



Book Review



Abī al-Faḍā'il Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. al-Muẓaffar b. al-Mukhtār al-Ḥanafī al-Rāzī (d. 631 AH/ 1231), *Mā nuzila min al-Qur'ān fī 'Alī b. Abī Ṭālib* [Quranic Verses in Praise of the first Imam 'Alī b. Abī Ṭālib], ed. Ḥasanīn al-Mūsawī al-Muqarram, Karbala: The al-'Abbās Holy Shrine, 1434 AH/ 2013. 338 pp. Hardback.

There have been several books written by Sunni researchers and authors in praise of the Ahl al-Bayt, the Infallibles associated with and/or descendants of the Prophet Muḥammad. The book under review is just one of them. The version edited and published is based on a manuscript housed in Sulaymaniyah Library, Istanbul, MS no. 3739. It was a copy transcribed by a Naṣr Allāh b. Muḥammad al-Qaṣrī in 738 AH/ 1433. The process of editing was finished in Najaf in 1432 AH/ 2011. Noteworthy is that the edited version has a scholarly preface written by the late Ayatollah Sayyid Muḥammad Mahdī al-Mūsawī al-Khirsān of Najaf (1347-1445 AH/ 1928-2023), pp. 9-25. The editor's preface is available on pp. 29-39. Drawing on over 110 sources, there is an index to the Quranic verses cited, pp. 307-326. The original version of the manuscript is a short treatise in just four pages. The edited version includes further evidence taken from Quranic verses and Prophetic hadiths, mainly drawing on Sunni sources and reference works.

The book under review contains 156 Quranic verses in which there are references to the first Infallible Imam 'Alī. It is no strange that although in some eras the first Infallible Imam 'Alī was openly abused in public lectures, there were some scholars who barely tried to hide the truth, hence tried their hands at developing books in praise of the Ahl al-Bayt, in general, and that of Imam 'Alī, in particular.

The method of editing and augmenting the original treatise deserves mention. The Quranic verses that refer to Imam 'Alī are followed up by their precise sura-/ chapter-and-verse references. Next come the Prophetic hadiths indicated in reliable Sunni hadith collections. As the



Sunni hadith collections are very much varied, the bibliography lists many, many of them, in sum over 110 sources have been listed.

The back-matter of the book comprises an Arabic index-like list of all the Quranic verses and hadiths mentioned throughout the book. There is a short English synopsis of the book in over five pages. Unfortunately, the English material appended needs serious revision for its lucidity and academic style needed to be utilized. Yet, it is much better than nothing.

The book described above proves thought-provoking for its readership. Although Sunni brethren can find it inspiring, for Shiis it provides a goldmine of valuable pieces of knowledge of the contexts and cases where Sunnis believe in the supremacy of Imam ‘Alī.

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