



BIOGRAPHY AND SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE OF WAHBA ZUHAYLI

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ABSTRACT

The article provides information about the life of Syrian scholar Wahba Zuhayli, who was mujaddid of his time, sheikh, professor, and doctor. Also, the scholar's family, his discipline in learning, his parents and teachers who contributed immeasurably to the formation of his personality, the students he brought up, his scientific activities, his works on the Qur'an, fiqh, usul al-fiqh, aqeedah, the history of Islam, and scientific works covering modern issues were discussed.

KEYWORDS: *Damascus, Mustafa Zuhayli, Fatima bint Mustafa, Wahba Zuhayli, Lebanon, Zahlah, College of Sharia, Azhar, Ayn ash-Shams, Qur'an, hadith, fiqh, usul al-fiqh, Islamic history, international law, jurisprudence, metaphysics, coference.*

MAIN PART

Wahba Zuhayli was born in 1932 in Diyar Atiyya, Damascus (Hasanov Ulughbek, 2023:81; Dr. Jasim Mutawwi, 2012).

The origin of the nisbah "Zuhayli" in the name of Wahba Zuhaili also has its own history, which goes back to the famous city of "Zahlah" in Lebanon, where the great-grandfathers of the scholar used to live. (Dr. Jasim Mutawwi', 2012). Grandfathers of Wahba Zuhayli left that city and came to a town called Diyar Atiyya in Syria. The Zuhayli family was attributed to their homeland to (Dr. Jasim Mutawwi', 2012).

His father, Mustafa Zuhayli (may God have mercy on him), was engaged in farming and commercial work. In addition to Wahba Zuhayli, he had four more children, two older brothers of Zuhayli - Tawfiq and Mahmoud - died. He also has two brothers named Muhammad and Ahmad (Hasanov Ulughbek, 2023:81).

The scholar's mother, Fatima bint Mustafa, despite being an uneducated, was very loving, simple, virtuous woman who followed all the guidelines of the Sharia. (Sayyid Lahham, 2006:12).

It can be seen that Wahba Zuhayli started his first education in his homeland, in a traditional way, near his father's house, learning the Qur'an, and he finished memorized the Qur'an perfectly with tajwid (Hasanov Ulughbek, 2023:81).

Then, with his mother's interest, he started studying in high school. Before moving to Syria, he studied primary school here - in his hometown and finished school here (Hasanov Ulughbek, 2023:81; Sayyid Lahham, 2006:12; Dr. Jasim Mutawwi', 2012).

After graduating from school, he came to Damascus in 1946 and entered the "Theological Sciences" department of the madrasa called "Sharia College" in Damascus, which was considered the only official scientific school in Syria at that time (Sayyid Lahham, 2006:14). Then he continued his education here and his studies here will lasted six years (Dr. Jasim Mutawwi', 2012). After six years of study, Zuhayli graduated from the Sharia College in Damascus in 1952 (Hasanov Ulughbek, 2023:81).

After Wahba Zuhayli finished his studies in Damascus, in early 1953, he went to Al-Azhar University in Egypt, where he studied for five years. In addition to studying at Al-Azhar, Wahba Zuhaili was also studying law at Ayn ash-Shams University. (Hasanov Ulughbek, 2023:81; Dr. Jasim Mutawwi, 2012).

In 1956, he completed his studies at Al-Azhar with excellent grades and, along with the Al-Azhar diploma, he also received an Ijaza (license-certificate) for the specialty of teaching at the "Sharia and Arabic language" faculty of Azhar. In 1957, he received the diploma of the Ayn ash-Shams university in the field of "Law" (Sayyid Lahham, 2006:14; Hasanov Ulughbek, 2023:82; Dr. Jasim Mutawwi', 2012). Then, in 1959, he went to the Faculty of Law of Cairo University, where he studied for two years in the field of "Islamic Shari'a" and received a master's degree. After receiving diploma, in 1963, in the second month of the same year, he finished his doctoral dissertation on the comparison between eight sects (four Sunnis and four Shiites) (Sayyid Lahham, 2006:14; Dr. Jasim Mutawwi', 2012). In return for his steadfastness in fulfilling his commitments, he benefited greatly from Islamic Shari'a



and legal sciences, and wrote his doctoral dissertation on the basis of comparing and contrasting the knowledge he received from these three universities (Dr. Jasim Mutawwi', 2012).

