

bilimname 47, 2022/1, 755-772 Research Article Received: 1.31.2022, Accepted: 4.25.2022, Published: 10.31.2021 doi: 10.28949/bilimname.956993

ABŪ HANĪFA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE METHODOLOGY OF QUR'ANIC EXEGECIS

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Abstract

Abū Hanīfa, the 8th-century Sunni Muslim jurist, was closely interested in scientific problems in his time. In this context, he expressed some of the problems of the Tafsir Methodology in the creed treatises attributed to him. In this article, we will try to discuss how he evaluated these problems within the framework of these treatises. Abū Hanīfa, considered to be one of the most important scholars of his period, is also the founding imam of the Hanafi school of thought. Therefore, although he was interested in all kinds of scientific problems of the period he lived, he was known as a jurist because he was more interested in legal issues. However, he dealt mostly some creed issues in five aqāīd booklets attributed to him named al-Ālim wa'l-muta'allim, al-Fiqh al-akbar, al-Fiqh al-absat, Risālātu Abī Hanīfa ilā Qādī al-Basra Uthmān al-Battī and al-*Wasiyya*. While examining these treatises, we have noticed that many topics related to Qur'an and tafsir methodology not only in a number of classical works but also discussed today. Those are khalq al-Qur'ān, superiority between verses and surahs, mutashābihāt, naskh, tafsīr, ta'wīl, tanzīl, and Qur'an's being a criterion in evaluation of hadith. Abū Hanīfa's views on the problems of the Tafsīr Method were adopted, developed and systemized by many Islamic scholars after him. The initiatives brought by Abū Hanīfa, who has influenced many scholars since his time and is still accepted as an authority in science, are in the nature of shedding light on the solution of the problems of today's Tafsir Method, which is still up-to-date and discussed.

Keywords: Tafsir, Qur'anic exegecis, Abū Ḥanīfa, Ambigious verses, Abrogation, Tafsīr Methodology.



EBÛ HANÎFE'NÎN TEFSÎR USÛLÜNE KATKISI

8. Yüzyılda yaşamış Müslüman hukukçu Ebû Hanîfe yaşadığı dönemin her türlü ilmi problemleriyle yakından ilgilenmiştir. Bu çerçevede kendisine nispet edilen

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akâid risâlelerinde Tefsir Usulü'nün bazı problemleriyle de ilgili görüşler serdetmiştir. Bu makalede söz konusu risâleler çerçevesinde bu problemleri nasıl değerlendirdiği ele alınmaya çalışılmıştır. Yaşadığı dönemin en önemli âlimlerinden biri kabul edilen Ebû Hanîfe aynı zamanda Hanefî mezhebinin de kurucu imamıdır. Dolayısıyla O yaşadığı dönemin her türlü ilmî problemleriyle ilgilenmekle birlikte daha çok fıkhî konularla ilgilenmiş ve fakih olarak da tanınmıştır. Ancak kendisine nispet edilen el-Âlim ve'l-müteallim, el-Fıkhü'lekber, el-Fıkhü'l-ebsat, Risâletü Ebî Hanîfe ilâ Kâdî'l-Basra Osman el-Bettî ve el-Vasiyye adlı beş akâid risâlesinde ağırlıklı olarak itikadî konuları ele almıştır. Bu risâleler incelendiğinde, Kur'an ve Tefsir Usûlü ile ilgili bu alanda te'lif edilmis birçok eserde yer alan ve günümüzde hala tartışılan halku'l-Ku'ran, âyetler ve sûreler arasındaki efdaliyet, müteşâbihât, nesh, tefsir, te'vil ve tenzîl, Kur'an'ın hadislerin değerlendirilmesinde ölçü olması gibi birtakım konulara yer verildiği görülmüştür. Ebû Hanîfe'nin Tefsir Usûlü'nün problemleri ile ilgili bu konudaki görüsleri kendisinden sonraki bircok İslam âlimi tarafından da benimsenerek geliştirilmiş ve sistemleştirilmiştir. Ebû Hanife bu konuların tanımlanıp temellendirilmesinde iz bırakabilecek öncü bir ilim adamıdır. Yaşadığı dönemden itibaren birçok ilim adamını etkilemiş olan, günümüzde de hâlâ ilimde otorite kabul edilen Ebû Hanîfe'nin, kendi dönemine göre söz konusu problemlere getirdiği açılımlar yine güncelliğini koruyan ve tartısılan sözünü ettiğimiz günümüz Tefsir Usûlü problemlerinin çözümüne ışık tutacak mahiyettedir.

[The Extended Abstract is at the end of the article.]



Introduction

Abū Ḥanīfa (d.150 / 767), who is the imam of the madhhab called by his name in fiqh, is also regarded as the pioneer of the Maturidi school of theology.¹ For this reason, it can be said that the main axis of the studies on Abū Ḥanīfa until today is jurisprudence (fiqh) and creed (aqâid). However, it is seen that he deals with some problems of the methodology of Qur'anic exegecis in some treatises attributed to him and survived until today.

