A Critical Edition of Qawā'id al-Taṣawwuf

By Ahmad Zarrūq (d. 899/1493) with Introduction

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Abstract:

The present study is an attempt to restore the text of *Qawā'id al-Taṣawwuf* by comparative and comprehensive study of its manuscripts. This thesis also aims to study Zarrūq's concept of juridical Ṣūfism as manifested in this book. *Qawā'id* is one of the most significant works of Zarrūq in which he tried to introduce the principles of Ṣūfism in a way that integrates *sharī'ah* with *ḥaqīqah* and incorporates theology and jurisprudence with the *ṭarīqah*; or a fusion of legal rectitude within Ṣūfī devotion and piety. Interpreting the Shādhilī notion of *uṣūlī taṣawwuf*, Zarrūq constructed the theory of juridical Ṣūfism on its theological and metaphysical grounds. The presentation of Islam in such an integrated form appealed and attracted not only the Muslim scholars but also saints to his most impressive accomplishment. His teachings and intellectual legacy left a lasting impact on Maghribī society, in particular the circles of the Shādhilīyah which were renamed the Zarrūqīyah due to his impact.

This thesis is divided into two parts. The first part consists of the edited text of $Qaw\bar{a}^cid$ al-Taṣawwuf since the main concern of this thesis is to restore the original text and verify the authenticity of its contents by the comparative study of its MSS. In order to establish a clear, authentic and authoritative text, the rules of codicology, orthography and methods of textual research have been applied. Six MSS and a published edition have been used for the restoration of the text. After establishing the text, some appendices have been added to make the text more accessible for readers. These appendices contain some additional $Qaw\bar{a}^cid$, references to $Qur^o\bar{a}$ nic verses, Prophetic traditions, and sources mentioned in the text. Moreover a bibliography and index is fixed at the end.

The second part contains an introduction which has been divided into six unequal sections. The first section is a short introduction to Zarrūq's life, his teachers, his travels from Morocco to the Hijāz as well as his migration to Misrātah and other important events of his life. The second section is an attempt to present Zarrūq's intellectual heritage by outlining his works and the contribution of his Sūfī order. The third section is an introduction to the manuscripts and published editions of Qawā'id al-Tasawwuf. The fourth section explains the methodology of editing used for the restoration of the text. The fifth section is a description and analysis of Qawācid al-Tasawwuf. The most significant task of this section is to analyze Zarrūq's ideas as manifested in this book in order to appreciate how he amalgamates and integrates Islamic jurisprudence with Sūfism. We consider this his most significant contribution to the Sūfī heritage because of its distinctive genre, theme and its innovative ideas concerning the unification of the Sūfī path with law and theology and its elaboration and explanation though the qawā'id genre, upon the model of works of al-qawā'id al-fiqhīyah wa-al-usūlīyah (jurisprudential and theological maxims). The sixth section is a summary of Qawā'id al-Tasawwuf. According to the Escorial MS the Qawā'id consists of a preface, an epilogue and two hundred and twenty four principles. These principles are divided into seventeen chapters which consist of unequal and loosely related $qaw\bar{a}^cid$. In this section we have attempted to present a brief summary of each qā cidah.

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