On February 13, 1963, Wahba Zuhayli presented his doctoral dissertation to the Supreme Committee. After defending his doctoral dissertation under the scientific advice of famous scholars such as Muhammad Abu Zahra and Muhammad Hafiz Ghanim, he was awarded the academic title of "First degree" and it was decided that the doctoral diploma of Wahba Zuhayli would be transferred to other universities. (Dr. Jasim Mutawwi', 2012).

Wahba Zuhayli had the good fortune to be a student of the great scholars of Egypt in both Sharia and modern legal sciences. When he was a student after going to study in Egypt in early 1953, he witnessed all the terms of the unity agreement between Egypt and Syria, the many negative and positive situations that happened during the ten years after the separation (Dr. Jasim Mutawwi', 2012).

Wahba Zuhaili started his career after studying in Damascus. Researcher Ulughbek Hasanov states that he started his career as a teacher in Damascus in 1963, as an assistant teacher in 1969, and as a general teacher in 1975 (Hasanov Ulughbek, 2023:82).

Wahba Zuhaili started teaching at Damascus University in 1963, and in 1975 he received the degree of professor at this university. Because Wahba Zuhaili wanted to serve as much as possible, he spent sixteen hours a day teaching students, writing scientific works and serving the Islamic community (Doctor Wahba Mustafa Zuhayli islam.uz 03.05.2014). In addition to the University of Damascus, Wahba Zuhayli studied at the Faculty of Law of Benghazi University in Libya (1972-1974), and at the Faculty of Sharia Law of the United Arab Emirates University (1984-1989). He gave lectures as a professor at Riyadh Islamic University. Dr. Wahba Zuhayli also taught Islamic jurisprudence to researchers in Sudan, Pakistan and other countries.

The scholar worked in many other positions, and it is appropriate to briefly mention them below:

1. Chairman of the "Islamic jurisprudence and sects" department at the Faculty of Sharia of Damascus University;
2. Representative of the "Sharia" Faculty of Damascus University, then dean for four years (1967-1970);
3. Chairman of the "Sharia Monitoring" committee of Islamic banks in Arab institutions, member of the "Shariah Assembly" of Islamic banks;
4. Chairman of the "Islamic jurisprudence and sects" section;
5. Member of fiqh academies in Mecca, Jeddah, India, America, and Sudan;
6. Chairman of the "Islamic Sharia" department of the Faculty of "Sharia and Law" at the University of the Arab Emirates, then dean for a period of four years;
7. Founder of "Sharia and Law" journal at the University of the Arab Emirates;
8. Chairman of the "Manuscripts" board and the "Higher culture" board of the university in the Arab Emirates;
9. Member of the "Islamic Culture Research Center" academy at the "Aal al-Bait" institution in Jordan;
10. Supervision of more than seventy master's and doctoral dissertations in the cities of Damascus, Beirut, and Khurtum;
11. Leadership in the development of textbook programs in Syria and the Arab Emirates;
12. In 1988, the organizer of the journal "Sharia and Islamic knowledge" at Kuwait University;
13. The author of the broadcasts "Qur'an and Life" based on the interpretation of the Qur'an on Syrian radio (Hasanov Ulughbek, 2023:82-83);
14. Appearing on television channels of Damascus, Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other countries and interviews in newspapers and magazines of these countries;
15. Member of the editorial board of the "Islamic Program" journal in Damascus;
16. Chairman of the Board of "Sheikh Abdulkadir School" office in Diyar Atiyya;
17. Imam Khatib of the "Uthman" mosque in Damascus and the "Iman" mosque in Diyar Atiyya;

Wahba Zuhayli wrote many scientific works. The number of works of the scholar is more than fifty (Sayyid Lahham, 2006:45).

Wahba Zuhaili had deep respect for the Arabic language and literature in his academic career, and wrote his works in Arabic. The scholar wrote many works in fiqh, hadith, tafsir, qira'at, usul-fiqh, kalam, mysticism, history, and other such fields.