There are many treatises attributed to Abū Ḥanīfa in the sources. However, we prepared our paper within the framework of the five most common treatises called *al-Ālim wa-l Muta `allim, al-Fiqh al-Akbar, al-Fiqh al-*

¹ Muḥammad Zāhid Kawtharī, "Mukaddima", Ishārāt al-Marām min 'ibārāt al-Imām. Critical ed. Yūsuf 'Abd al-Razzāk (Istanbul: Dār al-Kitāb al-Islāmī 1949), 6; Bekir Topaloğlu, Kelâm İlmi (İstanbul: Damla Publisher, 1988) 121-127; Yusuf Şevki Yavuz, "Ebû Hanîfe" Türkiye Diyanet Vakfi İslam Ansiklopedisi (İstanbul: TDV Publisher, 1994), 10/142.



Absat, Risālatu Abū Hanīfa ilâ Qâdî al-Basra Uthmān el-Battī, and al-Wasiyya. Although there are some different opinions about the attribution of these treatises to Abū Hanīfa,² many Islamic scholars refer these works to him.³ We prepared our paper in line with the views of those who accepted the accuracy of this attribution. In these treatises, which contain the religious views of Abū Hanīfa, a large part of the creed topics discussed in that period are included, albeit briefly. These treatises, which form the basis of the Mâturîdî theological school, have been a source of inspiration for many works written especially for this school. There is no previous study with current title of this article. However, it has been observed that some studies carried out on some of the issues discussed in the article, indirectly. For instance, in his PhD thesis titled "İmâm-ı A'zam Ebû Hanîfe'nin Kur'an Anlayışı" The Greatest Imam Abū Hanīfa's Understanding of the Quran prepared by Fatih Tok and an article called "Ebû Hanîfe'nin Kur'an Anlayışı" (Abū Hanīfa's Understanding of the Quran) prepared by Faruk Beser covered some of the topics elaborated here. While preparing this article it has been benefited from these works.

A. Abū Hanīfa's Approach to Some Issues in Tafsīr Methodology

Although the matters of creed were taken up in the treatises attributed to Abū Ḥanīfa, at the same time it was given place to the other topics such as *khalq al-Qur'ān, superiority between verses and surahs, mutashābihāt, naskh, tafsīr, ta'wīl, tanzīl, and the Qur'an's being a criteria in the evaluation of hadith* relating to the Qur'an and tafsīr methodology, taking place in a number of classical works and still being discussed today. For this reason, we tried to examine the aforementioned treatises in order to determine Abū Ḥanīfa's approach to such problems in Tafsīr methodology and his contribution to his successors. During our investigation, we observed that Abū Ḥanīfa was a pioneer scholar who could leave a mark in defining and basing these issues. We can summarize Abū Ḥanīfa's approach to these problems scattered in the

² Arent Jan Wensinck, *The Muslim Creed* (Cambridge Publisher, 1932), 264; William Montgomery Watt, *İslam Düşüncesinin Teşekkül Devri*, trans. Ethem Ruhi Fığlalı (Ankara: Umrân Publisher, 1981), 164-166; İsa Doğan, *Mürcie ve Ebû Hanîfe* (Samsun: Kardeş Matbaası, 1992), 107-121; İlyas Çelebi, "Mukaddime", *İmam Azam Ebū Ḥanīfa'nin İtikadî Görüşleri*, trans. İlyas Çelebi (İstanbul: M.Ü. İlâhiyat Fakültesi Vakfı Publisher, 1996), 37-45; Yusuf Şevki Yavuz, "el-'Âlim ve'l-müte'allim", *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi* (İstanbul: TDV Publisher, 1989), 2/461-463; Şerafettin Gölcük, Adil Bebek, "el-Fıkhü'l-Ekber" *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi* (İstanbul: TDV Publisher, 1989), 2/461-463; Çelebâ, Abû Hanîfe, trans. Osman Keskioğlu (Ankara: Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı Publisher, 1999), 193; Çelebi, "Mukaddime", 37-45; Yavuz, "el-'Âlim ve'l-müte'allim", 2/461-463; Gölcük, Bebek, "el-Fıkhü'l-Ekber", 17/544-547.

mentioned treatises as follows:

1. Khalq al-Qur'ān (the Qur'ān's creation)

The term of *khalq al-Qur'ān* refers to the doctrinal discussions about the issue of whether the Qur'an is created or not.⁴ Abū Ḥanīfa's approach to the issue of *khalq al-Qur'ān* is very scientific and rational, far from the sentimental and bigoted discussions made in the periods after him. He approaches this issue in terms of whether Allah's attributes are eternal or not. According to him, like other attributes of Allah, the attribute of Word (Kalām) was also eternal and not created.⁵ Therefore, the Qur'ān as the Divine Word of God is eternal.⁶

Saying that the Quran cannot be created on the basis of the principle that attributes belonging to Allah cannot be created;⁷ Abū Ḥanīfa argues that the reading and writing of the Quran by people is a creation, based on the principle that everything belonging to humans is created.⁸ Consequently, according to this interpretation, all the sounds that make up the phonetics of the Quran, the letters that are used to read it, the writing that makes up the picture and the tools and equipment belonging to them are all creations.⁹

It is probably the first time that Abū Ḥanīfa made such a classification on the issue of khalqu'l-Qur'an.¹⁰ This classification of him paved the way for the distinction between self-expressed (nefsî kalâm) and literal- expressed (lafzî kalâm) theology made by the ahl al-Sunnah theologians in later periods.¹¹

Abū Ḥanīfa also seeks an answer to the question of whether the words of some prophets, Pharaoh and Satan, whose words are narrated in the Quran, can be created in the issue of khalqu'l-Qur'an. According to him, although these people and Satan are creatures, the words that are told from

⁹ Abū Ḥanīfa , *al-Fiqh al-akbar*, 58; *al-Waṣiyya*,73.

