

Matlab al-Ṭalībīn: A Milestone in the Development of Tafsir Literature in Kashmir

Matlab al-Ṭalībīn: Sebuah Tonggak Pencapaian dalam Perkembangan Literatur Tafsir di Kashmir

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Abstract

This study examines *Matlab al-Ṭalībīn* fi Tafsir Kalam Rab al-'Alamin, a 16th-century tafsir work by Ya'qub Sarfi, which is a significant milestone in the development of tafsir literature in Kashmir. Despite its substantial influence on Kashmir's intellectual history, Sarfi's tafsir has often been overlooked in academic research due to the poor quality of the manuscript and the limited availability of sources. This article adopts a qualitative approach to explore the unique structure of Sarfi's tafsir, which combines various disciplines such as tafsir, hadith, fiqh, kalām, and tazawwuf, and examines how this work connects to the broader tradition of tafsir in the Islamic world. Through an in-depth analysis of the text and relevant literature, the article demonstrates how *Matlab al-Ṭalībīn* highlights the crucial role of Kashmiri scholars in advancing tafsir, while also enriching the intellectual discourse of 16th-century Islam. Although incomplete, covering only a small portion of the Qur'an, the work's contribution is invaluable for understanding tafsir in the Indian subcontinent, which at the time was influenced by major tafsir works such as *Tafsir al-Qurtubī* and *al-Bayḍawī*. The study also addresses the challenges faced in preserving the manuscript of *Matlab al-Ṭalībīn*, which currently exists in a very fragile condition. The article emphasizes the importance of transcription and conservation efforts to ensure that this work can continue to be studied and analyzed by future generations. Thus, this research not only contributes to the understanding of tafsir in Kashmir but also broadens the scope of tafsir studies within the larger Islamic intellectual tradition.

Keywords: *Ya'qub Sarfi, Matlab al-Ṭalībīn, Tafsir, Kashmir, Islamic Thought*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji *Matlab al-Ṭalībīn* fi Tafsir Kalam Rab al-'Alamin, sebuah karya tafsir abad ke-16 oleh Ya'qub Sarfi, yang merupakan tonggak penting dalam perkembangan literatur tafsir di Kashmir. Meskipun karya ini memiliki pengaruh besar dalam sejarah intelektual Kashmir, tafsir Sarfi sering diabaikan dalam penelitian akademik karena kualitas naskah yang buruk dan keterbatasan sumber yang tersedia. Artikel ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif untuk mengeksplorasi struktur tafsir Sarfi yang unik, yang menggabungkan berbagai disiplin ilmu seperti tafsir, hadith, fiqh, kalām, dan tazawwuf, serta bagaimana karya ini terhubung dengan tradisi tafsir yang lebih luas di dunia Islam. Melalui analisis mendalam terhadap teks dan literatur terkait, artikel ini menunjukkan bagaimana *Matlab al-Ṭalībīn* menggambarkan peran penting cendekiawan Kashmir dalam mengembangkan tafsir, sekaligus memperkaya wacana intelektual Islam pada abad ke-16. Meskipun karya ini tidak lengkap dan hanya mencakup sebagian kecil dari Al-Qur'an, kontribusinya sangat berharga dalam memahami tafsir di wilayah sub-benua India, yang pada masa itu terpengaruh oleh karya-karya



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