

Al-Ashbāh wa'l-Nazā'ir fī'l-Qur'ān al-Karīm: A Critical Analysis

SAYYID RIZWAN ALI NADVI*

Abstract: This paper seeks to critically analyse *Al-Ashbāh wa'l-Nazā'ir fī'l-Qur'ān al-Karīm*, an Urdu translation and commentary of *Al-Ashbāh wa'l-Nazā'ir*, erroneously ascribed to Muqātil bin Sulaymān (d. 150 A.H.), rendered into Urdu by Dr. Muḥammad Abū Naṣr Khālīdī (1916-1985), and annotated by Maulānā 'Aṭā' al-Raḥmān Qāsīmī (New Delhi: Shāh Wali Allah Research Institute, 2004). The authorship of the book has been inaccurately ascribed to Abū Naṣr Khālīdī, as he is the translator and commentator of the work. The book under review studies Qur'ānic vocabulary by providing the number of meanings or aspects (*ashbāh*, usually called *wujūh*) of each word and a gloss for each meaning and then by providing the parallel passages or analogues in which the word is used in that sense (*nazā'ir*).

The *Al-Ashbāh wa'l-Nazā'ir*, inaccurately ascribed to Muqātil ibn Sulaymān, was not authored by him as it contains grammatical terminology unknown in Arabic literature till the end of the 2nd century (A.H.). The author of the *Al-ashbāh wa'l-Nazā'ir* refers to various classical works on grammar and language. Since, not a single work/ book on grammar or any dictionary was written until 150 A.H. i.e., during the lifetime of Muqātil ibn Sulaymān. Instead, Muqātil is the author of *Al-Wujūh wa'l-Nazā'ir*, it has been edited, from a new manuscript, by Ḥātim Ṣālīḥ, an Iraqi scholar (Damascus, 2006). *Al-Ashbāh wa'l-Nazā'ir* was certainly authored by someone else, during the 9th century A.H. or after that.

*House # 5, "P" Street, Phase VII, D. H. A., Karachi-75500.