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⁴ Yusuf Şevki Yavuz, "Halku'l-Kur'ân", *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi* (İstanbul: TDV Publisher, 1997), 15/371.

⁵ Abū Ḥanīfa al-Nu'mān b. Thābit, *al-Fiqh al-akbar*, Critical ed. Muḥammad Zāhid al-Kawtharī, Istanbul: Kalem Publisher, 1981, 58-59.

⁶ Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-akbar, 58-59.

⁷ Abū Hanīfa, *al-Fiqh al-akbar*, 58-59; Abū Hanīfa Nu'mān b. Thābit, *al-Waşiyya*, Critical ed. Muhammad Zāhid al-Kawtharī, İstanbul: Kalem Publisher, 1981, 73.

⁸ Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-akbar, 58; al-Waşiyya,73; Faruk Beşer, "Ebu Hanîfe'nin Kur'ân Anlayışı", Usûl: İslâm Araştırmaları, 2004, I/1, 28-30.

¹⁰ Yavuz, "Ebû Hanîfe", 10/140-142; Fatih Tok. İmâm-ı A'zam Ebû Hanîfe'nin Kur'ân Anlayışı, İstanbul: Marmara Üniversitesi, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Ph.D. Dissertation, 2015, 109.

them are not created because they are the words of Allah.¹² His systematic approach to the issue of the khalqu'l-Qur'an was also adopted by the Ahl al-Sunnah theologians.¹³

2. The difference in the virtue of chapters and verses

Abū Ḥanīfa thinks that some of the verses of the Qur'an may be more virtuous than the others, likewise some chapters more virtuous than the other chapters.¹⁴ According to him, there is no difference in terms of virtue between verses and chapters as they are all actually the word of Allah. In this respect, all the verses are equally virtuous. However, the difference in terms of virtue stems from the superiority of the things that make up the subject of the verse or the chapter.¹⁵

Abū Ḥanīfa made such a distinction based on the idea that the superiority of the things that constitute the subject of the verse or chapter requires the superiority of the verse or chapter. For instance, the 255th verse in the chapter al-Baqara, known as *al āyāt al- kursī*, handles the greatness, supremacy, and attributes of Allah as the subject. This verse is already virtuous as it is the word of Allah. If we compare this verse with some other verses telling about the infidels, hypocrites, and devils, it is clear that Ayāt al-Kursī is superior to them. Therefore, two virtues coexist in this verse.¹⁶ The same is not the case for the verses that mention unbelievers. Because, those mentioned in the verses have no virtue.¹⁷

Abū Ḥanīfa does not differentiate whether some of Allah's names and attributes are more virtuous than the others, as he does in the verses and chapters. ¹⁸ According to him, all of Allah's names and attributes are equal,

¹² Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-akbar, 58-59.

¹³ Abū Bakr Ahmad b. Husayn Bayhakī, Kitāb al-asmā' wa al-şifāt. Edited by 'Abdullah b. Muhammad al-Hasīdī (Jeddah: Maktaba al-Suwādī, 1993), 1/467-480; Abū Yusr Muhammad Pazdavī, Uşūl al-dīn, edited by Hans Peter Linss (Cairo: Dāru Ihyā'i al-Kutub al-'Arabiyya, 1963), 53-69; Nūr al-Dīn Ahmad b. Mahmūd Şābūnī, Al-Bidāya fī uşūl al-dīn, edited by Bekir Topaloğlu (Ankara: Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı Publisher, 1979), 31-35; Abū al-Mu'īn Maymūn Nasafī, Tabşira al-adilla fī uşūl al-dīn, edited by Hüseyin Atay (Ankara: Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı Publisher, 1979), 31-35; Abū al-Mu'īn Maymūn Nasafī, Tabşira al-adilla fī uşūl al-dīn, edited by Hüseyin Atay (Ankara: Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı Publisher, 1993), I/393-395; Abū Muḥammad 'Abdullāh b. Aḥmad Ibn Qudāma, Lum'a al-I'tikād. edited by Bekir Topaloğlu (Izmir: Damla Publisher, 1981), 17-21; Kamāl al-Dīn Aḥmad Bayādīthāda, Ishārāt al-marām min 'ibārāt al-Imām, Critical ed. Yusuf 'Abd al-Razzāq (Istanbul: Dār al-Kitāb al-Islāmī, 1949), 167-181; Yavuz, "Halku'l-Kur'ân", 15/374.

¹⁴ Abū Hanīfa, *al-Fiqh al-akbar*, 63.

¹⁵ Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-akbar, 63.

¹⁶ Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-akbar, 63.

¹⁷ Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-akbar, 63.

