noble Qur’ān, what is authentic of the Honorable Sunnah and statements of the Salaf al-Ṣāliḥ. It is this approach that has been taken with this commentary.

The author has attempted to present a new analysis in this commentary that deals with the methodology of creedal evidence deduction and draws the attention of the reader to the rules pertaining to beliefs through which evidence is deduced for affirming faith-related beliefs, along with giving considerable attention to the historical course that the discourses of the People of Innovation have taken, tracking their progression and transition with the people of the East and the people of the West, and monitoring the points of influence and vulnerability among the Mutakallimūn. The reader will find the effect of this method and this grounding in tracing the discourses of the People of Innovation back to their foundations, along with refuting and abolishing them; for among the greatest ways of refuting one’s opponents is by understanding the points of agreement and difference among them, and paying attention to refuting the foundations of their discourses and principles. After that, refuting the details and secondary matters will not be something difficult for the seeker of the truth.

The Creed of the two Rāzīs was not compiled in the same subject order that became common after that in the creedal works of later scholars; rather, it was compiled in a different order that suited what existed in that era. Thus, it began by examining the issue of *Īmān*, then the Qur’ān, then *Qaḍā’* and *Qadar*... until

their Creed concluded by explaining the state of the People of Innovations and explaining the manner by which they parted the light of the revelation and followed the ways of misguidance.

The commentary begins with an explanation of the importance of the discipline of *'Aqīdah* and its status among Islamic disciplines. If the nobility of a certain discipline is linked to the nobility of its subject matter, then the most noble of disciplines is knowledge of Allah, His names, His attributes and His rights upon His servants.

The author then goes on to emphasize the all-encompassing major principle that governs creedal matters, which is an explanation of the source by which Islamic beliefs are derived, which is the texts of the infallible revelation from the Qur'ān and authentic Sunnah, and that there is no contradiction between the sound intellect and sound explicit transmission (texts of the Qur'ān and Sunnah); for the transmission is the command of Allah, while the intellect is the creation of Allah, both of which are from Allah and to Allah:

﴿أَلَا لَهُ الْخَلْقُ وَالْأَمْرُ﴾

“Unquestionably, His is the creation and the command.”

[Sūrah al-A'raf (7):54]

Emphasis is also placed on an important and central methodological issue, which is understanding the language of the revelation and taking into account the familiar manner of the Legislator in His speech.

Among the most precise ways in understanding beliefs is understanding their foundations and then their branches, and paying attention to the primary issues before the secondary ones. This principle is also very important in understanding the discourses of the People of Misguidance and in refuting the deviation of the deviants, as it assists in knowing the origin of every misguidance; for knowing the foundations of the truth is the door to knowing the foundations of falsehood and its branches. That is why learning the foundations of beliefs precedes knowing its branches.

It is through these three principles (relying on the transmission, taking into account the familiar manner of the Legislator in His speech, and giving precedence to the foundations over the branches in affirming beliefs and tracing

the discourses of the opponents back to their foundations) that this commentary has proceeded.

Along with that, what stands out in this commentary is the combination of logical and transmitted (texts of the Qur'ān and Sunnah) arguments, which are found in three other milestones:

First: Mention of the details of those important issues in '*Aqīdah*' which are much needed.

Second: Mention of narrated statements of the Salaf concerning most of what has been researched of creedal matters, in both its foundations and branches. This is a method that you will perhaps not find in many commentaries of creedal books except rarely, and it takes you back to what the first generation of this Ummah were upon.

Third: Mention of the agreed upon logical foundations along with the transmitted foundations (from the Qur'ān and Sunnah) which the beliefs of the Salaf trace back to, which are all disseminated in the Qur'ān and Sunnah, as well as references of the Salaf and early Imāms, all in the most complete and clear of manners; although some have alleged to the contrary. Along with that, the confusion and contradiction of the People of Whims and Innovations in their beliefs, both in foundations and branches, has been pointed out; and likewise is everything that comes from other than the lantern of the infallible revelation.

Moreover, the commentary starts with an historical introduction on how the discipline of '*Aqīdah*' progressed, the appearance of the discourses of the Innovators and the factors that influenced the emergence of the discipline of *Kalām* (speculative theology); all in an attempt to trace the discourses of the Innovators back to their origins in the discourses of the past nations, or the discourses of the past sects, because of the significance of such grounding in knowing the discourses, evaluating them and refuting them.

