

العربيات والمعجم الصوفي

للدكتور خليل سمعان

الاستاذ بجامعة بنغظون
(نيويورك)

توصلنا ببحث باللغة الانجليزية من الدكتور خليل سمعان الاستاذ بقسم الآداب والدراسات السامية بجامعة بنغظون بنيويورك (عاصمة الولايات المتحدة)، وقد قدم جناب الاستاذ هذا البحث بالعبارات الآتية :

« يسعدني ان ارسل اليكم نسخة عن تقريري لجلة اللسان العربي ، ونقدي للبحث القيم المنشور في العدد الرابع منها بقلمكم بعنوان : « القرآن والمعجم الصوفي » (الرسالة موجهة الى السيد الامين العام الاستاذ عبد العزيز بنعبد الله) . وهذا التعريف والنقد سينشران في مجلة ذي مسلم ورلد Muslim World (مجلة العالم الاسلامي الامريكية) التي تصدر عن معهد هارتفرد كنتكست بالولايات المتحدة » ثم نوه بالمعجم وقيمه في خدمة الدراسات العربية والاسلامية .

والدكتور خليل سمعان من كبار الباحثين العرب له مصنفات غنية في السياسة واللغة والفلسفة والتصوف منها دراسات حول اللغة العربية في العصور الوسطى وبحث حول مأساة الخلاج وبحث رسالة طيبة لابن سينا ودراسة حول الافكار الاساسية في رسالة للشافعي وابحاث اخرى قيمة في مجلات عالمية ، فشكرا للاستاذ الجليل على هذه العناية بالمجلة وباعمال المكتب الدائم التي تفضل بالتعريف والاشادة بها للمجتمع الامريكي ، وقد قارن سيادته بين الابحاث التي صدرت لحد الآن لكبار المستشرقين امثال كولد زيهر وونسينك واسين بالاسيوس وفون كريمر وماسينيون صاحب كتاب « محاولة في اصول المعجم الفني للتصوف الاسلامي » الذي صدر عام 1922 ، ثم ذكر ان بحث الاستاذ عبد العزيز بنعبد الله يعتبر بحق مفتاحا ضروريا لادراك اسرار التصوف الاسلامي وهو يعطي صورة حية عن مدى اسهام الفكر الاسلامي في هذا النوع من الدراسات النفسية العميقة التي تميزت في نفس العدد بمعجم آخر للاستاذ بنعبد الله حول « الفقه المالكي » .

ونحن ننشر هذا البحث لاختنا الاستاذ خليل سمعان شاكرين له حسن عنايته بالمكتب ومجلته وحمله لمشعل العروبة والاسلام بايمان واخلاص في الديار الامريكية :

Arabists owe a debt of gratitude to the Arab League and its recently established Permanent Bureau of the Coordination of Translations in the Arab World. This gratitude is due not only because of the outstanding contributions to Arabic schol-

arship which are represented in this excellent and well produced periodical but also for the magnanimity typical of the Arabic and Muslim cultures: four thousand copies of the Journal are distributed gratis, periodically, to institutions of

higher learning the world over (the *Journal* cannot be subscribed to sold).

The fourth volume of *Al-Lisân al-'Arabi* consists of nine sections containing a total of sixty seven articles. The smallest section is Section seven which has the sub-title «Scholars» with two articles on «'Aqqâd's Social and Religious Philosophy», pp. 334-344 and one on «Al-Shaikh al-Shabîbî», pp. 344-357. The largest section is Section five, «Lexicography» with nineteen articles, pp. 141-301, dealing with a variety of lexicographical problems, dictionaries, and technical vocabularies. The remainder of the sections deal with: 1) Linguistic Studies and Investigations, 2) The Translation Movement in the Arab World, 3) The North African Encyclopedia, 4) Miscellaneous Studies, 5) The Activities of the Permanent Bureau for the Coordination of Translations, 6) Review of Reviews, and 8) Miscellaneous.

The list of authors reads like a *Who's Who* in Scholarship in the Arab world; the articles are generally excellent from every point of view. These facts made the undertaking of the reviewer a delightful and edifying activity, and at the same time, a very difficult one; for how can a conscientious reviewer deal with such a huge variety of outstanding Arabic scholarship in a limited space that can be allotted to a book review? On the other hand, how can such a reviewer establish a priority list of studies to mention in his review?

Subjectively and perhaps unfairly, this reviewer, at the recommendation of the editor of *The Muslim World*, decided to review only one of the sixty-seven studies in the *Journal*:

Al-Mu'jam al-Sûfi «Dictionary of Sûfi Mystical Terminology» by the Bureau's Director, the learned 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin 'Abdallah, pp. 176-214 which was also issued as a *separatum* in 44 pages,

For centuries now, the vocabulary of Islamic mysticism (*Al-Mustalahât al-Sûfiyah*) has been a constant irritant to teachers and students of this important Islamic subject. Western scholars, notably, Goldziher, Wensinck, Asin Palacios, von Kre-

mer, and specially Massignon in his superb *Essai sur les origines du lexique technique de la Mystique musulmane*, have contributed much to our understanding of the spiritual practice known in Islam as *tasawwuf*. Indeed, since its publication in 1922, the latter *Essai* has been proclaimed as the key to a scholarly understanding of this aspect of Islam; it will continue to be a basic reference source in its field.

The Arabic-French Sûfi lexicon under review joins Massignon's *Essai* to provide the student of Islamic Mysticism with an easy to use, lucid and scholarly impeccable reference work in the field. It gives the French equivalent of 980 technical words and phrases knowledge of the meaning of which is indispensable for the understanding of Sûfism. These words and phrases cut across practically all the problematic terminology in almost the totality of Sûfi literature in Arabic.

Not only the student of Sûfism but also the specialist in Muslim Theology and Islamic jurisprudence will find this lexicon of tremendous help; for in addition to Sûfi vocabulary, many an Arabic theo-legal technical term are found translated in this *Mu'jam*. They had to be there since, as Lammens and others have stated, «Islam is essentially a legal religion». Sûfism being one aspect of Islam, its terminology are by necessity Islamic and therefore partly legal.

In addition to the Arabic-French vocabulary it contains, this Lexicon has a complete list of Qur'anic expressions and terms which have «mystical connotations». This latter list is arranged alphabetically and is intended to strengthen the well-known thesis about the Qur'an being the sole source of Islamic Mysticism.

Thus, the *Mu'jam* under review is a very great contribution to Arabic and Islamic Studies. It is a good lexicographical work, produced alphabetically as it should be and with excellent care.

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