¹⁸ Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-akbar, 63.

there is no difference between them in terms of virtue.¹⁹ This approach of Abū Ḥanīfa regarding the difference in terms of virtue between the names and attributes of Allah and the surah and verses has been adopted by some scholars after him.²⁰

Many scholars shared Abū Ḥanīfa's opinion regarding the difference in terms of virtue between verses and chapters, such as Isḥāq b. Rāhūya (d.238/853), Imam Ghazālī (d. 505/1111), 'Izz b. Abd al-Salām (d. 660/1261) and Qurtūbī (d. 671/1272). These scholars think like Abū Ḥanīfa that there is a difference in superiority and virtue between some chapters and verses of the Quran.²¹ However, in the sources about the tafsīr and Quranic sciences that give information about the subject, the name of Abū Ḥanīfa is not included among those who adopt the view that there is a difference in terms of virtue between the chapters and verses.

I assume that the main reason for this situation is that Abū Ḥanīfa's view is considered as a theological problem in the kalam literature and has not been transferred to the tafsīr literature. The scholars mentioned above may have been influenced by Abū Ḥanīfa's opinion on this issue. Since Abū Ḥanīfa (d.150 / 767) lived before all of these scholars and was a great scholar and imam of a widespread school of thought, he may have influenced many scholars who put forward parallel views to him in the periods that followed him.

a. Naskh (Abrogation)

As a technical term, *naskh* is generally defined 'abrogation' of a sharia provision by another one.²² In order to understand Abū Ḥanīfa's contribution to this very important problem of the tafsīr method, first of all, it is necessary to reveal the meaning of this word during his lifetime. Companions of the prophets and their successors used the term in a more general and broader

²² Muḥyiddīn Abū 'Abdullāh Muḥammad b. Sulaiman Kāfiyaji, *Kitāb al-Taysīr fī qawāid 'ilm al-tafsīr,* Edited by İsmail Cerrahoğlu (Ankara: A.Ü. İlahiyat Fakültesi Publisher, 1974), 36.



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¹⁹ Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-akbar, 63.

²⁰ Bkz. Pazdavī, *Uşūl al-dīn*, 220-221, Bayādīthāda, *Ishārāt al-marām min 'ibārāt al-Imām*,183-185.

²¹ Abū Hāmid Muhammad Ghazzālī, Jawāhir al-Qur'ān (Beirut: Dār al-Āfāk al-Jadīda 1990), 39; 'Iz b. 'Abd al-Salām, al-Fawāid fī mushkil al-Qur'ān, Critical ed. Ridwān al-Nadawī (Kuwait: Wizāra al-Awkāt wa al-Shuūn al-Islāmiyya, 1967), 186-187; Abū 'Abdullāh Muhammad b. Ahmad Qurtubī, al-Jāmi' li ahkām al-Qur'ān (Beirut: Muassasa al-Risāla, 1965), 1/110; Abū al-Fidā Ismā'īl b. 'Umar Ibn al-Kathīr, Tafsīr al-Qur'ān al-'azīm (Beirut: Dār al-Ma'rifa, 1992), 1/12; Badr al-Dīn Zarkashī, al-Burhān fī 'ulūm al-Qur'ān, Critical ed. Muhammad Abū al-Fadl Ibrāhīm (Beirut: Dār al-Ma'rifa, 1972), 1/438-448; Jalāl al-Dīn Suyūtī, al-Itkān fī 'ulūm al-Qur'ān (Beirut: Dār al-Kutub al-'llmiyya, 1987), 2/199-204.

sense than that used by the jurists.²³ They called the abolition of a sharia judgment with a later evident, as well as the abrogation of a custom coming from the time of jahiliyya (lit. ignorance) or a past Shari'ah, the compulsion of the absolute, the particularization of the general, the declaration of the concise.²⁴ They even used this term for conditional, exception, and adjective.²⁵ However, the boundaries of the concepts of limitation (takyīd), particularization (tahsīs), exception (istisnâ) and abrogation (naskh) were first determined by Imam Shāfi'ī (d.204 / 820),²⁶ after that, the meaning areas of these concepts began to separate from each other.

Although it is assumed that Abū Ḥanīfa addressed the issue of abrogation in a very classical way, in line with the understanding of that day, it is seen that he did not look at the issue superficially, considering his very sensitive and crucial points. He deals with this issue in his treatise titled "*al-Ālim wa-l muta* '*allim.*"²⁷ The way he dealt with the subject in this treatise was not in a technical way of defining it, but rather in the way of drawing attention to some mistakes on the understanding of abrogation at that time.²⁸ On the one hand, Abū Ḥanīfa accepts the existence of abrogation among the Shari'ahs and mentions many examples of this part of the revocation;²⁹ it is understood from some of his statements in his work that he also acknowledges that there are abrogating (*nāsikh*) and abrogated (*mansūkh*) verses in the Quran on the other.³⁰ It is also possible to come across his views that he accepts the abrogation of *sunnah* (the exemplary lifestyle and sayings of prophet Muhammad) by sunnah.³¹

According to Abū Hanīfa, naskh occurs only in the verses which

²³ Muştafa Zayd, *Al-Naskh fi al-Qur'ān al-karīm* (Egypt: Dār al-Wafā, 1987) 1/73-74.

