

MAHMUD ZAMAKHSHARI'S "AL-KASHSHAF" AND "NUKATU-L-E'ROB"

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Abstract

This article examines the scholarly contributions of Mahmud Zamakhshari, focusing on his prominent works "Al-Kashshaf," a renowned Quranic commentary (Tafsir), and "Nukatu-l-E'rob," a significant treatise on Arabic grammar and Quranic syntax. The study analyzes the distinctive features, similarities, and differences between these two works, highlighting Zamakhshari's expertise in both exegesis and linguistics. Furthermore, it explores the influence of Mu'tazili philosophical thought on "Al-Kashshaf" and the methodological approaches employed by Zamakhshari in interpreting the Quranic text. The analysis demonstrates the enduring significance of these works as valuable resources for understanding the Quran and the Arabic language.

Keywords: Mahmud Zamakhshari, Al-Kashshaf, Nukatu-l-E'rob, Tafsir, Quranic Exegesis, Arabic Grammar, Syntax, Mu'tazili, Islamic Scholarship, Linguistics.

Introduction

Our ancestor, Abulqosim Mahmud ibn Umar ibn Ahmad Zamakhshariy, who hails from the ancient land of Khorezm and made a worthy and significant contribution to the development of world science and culture, is one of the great scholars who played an unparalleled role in shaping religious values and passing them down from generation to generation.

In a secular state, religious values also hold an important place. Religious values have been serving to shape the culture, lifestyle, customs, and morality of the people of Uzbekistan and to pass them down from generation to generation [1:1]. Mahmud Zamakhshariy was born on Wednesday, 27 Rajab, 467 AH, which corresponds to March 18, 1075 AD, in the village of Zamakhshar in Khorezm [1:2].

Although Zamakhshariy received his initial education in his homeland, he traveled to many cities throughout his life in pursuit of knowledge. He learned from the famous scholars of his time. He became a leading scholar in several fields of knowledge and was awarded the title "Faxru-l-Khorezm" [3:14].

The scholar's fruitful work in various fields of science shows that he truly deserves the title "Ustazu-l-Arab wa Ajam" (Teacher of the Arabs and Non-Arabs). Zamakhshariy wrote more than 70 works, not all of which have survived to this day. This article analyzes the similarities and differences between the scholar's famous works, "Al-Kashshaf" and "Nukatu-l-e'rob."

Mahmud Zamakhshariy's "Al-Kashshaf an-haqoiqi-t-tanzil va uyuni-l-aqovil fi vujudhi-t-ta'vil" ("Unveiler of the Hidden Truths of the Revelation and the Springs of Narrations in the Aspects of Interpretation"), known briefly in the Islamic world as "Al-Kashshaf," is considered the crown jewel of the scholar's scientific legacy. This work has been recognized in the Islamic world as a universally accepted philological commentary due to its scientific importance.

According to sources, the scholar wrote this unique work in two stages. Initially, during a pilgrimage to Arabia in his youth, he began to comment on the Surah Al-Baqara of the Holy Quran and presented it to the Emir of Mecca. Mahmud Zamakhshariy continued the work of interpretation only after mastering all the requirements for the science of Tafsir and successfully completed it during his second trip to Mecca, between the years 1130-1134 [4:3].

The "Al-Kashshaf" is a highly significant work on Tafsir and is still taught at Al-Azhar University to this day. The comprehensive disclosure of the original meanings of the verses in terms of eloquence and rhetoric in the work indicates the author's deep knowledge and logical reasoning. The rare manuscripts of this work are found in many libraries around the world, and a number of researchers have conducted numerous scientific studies on them to this day.

Another of the scholar's works that reveals the subtle aspects of Arabic grammar is "Nukatu-l-e'rob fi g'aribi e'rob fi-l-Qur'onil Karim," in which grammatical topics are explained to the reader by revealing the subtle aspects of certain verses of the Holy Quran.

4. While "Al-Kashshaf" is one of the most important works in the science of Tafsir (Quranic exegesis), "Nukatu-l-e'rob" is considered a rare work on Arabic grammar and Quranic syntax. If we say that the main topic of "Al-Kashshaf" is Quranic

interpretation and eloquence, then the topic of "Nukatu-l-e'rob" is the grammatical analysis of Quranic verses. The direction of "Al-Kashshaf" is Tafsir and theology, while that of "Nukatu-l-e'rob" is grammar (syntax) and e'rob (grammatical structure). The style of "Al-Kashshaf" consists of revealing and analyzing the meanings of Quranic verses. The style of "Nukatu-l-e'rob" is to teach the grammatical structure of words and sentences in the Quran.

Zamakhshariy explained his Tafsir books in accordance with the beliefs of the Mu'tazili sect, especially its five principles: Tawhid (Oneness of God), Adl (Justice), Wa'd and Wa'eed (Promise and Threat), Manzila bain al-Manzilatain (A Position Between Two Positions), and Amr bil Ma'ruf wa Nahy 'anil Munkar (Enjoining Good and Forbidding Evil). In order for the reader of "Al-Kashshaf" not to be distracted by the Mu'tazili thoughts in it, it has become customary to print it together with two books in the margins.

They are: "Al-Intisof fima tazommanahu al-Kashshof minal i'tizol" (Looking with Fairness at the Mu'tazili Thoughts Contained in the Tafsir Al-Kashshaf) by Ibnul Munir al-Iskandariy, and "Al-Kof Ash-Shof fi taxriji ahadis al-Kashshof" (Sufficient for the Takhrij (Verification) of the Hadiths in the Tafsir Al-Kashshaf) by Ibn Hajar al-Asqalaniy. A unique feature of the Tafsir is that it does not interpret each verse in its entirety, but only writes the meaning for the words that need interpretation.

In conclusion, it can be said that Mahmud Zamakhshariy worked fruitfully in various fields of knowledge and left behind unparalleled works on Arabic grammar and Quranic exegesis. It would not be a mistake to say that "Nukatu-l-e'rob" and "Al-Kashshaf" are the crown jewels of such works.

"Al-Kashshaf" is a Quranic commentary that comprehensively explains the meaning, eloquence, and logical interpretations of the verses. "Nukatu-l-e'rob," on the other hand, is a work related to linguistics that grammatically analyzes certain verses in the Quran. Although both works are important sources for Quranic science and the Arabic language, one emphasizes Tafsir and the other emphasizes grammar.

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