

Comments Written by Abū Bakr Al-Jaṣṣāṣ

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Abstract: Abū Bakr Aḥmad ibn ‘Alī al-Rāzī al-Jaṣṣāṣ al-Rāzī (born 917/305 - died 981/370) was a mature scholar of the Ḥanafī madhhab. Allamah studied the Islamic sciences in depth, and gained fame especially in the sciences of tafsir and fikh.

Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ wrote independent works on the Ḥanafī mazhab, and also commented or summarized some works. Commentaries written by him helped to solve the difficult problems of fikh and usul. The commentaries written by Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ show that he is the owner of deep knowledge, sharp mind and wide observation.

Key words: Ḥanafī, fikh, tafsir, usul, furu al-fikh, fatwa.

Works commented by Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ:

1. "Sharḥ al-Jāmi‘ al-kabir ": Commentary on Imām Muḥammad's work "al- Jāmi‘ al-kabir " on Furu', a compilation of the narrations of the imāms of the mazhab. Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥasan Shaybānī's (d. 187/803) book "al-Jāmi‘ al-kabir fi-l-furu'" is one of the main sources of the Ḥanafī mazhab. Ḥājī Khalīfah in his work "Kashf al-zunūn": "Researchers wanted to investigate this book and paid special attention to its wonderful words. Commentaries were even written on this work, and its content was explained more widely", he said about the fact that many comments were written on this work. Imām Abū Bakr Aḥmad ibn ‘Alī, known as Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ, who died in 370/980, mentions that one such commentary was. In many biographical sources of Imām Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ, this book is attributed to him and it is also mentioned in his related works.
2. "Sharḥ al-Jāmi‘ al-ṣaghīr ": this work is also a commentary on Imām Muḥammad's book, which consists of 352 furu' issues narrated by Imām Abū Yūsuf from Abū Ḥanīfa. Ḥājī Khalīfah in "Kashf al-zunūn" reported about the work of Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥasan Shaybānī " al-Jāmi‘ al-ṣaghīr " and says: "This work is an ancient blessed book, as Bazdavi said, it contains 352 issues, in 170 issues difference is mentioned, qiyas and istehsan are mentioned only in two matters. Teachers glorified this work and said: "No one can be fatwa and judge without knowing its issues (that is, this work)". After that, Ḥājī Khalīfah cited more than 13 commentaries written on the book "al-Jāmi‘ al-ṣaghīr " by Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥasan Shaybānī, and among them he noted the commentary of Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ. As this comment is about Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ, it is also mentioned in sources such as " Maqām al-fuqahā'" of Adirnavi, "Al- Nāfi‘ al-kabir" of Laknawī and "Tāj al-tarājim " of Ibn Qutlūbughā.
3. "Sharḥ al-manāsik": this work is also a commentary on the work of Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥasan Shaybānī, and it is considered one of the works of the scholar that have not reached us. The scholar himself cited this commentary in "Sharḥ Mukhtaṣar al-Ṭahāwī " and stated in his commentary that all the manāsik issues in " Mukhtaṣar al-Ṭahāwī " are present in Imām Muḥammad's work " Al-manāsik".
4. "Ta'liq 'ala al-asl li-l-Imām Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥasan": Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ Khassaf's commentary on Adab al-Qādī mentions this book, but we do not know of anyone mentioning it in tarojim books.

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5. "Sharḥ Mukhtaṣar Karkhi": a work related to Ḥanafī madhhab furu' al-fiqh. Imām Abū al-Ḥasan 'Ubayd Allāh ibn Ḥusayn Karhi (d. 340/951) is considered one of the senior teachers of Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ. He has many works on jurisprudence and usul al-fiqh. "Mukhtaṣar Karkhi fi furu' al-Ḥanafīya" is one of them. This work is considered one of the most important works written on Ḥanafī school of fiqh. It is natural for Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ to write a commentary on his teacher's summary. Several sources have attributed this review to him.
6. "Sharḥ Mukhtaṣar al-Ṭaḥāwī ": this work is also based on Furu' and has a very short commentary. Despite the fact that the book " Mukhtaṣar al-Ṭaḥāwī fi al-fiqh al-Ḥanafī " by Imām Abū Ja'far Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad Al-Ṭaḥāwī (d. 321/933) is one of the first short works written in the Ḥanafī school, it contains the most basic and important issues. Ḥājī Khalīfah mentioned that Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ also wrote a commentary on this work. In almost all the biographical sources of Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ, it is mentioned that this commentary belongs to him. Allama himself referred to this work in many places in "Aḥkām al-Qur'ān".

The work " Mukhtaṣar al-Ṭaḥāwī " is mainly of two types - large and small, and Shaykh Jarullah Rumi mentioned that scholars commented on its smaller volume.
7. "Sharḥ Adab al-Qāḍī li-l-Hassaf": This work of Hassaf has been commented on by many scholars except Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ. Ḥājī Khalīfah named 9 of them. Author of " Adab al-Qāḍī " Ḥanafī school of jurist known as Hassaf, Imām Abū Bakr Aḥmad ibn Umar Shaybānī (d. 261/875) wrote a work on jurisprudence called " Adab al-Qāḍī " and divided it into 120 chapters. Systematized. Ḥājī Khalīfah said that this book is very meaningful and that nine people wrote commentaries on it, and he mentions Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ among them.
8. "Sharḥ Asmā' al-Ḥusnā ": Sources mention the name of this book, but there is no information about its importance and content.

Along with the above review works, the following large-scale works have been condensed into a concise form. In particular, "Ikhtisar Ikhtilāf al- fuqahā' li al-Ṭaḥāwī ": this book is a reliable and important source for comparing mazhabs. The author of " Kashf al-zunūn" mentions that this work consisted of more than 130 juz before it was re-named " Ikhtilāf al-riwāyah " and abridged.

Imām Abū Ja'far Al-Ṭaḥāwī is a scholar known for his complete knowledge of several sciences. The book " Ikhtilāf al- fuqahā'" is an excellent work written in this field and consists of 135 juz. Therefore, in order to reduce the size of the scribes, brief writers wrote to him.

Ḥājī Khalīfah touched upon the disagreements of scholars and said: "A number of scholars have classified works in this field. One of them is Imām Abū Ja'far Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad Al-Ṭaḥāwī Ḥanafī (d. 321/933), whose book called "Ikhtilāf al-riwāyah" consists of 135 juz. Imām Abū Bakr Aḥmad ibn 'Alī al-Jaṣṣāṣ Ḥanafī brought it to a concise state. In fact, it is not an easy task to abridge the works of a large volume, it was necessary to remove a lot of information from the book without changing the main content and characters. Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ was able to complete this task. He has removed the superfluous and extended details of the matter and in most cases does not go beyond the matter itself. First, he mentions Abū Ḥanīfa and his students, and then quotes those who follow them. Then Imām Mālik and the scholars who are in agreement with him are quoted and in this order, he narrates the words of the scholars one by one.

Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ along with the fatwas and rulings issued by the famous mujtahid imāms of the sect and their students, including Awzā'ī (.774/157), Sufyān al-Thawrī (d. 161/778), Layth ibn Sa'd (d. 175/791), 'Uthmān Baṭṭī (v. 143/760), Ibn Abū Laylá (v. 148/765) and Hasan ibn Salih (v. 167/783) also cited the opinions of less popular scholars. He also cited many opinions of the Companions and followers regarding fiqh. In this respect, this book by Abū Bakr al-Jaṣṣāṣ is a very important source in determining the views of the earliest mujtahids, especially the scholars who were later neglected by the madhabs, and their role in resolving controversial issues.



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