²⁴ Şâtıbî, Ebû İshâk İbrahim b. Mûsâ, el-Muvâfâkât fî usûli'ş-şerî'a, yy., 1975, III, 107; Kâsımî, Muhammed Cemaleddin, Mehâsînü't-te'vîl (nşr.Muhammed Fuâd Abdülbâki), Kahire ty., I,33-38; Dihlevî, Şâh Veliyyullah, el-Fevzül-kebîr fî usûli't-tefsîr (çev.Mehmet Sofuoğlu), İstanbul 1980, s. 34-35; Ahmad Hasan, Nesh Teorisi (çev.Mehmet Paçacı), İslâmi Araştırmalar, Ankara 1987, sayı: 3, s.108.

²⁵ Muhammad Jamāl al-Dīn Qāsimī, Mahāsin al-ta'wīl, 1/33-38; Muhammad Hamza, Dirāsāt al-Ahkām wa al-Naskh fī al-Qur'ān al-karīm (Cairo:Dāru Ihyā al-Kutub al-'Arabiyya, 1957), 39-41; Ali Osman Koçkuzu, Hadiste Nâsih ve Mensûh, (İstanbul: M.Ü. İlâhiyat Fakültesi Vakfi Publisher, 1985), 116-123.

²⁶ Ali Galip Gezgin, , "Kur'an'da 'Nesh Problemi'ne Eleştirel Bir Yaklaşım", İslâmi Araştırmalar Dergisi, 14/1 (2001): 51.

²⁷ Nu'mān b. Thābit Abū Hanīfa, al-'Alim wa al-muta'allim, Critical ed. Muhammad Zāhid al-Kawtharī, Istanbul: Kalem Publisher, 1981, 12-14.

²⁸ Abū Ḥanīfa, *al-'Ālim wa al-muta'allim*, 12-14.

²⁹ Abū Ḥanīfa, *al-'Ālim wa al-muta'allim*, 12-14.

³⁰ Abū Hanīfa, al-'Ālim wa al-muta'allim, 12-14.

³¹ Abū Ḥanīfa, *al-'Ālim wa al-muta'allim*, 13.

express commands and prohibitions.³² In his opinion, abrogation cannot occur in statements that only give information such as divine attributes, stories that talk about the situations of past nations, and that are not related to the actions of the liable.³³

The fact that Abū Ḥanīfa made such a limitation on the scope of abrogation can be seen as a very important difference for that period when abrogation was considered valid outside of orders and prohibitions. In this period, it is understood that there were those who adopted the view that abrogation took place outside of orders and prohibitions.³⁴

It is understood that the opinion of Abū Ḥanīfa on this issue contributed especially to the determination of the area of abrogation and in its conceptualization process, these views have been adopted by the jurisprudents after him,³⁵ and his approach became a general principle to where naskh is valid. ³⁶

3. Mutashābih verses (metaphorical or allegorical meanings of the expressions in the Qur'anic verses):

The content of mutashābih verses and their interpretations are also among the most important subjects of uṣūl al-Tafsīr. There are different evaluations of Islamic scholars on this subject, which is widely discussed in works on tafsīr and Qur'anic sciences. His approach on mutashābih verses was effective in the evaluation of such verses in the periods after him.

We would like to state that we find Abū Ḥanīfa's evaluations on mutashâbih verses quite comprehensive and systematic. Following the path of predecessor (*salaf*) who did not interpret the mutashâbih (attributes of Allah based on news) and avoiding anthropomorphic approach (*tashbeeh-tajseem*), he generally accepts these mutashabih verses exactly as they are mentioned.³⁷ However, his explanations about some mutashabih attributes

³² Abū Ḥanīfa, al-'Ālim wa al-muta'allim", 13; Tok. İmâm-ı A'zam Ebû Hanîfe'nin Kur'ân Anlayışı, 144-145.

³³ Abū Ḥanīfa, *al-ʿĀlim wa al-mutaʿallim*, 13.

³⁴ Şakir Erkan, *Kur'an'da Nesih* (Samsun: Ondokuz Mayıs Üniversitesi, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Ph.D. Dissertation, 1997), 67-77.

³⁵ Abū Manşūr Muḥammad b. Maḥmūd Māturīdī, *Tafsīr al-Māturīdī* (Ta'wilātu ahl alsunna), Critical ed. Majdī Basallūm (Beirut: Dār al-Kutub al'Ilmiyya, 2005), I:531; Talip Özdeş, *Mâturîdî'nin Tefsir Anlayışı*, (İstanbul, İnsan Publisher, 2003), 211-212.

³⁶ Abū Bakr Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. Abī Sahl Sarahsī, Uṣūl al-Sarahsī, Critical ed. Abū al-Wafā al-Afghānī (İstanbul: Kahraman Publisher, 1984), 2:59.-60; 'Abd al-Waḥhāb Ḥallāf, 'Ilmu Uşūl al-fiqh (Istanbul: al-Maktaba al-Islāmiyya, 1991), 227.

³⁷ Topaloğlu, *Kelâm İlmi*, 113; Abū al-Ḥasan Nūr al-Dīn b. Sulṭān 'Ali al-Qārī, *Sharḥ kitāb al-fiqh al-akbar*. (Beirut: Dār al-Kutub al-'İlmiyya, 1984)),59; Abū Ḥanīfa, *al-Fiqh al-akbar*,

show that he interpreted some of them.³⁸ On the one hand he became a pioneer to the predecessor (*salaf*) by avoiding to interpret mutashābihāt; on the other hand, by interpreting some of them, he was partly a pioneer to the Ahl-e as-Sunnah theologians (the method of khalaf) who interpreted some of these mutashābihāt.³⁹ Although he is counted among the leading scholars of predecessors⁴⁰, he plays a role of bridge between the predecessors and successors in terms of the thoughts he forwards on the issues we examine.

