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SCIENTIFIC EXEGESIS REAPPRAISED: A CRITICAL STUDY OF THE AL-JAWĀHIR FĪ TAFSĪR AL-QUR'ĀN AL-KARĪM

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to explore and examine the discipline of 'scientific exegeses' by providing a critical study of one of the first major works in that field, the *al-Jawāhir fī Tafsīr al-Qur'ān al-Karīm* of Ṭanṭāwī Jawharī (1862-1940) a contemporary prominent Muslim theologian and exegete of Egypt.

Since the aim of this thesis is critically examine and explore the *al-Jawāhir fī Tafsīr al-Qur'ān al-Karīm* as a founding document of scientific exegesis in contemporary Muslims world, historical development of scientific exegesis from the traditionalists up to contemporary scholars' arguments, rational and textual, are examined to provide context for the research. Comparative discursive analysis method is used in order to differentiate between the traditionalists and modern time with regard to their methodology in dealing with the scientific exegesis.

Ṭanṭāwī Jawharī is chosen due to his seminal contributions in pioneering some important intellectuals in the study of scientific exegesis. Besides providing a biographical sketch of Ṭanṭāwī Jawharī, this research examines some of the significant matters and assesses the methodology of Ṭanṭāwī in dealing with his *magnum opus* incorporated into discussions of the *al-Jawāhir* in the eyes of other prominent scholars.

This research concludes that classifying the *al-Jawāhir* as an encyclopedic scientific exegesis is fairly justified and that it significantly contributed to the rich of Islamic scientific exegesis in contemporary Muslims world. Ṭanṭāwī and the *al-Jawāhir*'s main contribution, as suggested by this study, is in the integration of two branches of knowledge; the Qur'ān and science. In this, the *al-Jawāhir* represents a trend parallel to a new school of thought, the pioneers of which were philosophers who attempted to reconcile philosophy and religion.

DEDICATION

To those who showed me the meaning of love and sacrifice:

My father, Haji Mohd Noor bin Adam,

My late mother, Khatijah bt June,

My mother, Hajah Chik Tom bt Md Som,

My beloved wife, Asmiyyia bt Mohd Mokhtar,

*My lovely children, Nafisah Humaira', Akmal Syamil,
Norkhadijah Alisya,*

My dear sisters and brothers,

*Arba'iyah, Ahmad Ridzwan, Arfan Salleh Areef, Ibrahim,
Azurah, Ahmad Yusri,*

My father in-law, Haji Mohd Mokhtar bin Yusof,

*My mothers in-law, Aishah bt Hasan and Rashidah bt
Sulaiman,*

My dear sisters and brother in-law,

Elmina, Anis, Fitri, Aini

*To my respected teachers, lecturers and masyaekh, who showed
me the light of knowledge throughout my life,*

To my fellow comrades and friends,

To my students,

I dedicate this humble work...

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First of all, praise and gratitude be to Allāh without whose help and success this work could not have been accomplished.

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Then I wish to express many thanks to members of my family, in particular my father, Haji Mohd Noor bin Adam, and my mother, Hajah Chik Tom bt Mohd Som, for their love and care, their sacrifice and endurance, as well as their unstinting encouragement to pursue my dreams in every single way – morally and spiritually. Without their prayers and love, this work will never become reality. I would like to offer as well my indebtedness to my beloved wife, Asmilyia Mohd Mokhtar, and my two little princesses, Nafisah Humaira' and Norkhadijah Alisya, as well as my little prince, Akmal Syamil, all of you have been my inspirations and thank you for your understanding when unable to enjoy the attention you fully deserved.

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DECLARATION

This thesis is the result of my own original work, conducted under the supervision of Dr Colin Turner. All material quoted in this thesis from other published and unpublished works have been specifically acknowledged and credited to the author. None of the materials in this thesis have been submitted in support of an application for another degree qualification in this or any other university.

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TRANSLITERATION TABLE

CONSONANTS

ء	'
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kḥ
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	c
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
و	w
ه	h
ة	-
ي	y

VOWELS

Long

آ

ؤ

إي

أى

Shorts

َ – a

ِ – i

ُ – u

Double

يُ iyy (final form ī)

وُ uww (final form ū)

Diphthongs

أو aw

أي ay

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