Wahba Zuhaili's works are distinguished by their attractiveness, usefulness, easiness, simple language, and scientificity (Shawkani, 1909:89). The classification of the scholar's works on various sciences is given below:

The scholar's works related to Quranic sciences are the following:

1. "*Tafsir al-Munir fil-aqida wash-sharia wal-manhaj*". This work consists of 32 volumes and was published in 16 volumes in 1991 by "Fikr" publishing house. This tafsir has been published seven times till date. It has been translated into several languages, including Turkish, Persian, Malay, Urdu, and French. The scholar is one of the few scholars who performed this type of service, as he has interpreted the Holy Qur'an on Syrian TV and radio channels for eight years based on this work. Also, this work was published under the names "*Tafsir al-wajiz*" in 1 volume and "*Tafsir al-wasit*" in 3 volumes (Dr. Wahba Mustafa Zuhayli islam.uz 03.05.2014; Hasanov Ulughbek, 2023:84-87).
2. "*Wajiz fi usul al-fiqh*". This work was published in Libya in 1991. It was translated into Turkish.
3. "*Qissa al Qur'aniyya: hidaya wal-bayan*" was published in Libya in 1992 by "Khayr" publishing house.
4. "*al-Qur'an al-Karim: bunya tashri'i wa khasais hadariyya*". This work has been translated into English and French. It was published in 1992 by "Fikr" publishing house.
5. "*Ilm al-I'jaz fil-Qur'an al-karim*" was



published in 1997 by "Maktaba" publishing house. 6. "Ayyamiyyat al-Qur'an al-Karim" was published in 2000. 7. "Qira'at muasira fil-hadis al-nabawi" was published in 2000 (Hasanov Ulughbek, 2023:84-87.; Dr. Jasim Mutawwi', 2012).

Some of the scholar's works on Fiqh science are as follows: 1. "Athar al-harb fil-fiqh al-islami". This book is considered a work of comparative analysis. It was translated into French. It was published in 1382/1963 in "Hadith" publishing house in Syria. This work has been published four times by "Fikr" publishing house. 2. "Wasit fi usul al-fiqh". It was published in 1966 in the publishing house of Syrian University. 3. "al-Fiqh al-Islami fi uslubih al-jadid". This two-volume work was published in 1966-1967 by "Hadith" publishing house in Syria. 4. "Al-alaqa ad-duwaliyya fil-Islam". In this treatise, Islamic rules are compared with state laws. It was published in Beirut in 1981 by "Risala" publishing house. 5. "al-Fiqh al-Islami wa adillatuhu" ("Islamic jurisprudence and its evidence"). This work was published in eight volumes in 1984 in "Fikr" publishing house in Syria. To date, it has been published twenty-four times. 6. "Usul al-fiqh al-islami". This work was published in two volumes in 1986 in "Fikr" publishing house in Syria. It has been published three times to date. 7. "Fiqh al-mawarith fi shariat al-islam". He wrote this work in co-authorship with Professor Muhammad Raf'at Uthmani and Professor Ramadan Sharanbashi. It was published in 1987 at the "Fikr" publishing house in Syria. 8. "Ahkam al-ibadat". This book was taught as a textbook in the "Sharia" faculty of the United Arab Emirates University. Published in 1988 by "Kalam" publishing house. 9. "Mu'amalat maliyya 'ala al-madhab al-malikiyya". It was published in 1991. 10. "al-Dawlat al-Islamiyya wa ghayr al-muslimin". It was published in 1995 by "Maktaba" publishing house. 11. "Mufawadat fil-Islam". It was published in 1996 by "Maktaba" publishing house. 12. "Ijtihad al-fiqh al-hadith". It was published in 1997 by "Maktaba" publishing house. 13. "Fiqh as-sunna an-nabawiyya". It was published in 1997. 14. "Manahij al-ijtihad fil-madhab al-mukhtalifa" was published in 1997. 15. "Ahkam al-harb fil-Islam wa khasaisuha al-insaniyya". It was published in 2000. This book has been translated into French.

Wahba Zuhaili was a regular participant of conferences and symposia. The scholar constantly participated in such events in order to reveal the essence of Islam in a deeper way. He himself told the audience about it: "Whether it is Washington, London or Paris, if I was invited, I did not miss a conference in any country, but tried to fulfill my obligation in that conference, to make people know that Sharia's rulings are the most correct rulings. I contributed to make them understand how to live with the rulings of Islamic Sharia" (Dr. Jasim Mutawwi', 2012).

Author of many books, treatises, and scientific works, prominent scholar of his time, Wahba Zuhayli died on August 8, 2015 in Damascus, Syria.

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