4 Tanzil, Tafsir, and Ta'wil (Descent of revelation, Qur'anic exegecis, and Interpretation)

In al-Fiqh al-Absat, Abū Ḥanīfa gives place to the key concepts, such *as tanzīl*, *tafsīr* and *ta'wīl*, in uṣūl al-tafsīr and Qur'anic sciences.⁴¹

From his expressions in his aforementioned work, it is understood that he meant the wording of the verse revealed by Allah with the word tanzīl, and the meaning and explanation of the verse with the words tafsir and ta'wil.⁴² He approaches to this topic from a more theological point of view.

According to him, there are verses in the Qur'an whose meaning is clear and which is not. He says that denying or misinterpreting one of the things that make up the meaning field of the verses whose meaning is not clearly understood does not require blasphemy, because the meaning is not very clear. it is possible that such verses can be understood differently they are available for different interpretations because and interpretations.⁴³ Even though these comments are wrong, this situation does not require blasphemy.⁴⁴ However, this is not the case in the verses that clearly have a meaning. To him, there is no other way to understand them since their word and meaning are exactly the same. Therefore, according to him, refusing to accept or doubting the very clear meaning here and something that is certain within the scope of this meaning; in other words, not accepting something whose meanings are very clear within the scope of the meaning of these verses, or doubting the accuracy of them is a situation



^{59;} Nu'mān b. Thābit Abū Ḥanīfa, *al-Fiqh al-absaț.* Critical ed. Muḥammad Zāhid al-Kawtharī. Istanbul: Kalem Publisher, 1981, 52-53.

³⁸ Yavuz, "Ebû Hanîfe", 10/142.

³⁹ Yavuz, "Ebû Hanîfe", 10/142.; Tok. İmâm-ı A'zam Ebû Hanîfe'nin Kur'ân Anlayışı, 149-150.

⁴⁰ Kāfiyaji, Kitāb al-Taysīr fī qawāid 'ilm al-Tafsīr, 19; İsmail Hakkı İzmirli, Yeni İlmi Kelam, Simplifier. Sabri Hizmetli (Ankara, Ankara Okulu Publisher, 1981), 66.

⁴¹ Abū Ḥanīfa, *al-Fiqh al-absaț*, 37-39,48.

⁴² Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-absaț, 37-48.

⁴³ Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-absaț, 38.

⁴⁴ Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-absaț, 38.

that requires blasphemy.45

5. Taking the Quran as a Measure in the Evaluation of the Hadiths

Abū Hanīfa considers the Qur'an as an important criterion for the evaluation of hadith texts and determination on their authenticity. In other words, he accepts the submission of hadith texts to the Qur'an as a method and applies it in practice. In that regard, he predicates the following principle as a basis: The prophet of Allah would not disagree with the book of Allah.⁴⁶ For this reason, if a hadith narrated from the prophet that is contrary to the Qur'an, this narration will be rejected. According to him, to reject this narration does not mean rejecting the prophet. That means rejecting the narrator (rāwī), who made false narration, and the text of narration.⁴⁷ While evaluating the hadiths, Abū Hanīfa pays attention to whether the content of the hadith text is in accordance with the Quran.⁴⁸ If, according to him, the content of the hadith text is contrary to the Quran, he rejects this narration and tries to explain in what ways the hadith is contrary to the Quran by bringing evidence from various verses.⁴⁹ This basic rule, which constitutes his thesis, was developed, preserved and systematized by his successors and later Hanafi methodologists.⁵⁰

Conclusion

With this humble study, it was an ultimate goal for us to find out that Abū Ḥanīfa, whose views were not reflected in the field of tafsīr and Qur'anic sciences, had grounded views that would contribute to the solution for the problems related to tafsīr methodology. A second goal of this study is to lay the groundwork for research in this direction. We will also be happy to see this happen in the future. Abū Ḥanīfa approaches the question of whether the Qur'an being created or not in terms of its being the word of Allah and being read and written by people. According to him, the Qur'an is not a creature in terms of being the word of Allah. However, it is a creature in terms of being read and written by people. Again to him, all verses and chapters are virtuous

⁴⁵ Abū Hanīfa, al-Fiqh al-absaț, 37-43.

⁴⁶ Abū Ḥanīfa, *al-ʿĀlim wa al-mutaʿallim*, 27.

⁴⁷ Abū Hanīfa, al-'Ālim wa al-muta'allim, 26-27.

⁴⁸ See. İsmail Hakkı Ünal, İmam Ebu Hanife'nin Hadis Anlayışı ve Hanefi Mezhebinin Hadis Metodu (Ankara: Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı Publisher, 1994), 84.

⁴⁹ Abū Ḥanīfa, *al-ʿĀlim wa al-mutaʿallim*, 27-28.

