

Name of the Scholar : Mohd Sayeed Anwar
Name of Supervisor : Prof. Syed Shahid Ali
Department : Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
Topic : An Analytical Study of Al-Tafsir al-Mazhari

Abstract

Keywords: Arabic Tafasir of Indian-subcontinent, Analysis of Al-Tafsir al-Mazhari, Life of the Author

The holy Qur'an is the fundamental religious text of Islam. The followers of Islam believe it is the verbal book of divine guidance for mankind and the final revelation of Allah. It was revealed to the prophet Muhammad (pbuh) at Makkah and Madeenah during 610-632 C E. The word *Tafsir* is derived from the root word '*Fassara*' – to open, explain, to interpret, comment and expound. It means 'explanation' or 'interpretation'. Terminologically, the word *Tafsir* is used for explanation, interpretation and commentary of the Qur'an comprising of all ways of obtaining knowledge from its contents. It contributes to proper understanding of the Qur'an, explains its meaning and clarifies its legal implications. The word *Mufassir* is the term used for the person doing *Tafsir*, i.e. the 'exegete' or 'commentator'.

Al-Tafsir Al-Mazhari, a voluminous book on *Tafsir* written by Qadi Muhammad Thanauallah Panipati, has got the peculiar fame with popularity and acceptance among the scholars and academically sound figures. The *Tafsir*, prevailing over more than 4000 pages and consisting of 10 volumes, is rated among top Tafasir of the Qur'an in Arabic language. The author's expertise in science of Hadith, Islamic jurisprudence, Tasawwuf and Arabic literature has enhanced the quality of the *Tafsir* and attracted the readers from across the world. The Author, Qadi Muhammad Thanauallah Panipati (1731-1831 C.E): The author hails from a family celebrated for its piety and learning. He could fortunately chance to obtain Islamic education and knowledge of the Shariah from the great scholars of the time including Shah Waliullah Muhaddith Dehlavi. The Thesis has been divided into four chapters excluding Introduction and Conclusion. They are as follows.

Chapter 1: The chapter surveys the complete Arabic Tafasir penned down in the Indian subcontinent, covering the Sultanate and the Mughal periods and concluding with the Analytical Study of Al-Tafsir al-Mazhari of British or pre-republic India. Efforts have been made to comprehensively fold up the complete Arabic Tafasir rendered fully or partially in such a big landmass. There are 14 Tafasir excluding Al-Tafsir al-Mazhari which have been briefly and chronologically surveyed.

Chapter 2: The second chapter deals with the life sketch of Qadi Muhammad Thanauallah Panipati with special mention of Shah Waliullah Muhaddith Dehlavi and Mirza Mazhar Jan-i-Jana. Both of them have played a leading role in shaping the personality of Qadi Panipati into a big shady tree of knowledge with long branches of sciences laden with green, fresh and rich leaves and full of energy booster and organic fruits of knowledge and wisdom. The first mentioned superbly equipped him with the weapons of worldly and secular sciences while the last mentioned has adorned him with the ornaments of spiritual sciences.

Chapter 3: The third chapter analyzes Al-Tafsir al-Mazhari. More emphasis, in the chapter, has been laid on the methodology used by the author, principles of the science of Tafsir, ample explanation of the two widely known methodologies of Tafsir *Riwayah and Dirayah*, Qadi Panipati's unique and more balanced and moderate methodology between them, the scope of intellect in explaining the verses of the Qur'an, the ahadith narrated for the explanation, their scrutiny, categories and classification, Israelite narrations, Qira'at-e-Asharah and so on and so forth. The efforts have been finally made to have a look at the Tafsir with all possible directions and angles and then make a comprehensively critical assessment diving into its body.

Chapter 4: The fourth and final chapter is about the sources used by Qadi Panipati to frame and author such a master piece of work on Tafsir. I have, for that, classified all the sources used into ten sciences and mentioned them respectively.

The significance, popularity and acceptance of the book may be well judged by the frequent readership of the scholars. The citations and references also play a vital role to decide to what extent the scholars have entertained the authorship. Furthermore, the trust and satisfaction shown by the scholars on the research is a final seal on the recognition and credibility. We observe some unique angles of the credibility of Al-Tafsir al-Mazhari when we analyze it from the said aspect.