

Spiritual Insight and Juristic Vision in Abu al-Laith al-Samarqandi's Writings (d.373 A.H/983 A.D): A Critical Study

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Abstract: Islam recognizes *Bashr* (Human Being) an abode of the physical and the spiritual existence. The Quranic notions of the *Ruh* (Spiritual existence) and *Jasd* (physical appearance) formulate the idea of an absolute meaning that confirms the existence of human being. This cohesive union gives an exact picture having traits of the both, the *Ruhi* and the *Jasdi* interconnection. The righteous (*al-Rabaniyien*) are very much capable of identifying mischief of the self (*al-Nafs*) through the power of gnosis (*al-Marifah*) by maintaining the pre-eminence of the *Ruh* over the *Nafs*. They remain devoted to the essence of the *Shari'ah* and serve in capacity of a conscientious social being. The grand jurist Abu al-Laith al-Samarqandi (d.373 A.H/983 A.D), a distinguished jurist and spiritual guide is of the same stature. He possessed the qualities of a grand jurist, a visionary legal expert as well as a reputed spiritual master utilizing the Quranic intelligence to empower the human intellect through the intrinsic capacities. Abu al-Laith al-Samarqandi's contribution to the diverse fields of knowledge and mystic experiences influenced discourse of the Muslim intellectual thought throughout centuries. From Central Asia to Spain and Egypt to India, his works on Jurisprudence and philosophy mark an excellence in content as well as in exploration. Abu al-Laith al-Samarqandi's approach is a placid endeavor to transform an individual through spiritual enlightenment while observing any religious obligation. The present paper is an attempt to discover legal and spiritual tendencies in Abu al-Laith al-Samarqandi, his contribution to *'Ulm* and conception of the spiritual empowerment.

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