⁵⁰ Ünal, "İmam Ebu Hanife'nin Hadis Anlayışı ve Hanefi Mezhebinin Hadis Metodu", 85-88; Kamil Çakın, "Hadisin Kur'an'a Arzı Meselesi", Ankara Üniversitesi İlâhiyat Fakültesi Dergisi, 34 (1993): 248-249; Sami Şahin, Muhammed b. Hasan eş-Şeybânî'nin Hadis Kültüründeki Yeri (Ankara: Ankara Üniversitesi, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Ph.D. Dissertation, 1998), 191.

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and equal to each other in terms of being the word of Allah. However, some of the verses and chapters are more virtuous than the other parts in terms of their subjects. Besides, Abū Ḥanīfa interprets main subjects and concepts of uṣūl al-tafsīr such as *mutashābihāt*, *naskh*, *tafsīr*, *ta'wīl* and *tanzīl*. Although he generally approaches to the mutashabihât with a Salafist way that does not go into interpretation, he also interprets some attributes of Allah that are accepted as mutashâbih. While Abū Ḥanīfa accepts the concept of abrogation in the Qur'an, he also approaches to the concepts of *ta'wīl*, *tafsīr* and *tanzīl* in terms of creed. He admits the Qur'an as an important criterion to be consulted when evaluating hadith texts. Abū Ḥanīfa's views on this issue regarding the problems of the tafsīr methodology were adopted, developed and systematized by many Islamic scholars after him. The orientation that Abū Ḥanīfa brought to these problems, according to his own period, will shed light on the solution of contemporary problems in *uṣūl al-tafsīr*.



Acknowledgements:

Declarations:

1. Statement of Originality:

This work is original.

2. Ethics approval:

Not applicable.

3. Funding/Support:

This work has not received any funding or support.

4. Author contribution:

The author declares no one has contributed to the article.

5. Competing interests:

The author declares no competing interests.

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ABŪ HANĪFA, al-Nu'mān b. Thābit. al-Fiqh al-akbar, Critical ed. Muhammad

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bilimname 47, 2022/1, 769-772 Araştırma Makalesi Geliş Tarihi: 31.01.2022, Kabul Tarihi: 25.04.2022, Yayın Tarihi: 30.04.2022 doi: 10.28949/bilimname.956993

EBÛ HANİFE'NİN TEFSİR USÛLÜNE KATKISI

厄 Hasan KESKİNª

Geniş Öz

8. Yüzyılda yaşamış Müslüman hukukçu Ebû Hanîfe yaşadığı dönemin her türlü ilmi problemleriyle yakından ilgilenmiştir. Bu çerçevede kendisine nispet edilen akâid risâlelerinde Tefsir Usulü'nün bazı problemleriyle de ilgili görüşler serdetmiştir. Bu makalede söz konusu risâleler çerçevesinde bu problemleri nasıl değerlendirdiği ele alınmaya çalışılmıştır. Yaşadığı dönemin en önemli âlimlerinden biri kabul edilen Ebû Hanîfe aynı zamanda Hanefî mezhebinin de kurucu imamıdır. Dolayısıyla O yaşadığı dönemin her türlü ilmî problemleriyle ilgilenmekle birlikte daha çok fıkhî konularla ilgilenmiş ve fakih olarak da tanınmıştır. Ancak kendisine nispet edilen el-Âlim ve'l-müteallim, el-Fıkhü'l-ekber, el-Fıkhü'l-ebsat, Risâletü Ebî Hanîfe ilâ Kâdî'l-Basra Osman el-Bettî ve el-Vasiyye adlı beş akâid risâlesinde ağırlıklı olarak itikadî konuları ele almıştır. Bu risâleler incelendiğinde, Kur'an ve Tefsir Usûlü ile ilgili bu alanda te'lif edilmiş birçok eserde yer alan ve günümüzde hala tartışılan halku'l-Ku'ran, âyetler ve sûreler arasındaki efdaliyet, müteşâbihât, nesh, tefsir, te'vil ve tenzîl, Kur'an'ın hadislerin değerlendirilmesinde ölçü olması gibi birtakım konulara yer verildiği görülmüştür. Ebû Hanîfe'nin Tefsir Usûlü'nün problemleri ile ilgili bu konudaki görüşleri kendisinden sonraki birçok İslam âlimi tarafından da benimsenerek geliştirilmiş ve sistemleştirilmiştir. Ebû Hanife bu konuların tanımlanıp temellendirilmesinde iz bırakabilecek öncü bir ilim adamıdır. Yaşadığı dönemden itibaren birçok ilim adamını etkilemiş olan, günümüzde de hâlâ ilimde otorite kabul edilen Ebû Hanîfe'nin, kendi dönemine göre söz konusu problemlere getirdiği açılımlar yine güncelliğini koruyan ve tartışılan sözünü ettiğimiz günümüz Tefsir Usûlü problemlerinin çözümüne ışık tutacak mahiyettedir.

Ebû Hanîfe'nin, halku'l-Kur'an meselesine yaklaşımı, kendisinden sonraki

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dönemlerde yapılan hissî ve taassubî tartışmalardan çok uzak, oldukça ilmî ve rasyoneldir. O bu meseleye Allah'ın sıfatlarının ezelî olup olmaması açısından yaklaşmaktadır. Ona göre, diğer bütün sıfatları gibi Allah'ın kelâm sıfatı da, ezelî olup sonradan yaratılmamıştır. Dolayısıyla ilâhî kelâm olan Kur'an da ezelîdir. Onun halku'l-Kur'an meselesi ile ilgili sistematik olan bu yaklaşımı ehl-i sünnet kelâmcıları tarafından da benimsenmiştir.

