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**ABSTRACT**

**Abu Hanifa al-Nu‘man: Imam of the Jurisprudential Imams (80–150 AH)**

*أبو حنيفة النعمان: إمام الأئمة الفقهاء (۸٠- ١٥٠ هجرية)*

This book is the fifth in a series published by the Dar al-Qalam Institute in Damascus. This abstract is based on this book’s sixth edition.

The book provides an overview of the life of Abu Hanifa al-Nu‘man, imam of the jurisprudential imams, with the aim of introducing students to this “great beacon”. It consists of an introduction, two prefaces written for the first and fourth editions, eleven chapters, and a brief conclusion. The introductory session discusses the significance of *fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence) along with several early jurisprudential imams and their interpretations of *fiqh*.

The first chapter, “His Search for Knowledge, His Shaykhs, His Pupils”, discusses Abu Hanifa’s name and family lineage, his scholarly development and endeavours, his shaykhs, his pupils, and his views on the Companions. The second chapter, “His personal characteristics and the Sayings of the Esteemed Imams”, presents an outline of Abu Hanifa’s conduct towards God and towards the people around him, the circumstances that God has favoured him by, and his personal characteristics.

The third chapter, “The Imam’s Understanding of Islamic Jurisprudence”, explains the origins of Abu Hanifa’s religious doctrine, his understanding and interpretations of fiqh, and his understanding of the sources of reference. The fourth chapter discusses his recording and interpretation of ahadith, as well as what other prominent imams have said about the ahadith.

The fifth chapter, “Eliminating Doubts with Facts”, discusses eleven doubts in reference to Abu Hanifa. These include such doubts as his not having contributed to the collections of hadith, the opinions of several men of the hadith about him, and his acceptance of personal opinion method in matters that do not accept such method, and the claim that he twice sought repentance for disbelief. In the second part of this chapter, the author discusses reasons for prejudice against Abu Hanifa. The chapter concludes with a recommendation by two esteemed imams.

Chapters Six to Nine discuss the imam’s writings, his upbringing and education, and the spread of his doctrine. Chapter Nine concludes with the wisdom behind surviving of the doctrines of four imams, including Shafa’i, Malek, Ibn Hanbal, and Abu Hanifa himself. Chapter Ten discusses the hardships Abu Hanifa faced, and later, his death. The final chapter lists his various wise sayings. Although the book’s reference details are not comprehensive, overall it is a valuable source of information about Imam Abu Hanifah and his work.

Dahlia Sabry

Translated by Andrew Hennessey