You will thus find that consideration is given to these principles and milestones in the diverse chapters of *The Khurāsāniyyah*:

In the study of the issue of *Īmān*: the commentary pays close attention to studying the historical path of the dispute concerning it, while pointing out the first to have excluded actions from the definition of *Īmān*. Also, close

consideration is given to studying the relationship between the discourses of the sects of the Mutakallimūn who opposed the Salaf in the topic of *Īmān*, while also explaining the angles of influence and vulnerability among them, and then exiting therefrom by formulating the view of Ahl-us-Sunnah wal-Jamā'ah concerning the various issues related to *Īmān*.

In the issue of *Asmā'* (names) and *Aḥkām* (rulings): the commentary mentions the categorization of sins into major and minor. It also studies the ruling on the one who commits them according to Ahl-us-Sunnah, as well as according to the Innovators among the Khawārij, Mu'tazilah and Murji'ah, and that the Khawārij charge a person with disbelief by a valid reason for it as well as other reasons, while the Murji'ah on the other hand do not charge anyone with disbelief whether for a valid reason or otherwise. As for Ahl-us-Sunnah, they distinguish between one who falls into sin out of desire versus one who falls into it considering it legally lawful. Thus, they say, "No one from the People of the Qiblah becomes a disbeliever due to committing a sin, unless he considers it to be legally lawful."

In the study of *Istithnā'* (making an exception) for *Īmān*: the commentary focuses on this issue according to the Salaf and channels it accordingly, mentioning its causes and the viewpoints of people concerning it. It also gives exposure to the origin of the conflict between Ahl-us-Sunnah and the Murji'ah concerning it.

In the study of the issue of the Qur'ān: the commentary focuses on emphasizing that prior to the emergence of the discourses of the People of Misguidance, there was already unanimous consensus that the Qur'ān was the speech of Allah and that the speech of Allah is uncreated. Then it studies the roots of the discourse of the Innovators concerning the speech of Allah, by explaining the discourses concerning the attribute of speech prior to Islam, the causes for misguidance in this issue, emphasizing the impact that the discourse of Ibn Kullāb had on many of the Mutakallimūn after him, and explaining the difference between the Mu'tazilah and the Ashā'irah concerning the attribute of speech; for paying close attention to tracing the discourses of the Innovators back to their foundations aids in evaluating them and refuting their deviants, as reference to has already been made previously.

The commentary also mentions the ruling on the Khalqiyah, Lafdhiyyah and Wāqifah concerning the speech of Allah, as well as the evil imperatives that result in the view that the Qur'ān is created.

In the study of the issue of belief in *Qaḍā'* and *Qadar* (predestination): the commentary focuses on studying the concept of *Qadar* in Western philosophies, giving exposure to the study of the theory of evolution, thoroughly studying it and exposing its defects. It also gives exposure to affirming the divine knowledge that encompasses all major and minor things, while refuting the words of the philosophers who restrict the divine knowledge to only major things without encompassing minor things and details; may Allah be far high and free of what they say.

Moreover, in following the principle of negating any contradiction between the intellect and transmission (texts of the Qur'ān and Sunnah), the commentary emphasizes that the issue of *Qaḍā'* and *Qadar* is among the issues that the intellect falls short in comprehending; for searching the never-ending – of minute information and occurring incidents – is not within the scope of the intellect to comprehend. It is this deficiency that was the reason for the prohibition of delving into *Qadar* and the obligation of submitting to what the revelation has informed of concerning this issue.

The commentary also pays close attention to the study of the discourses of the Innovators on the matter of *Qadar*. It thus studies the origins of the innovation of negating *Qadar*, the sects in opposition to the Salaf in affirming *Qadar* and the origins of this innovation in both negation and affirmation in Greek philosophy. The commentary also gives exposure to the different kinds of evils according to Ahl-us-Sunnah and according to the Mu'tazilah, as well as the causes of the misguidance of those who went astray in this major issue.

In the chapter concerning virtues: the commentary studies the causes that led to the misguidance of those who went astray concerning the right of the Prophet (ﷺ), the multiple considerations that necessitated the Ṣaḥābah having greater preference over others and the reasons for the virtue of the Ṣaḥābah remaining intact even after their disputes and in-fighting. Thereafter, the commentary gives exposure to the obligation of refraining from delving into what took place

between the Ṣaḥābah and the grave danger of slandering and speaking ill of them.

Concerning the affirmation of Allah's transcendence and rising above the Throne: the commentary studies the affirmation that Allah's transcendence is a logical and legal imperative, and mentions those who disputed concerning this imperative. It also studies the discourses of those sects that opposed the Salaf concerning the issue of Allah's personal transcendence (above His creation), as well as the origin of the belief concerning *Hulūl* (Allah personally being everywhere). The commentary also combined between the texts (of the Qur'ān and Sunnah) concerning Allah's transcendence with the texts concerning Allah being with and near His creation, clarifying that there is no contradiction between the two according to the Salaf and Imāms.