Ebû Hanîfe Kur'an ayetlerinin bir kısmının diğer bir kısmından yine aynı şekilde surelerin bir kısmının diğer kısmından daha faziletli olabileceği görüşündedir.

Şeriatlar arasındaki neshin mevcudiyetini kabul eden ve neshin bu kısmına çokça örnekler zikreden Ebû Hanîfe'nin, bazı ifadelerinden, Kur'an'da nâsih ve mensûh ayetlerin bulunduğunu da kabul ettiği anlaşılmaktadır. Yine onun sünnetin sünnetle neshini kabul ettiğine dair görüşlerine de rastlamak mümkündür.

Ebû Hanîfe genel olarak, nasslarda geçen müteşâbihleri (haberî sıfatları) zikredildikleri gibi aynen kabul etmekte, teşbîh ve tecsîmden sakınmakta ve te'vil'e de gitmeyen selefin yolunu takip etmektedir. Ancak yine de bazı müteşâbih sıfatlarla ilgili yapmış olduğu açıklamalar, onun bir kısım müteşâbih sıfatları yorumladığını göstermektedir. O, bir yönüyle, müteşâbihâtı te'vil etmekten kaçınmak suretiyle Selef'e öncülük ederken, diğer bir yönüyle de, bunlardan bir kısımını te'vil etmek suretiyle, müteşâbihâtı te'vil eden ehl-i Sünnet kelâmcılarına (Halef metodu) kısmen de olsa öncülük etmiştir.

Ebû Hanîfe, Kur'an ilimlerinin ve tefsir usulünün anahtar kavramlarından olan tenzîl, tefsir ve te'vil terimlerine yer vermektedir. Tenzîl kelimesi ile Allah tarafından indirilmiş olan ayetin lafzını, tefsîr ve te'vîl kelimeleri ile de ayetin anlam ve açıklamasını kastettiği anlaşılmaktadır. O bu konuya daha çok itikâdi açıdan yaklaşmaktadır. Ona göre Kur'an'da ne anlam kastedildiği açıkça belli olan ve olmayan ayetler bulunmaktadır. Ne anlam kastedildiği açıkça belli olmayan ayetlerin anlam alanını oluşturan şeylerden birisini inkâr etmenin veya yanlış anlamlandırmanın küfrü gerektirmeyeceğini, çünkü anlamın çok açık olmadığını, bu tür ayetlerin -farklı tefsir ve yorumlara müsait olması sebebiyle- farklı anlaşılabilmelerinin mümkün olduğunu söylemektedir. Ona göre, yapılan bu yorumlar yanlış olsa da bu durum küfrü gerektirmez. Ancak ne anlam kastedildiği açıkça belli olan ayetlerde durum böyle değildir. Ona göre bu tür ayetlerin anlamları apaçıktır ve tenzîlinin (yani ayet lafızları ve bu lafızların içerdiği anlam) aynıdır. Dolayısıyla ona göre, buradaki çok açık olan anlamı ve bu anlam kapsamında kesin olan bir şeyi kabul etmemek veya bunlarda şüpheye düşmek, diğer bir ifadeyle, anlamları son derece açık olup bu ayetlerin anlam kapsamında olan bir şeyi kabullenmemek ya da bunların doğruluğunda şüphe küfrü gerektiren bir durumdur.

Ebû Hanîfe, hadis metinlerinin değerlendirilmesinde, hadislerin sıhhatinin tespitinde Kur'an'ı, başvurulması gereken önemli bir kıstas olarak kabul eder. O, bu konuda şu temel prensibi esas almaktadır: Allah'ın peygamberi, Allah'ın kitabına asla muhalefet etmez. Bu sebeple, Hz. Peygamberden Kur'an'a muhalif bir hadis rivayet edilmişse, bu rivayet reddedilir. Ona göre bu rivâyeti reddetmek, Hz. Peygamberi reddetmek anlamına gelmez. Bu durum o (a.s)'ndan batıl rivayette bulunan râviyi ve rivâyeti reddetme anlamını taşır. Ebû Hanîfe, hadisleri değerlendirirken hadis metninin içeriğinin Kur'an'a uygun olup olmadığına dikkat etmektedir. Şayet ona göre hadis metninin içeriği Kur'an'a aykırı ise o, bu rivayeti reddeter, çeşitli ayetlerden deliller getirerek söz konusu hadisin hangi yönlerden Kur'an'a aykırı olduğunu açıklamaya çalışır. Onun tezini oluşturan bu temel kural, kendisinden sonra gelen talebeleri ve daha sonraki Hanefî usûlcüleri tarafından geliştirilerek korunmuş ve sistemleştirmişlerdir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Tefsir, Ebû Hanîfe, Müteşâbihât. Nesh, Te'vil, Tefsir Usûlü.



Teşekkür:

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Beyanname:

1. Özgünlük Beyanı:

Bu çalışma özgündür.

2. Etik Kurul İzni:

Etik Kurul İzni gerekmemektedir.

Hasan KESKİN

Yazar, herhangi bir çıkar çatışması olmadığını beyan etmektedir.

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