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ANALISIS AL-ASHĀ'IRAH TERHADAP HADITH MUTASHĀBIH: TUMPUAN TERHADAP ḤADĪTH AL-ḪĀRIYAH

Mohd Sobri Ellias & Mohd Fauzi Hamat

Abstract

It has been accepted in Islam that hadith constitutes a part of ther primary sources of Islam. However, there have been differences in interpreting it, especially of the Hadīth al-Mutashābih or the Prophetic Tradition with obscure and ambiguous meanings. These differences produced various competing theological thoughts in Islamic history as can be seen in the discourses of al-Firaq al-Islāmiyyah or the sects of Islam. This paper presents Islam’s mainstream view, which is the Asharite school of thought, on the internal discourse of Hadīth al-Mutashābih. It specifically analyses the Hadīth al-Jāriyah which is a well-known Prophetic Tradition amongst Islamic sects in debating this issue. In doing so, this paper employs a set of established Ash’arite principles and methodologies in clarifying a more accurate meaning of this obscure and ambiguous Prophetic Tradition. These principles and methodologies are making ta’wīl for the text of Mutashābih and rejecting the literally understanding derived from the text. In turn, this paper maintains that these principles and methodologies are the most appropriate techniques to approach other similar type of Hadīths. Finally, this paper concludes that ther attitude of the Ash’arite, as the mainstream school of thought amongst Muslims, is the logical choice for all Muslims in interacting with Ḥadīth al-Mutashābih. Hence the refutation of all other methods, so as the precise understanding of the Revelation may be preserved.