In the chapter concerning affirmation of seeing Allah in a manner befitting His Majesty: the commentary mentions the evidences of that and the principles through which the Jahmiyyah negated seeing Allah, an example of which is the debate between Jahm and the Sumaniyyah, a philosophical sect that existed in the region of Khurāsān that was close to India. The commentary also points out that the foundations of Secularism and Liberalism are similar to the foundations of these Sumaniyyah; thus, the foundations of misguidance and deviation are one.

Concerning belief in the Last Day and the Resurrection: the commentary mentions belief in the Angel of Death and his assistants. It also points out the punishment of the grave and those who denied it, replying to their logical and transmitted (textual) doubts. It also gives exposure to the belief in resurrection after death and those who denied it. It goes on to mention the blowing of the trumpet and the difference of opinion concerning its number of times. It then mentions belief in Paradise and Hellfire, and that they are created, currently existing and lasting forever, not disappearing. It also mentions the *Ṣirāṭ* (Bridge) and its description, along with the state of those who cross over it. It mentions the *Mizān* (Scale), its description, its status, the wisdom behind it and the circumstances of the deeds that are weighed and its people. It then mentions the *Hawḍ* (Pond) of our Prophet (ﷺ), its description, its status, the wisdom behind it, and those who will approach it, as well as those who will be deprived from it; and the ponds of the other prophets.

Finally, the commentary mentions the issue of *Shafā'ah* (Intercession) and its various types, that it is specific to the sinners among the People of Tawhīd, Abū Ṭālib exclusively benefiting from the intercession of the Prophet (ﷺ), negating intercession from all the disbelievers, the reasons for a disbeliever not benefiting from any good deed and the intercession of the Prophet (ﷺ) for some of the people of righteousness. It also refutes those who deny the intercession that has been affirmed, as well as those who affirm the intercession that has been negated.

In explaining the position of Ahl-us-Sunnah concerning the deviant sects: the commentary starts by mentioning that the Ṣaḥābah never fell into any innovation. It also points out the foundations of innovations and sects, among which are the Murji'ah, Khawārij, Qadariyyah, Jahmiyyah and Rāfiḍah, and that the first three sects are deviant innovators, while the others are heretic disbelievers.

The commentary clarifies the danger of the innovation of the Murji'ah, that it is more severe than the innovation of the Khawārij, while both of them are confused in their misguidance and deviation. The commentary elaborates on these two sects, the ruling on them and their danger to the Ummah.

It also mentions the ruling on the Rāfiḍah, and that their claim to Islam is like the claim of the polytheists of Quraysh to *Hanīfiyyah* (pure monotheism).

The commentary then goes on to explain the signs by which the People of Whims and Innovations are known by, which can be combined in the following: their unity in hatred for the People of Ḥadīth and Athar, enmity of them and slandering them. It mentions the sign of the heretics, Jahmiyyah, Qadariyyah, Murji'ah and Rāfiḍah; explaining their contradiction in that and that Ahl-us-Sunnah have none other than one name, which is: "Ahl-ul-Ḥadīth was-Sunnah."

Finally, the commentary clarifies the advice of the Salaf in boycotting the People of Deviation and Innovations, along with the wisdom behind boycotting and separating from them. It further elaborates on explaining the circumstances of boycotting, its rulings, the angles that are observed when boycotting and the various states of denouncing innovation. It also points out the importance of using ease and kindness with some of the people of evil, mentioning the wisdom

behind that. It also emphasizes the legitimacy of continuing in reform even if the evil has not receded.

It is in this manner – that pays attention to emphasizing all-encompassing methodological principles and general foundations of *‘Aqīdah*, while also taking into account the familiar manner of the Legislator in His speech, along with mentioning the branches and tracing them back to their foundations – that this commentary has been written in explaining the Creed of the two Rāzīs, in an attempt to present an analysis that is more useful and beneficial in studying matters pertaining to the Salafī Creed and refuting those in whose hearts is deviation and whims, whether from the past or present.

It is hoped that this method will open a broad eye and illuminated skylight for the seekers of knowledge and guidance in understanding the issues of creed and matters of the unseen that will bring them back to seeking guidance through the light of revelation, and following in the footsteps of the illuminating lamp (the Prophet (ﷺ)) and the guidance of the Salaf al-Ṣāliḥ, may Allah be pleased with them all.

May Allah’s peace and blessings be upon Muḥammad, his family and his Ṣaḥābah, along with those who follow them in goodness until the Day of Judgment.