

IBNE HISHAM'S "AL-MAGHAZI": ITS METHODOLOGY AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Among the books of Seerat, "Seerat Ibne Hisham" is ranked very high. Although Ibne Hisham is not as such the author of this book, yet he has refined it and presented it in an abridged form. In fact, the authorship of this book can be attributed to both Ibne Ishaque and Ibne Hisham. This book enjoyed enduring fame and reputation and passage of time did not detract anything from its value. Its significance as a reliable source of Seerat will survive for ever. This research paper contains discussion about the personality of the author, the book "Seerat Ibn-Hisham" and its methodology.

Keywords: Seerat, Seera or sear, Maghazi, Jihad, Ghazwat, Hadith

IBNE HISHAM

His name was Abu Muhammad Abd-ul-Malik bin Hisham bin Ayub Al-Himyari (H218). He is a well known scholar of literature, Sear-o-Maghazi, genealogy and grammar. He belonged to Basra (Iraq) by origin but settled in Egypt. He altered, added and made it brief, Ibne Ishaque's book on Seerat as per the narratives of Abu Muhammad Ziyad bin Abdullah bin Tufail bin A'amir Al-Qaisee (H 183). ⁽¹⁾

Al-Zahabi writes:

"*Abu Muhammad Abdul Malik bin Hisham Al-Basari Al-Nahvi is a compiler of a book "Almaghazi" and he diligently arranged another book "Al-Seera and then the same was copied by one Bakai, a pupil of Ibne Ishaque.*" ⁽²⁾

Abdul Abbass Ahmad bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim bin Abi Bakar Khalkan (H681) had written as:

"Ibne Hisham is a person who collected Ibne Ishaque Sear-o-Maghazi, scrutinized and abbreviated that At some later stage Al-Suhaili (H581) explained that, and the same book is now available as a Seerat book by Ibne Hisham" ⁽³⁾

Ibne Hisham himself while commenting upon his book writes:

"Initiating from the age of Ismail bin Ibrahim all the important events up to the period of the prophet PBUH, including the condition of his ancestors and many other things in much detail in a classified manner will be arranged. But for brevity sake the occurrences neither related to the prophet PBUH nor supported by Tafsir of the Quran otherwise proved, along with that

poetry, which are unknown to either learned, or the poets will be also ignored. The unsuitable or shameful occurrences and the narratives that have not been described by Bukai, too will not be mentioned”⁽⁴⁾

Ibne Hisham diligently and after due verification, adding with his margined notes on it, had rectified the Seerat book of Ibne Ishaque.

By means of his footnotes he had not only pointed out the different errors and mistakes committed by Ibne Ishaque, but also amended that along with correction of the errors made in genealogy such as the certification of the event of Mudeligy occurred on the occasion of hijrat from Macca to Madina and Ibne Ishaque had related the same to Suraqa bin Malik.

“Ibne Hisham confirms the same event with the certification of one Abdur Rehman’s genealogy, who was the master of Zuhri”⁽⁵⁾

“Ibne Hisham said: Abdul Rehman bin Al-Harith bin Malik bin Ju’asam”⁽⁶⁾

Similary, Ibne Hisham had also pointed out the inaccurate use of poetry verses, as for instance, he Ibne Ishaque, in his description of events of Serya Ubaida bin-ul-Haris, had attributed a poem to Abu Bakar-Sadique, while Ibne Hashim writes as:

“Among the learned, poetry experts, disagree with the claim that the poem used belonged to Abu Bakar (RA)”⁽⁷⁾

Besides these Ibne Hisham had made some more valuable and praise worthy enhancement, in the narratives of Ibne Ishaque such as he had pointed out that number of captured warriors, in the battle of Badar were 43 (forty three)⁽⁸⁾ while Ibne Hisham added 23 (twenty three) persons more in the count. Moreover, Ibne Hisham disagreeing with Ibne Ishaque added five more names, in the number of martyres during the battle of Uhad.⁽⁹⁾

To sum up, Ibne Hisham with an assayer’s vigilance, in proper arrangement of the materials, including the test and comparison of sources and ascertaining the correctness of the events, had gained superiority over his fore runner Ibne Ishaque.⁽¹⁰⁾

FINDINGS

Ibne Hisham was a great scholar of history, Seerat, Military expeditions, Literature and grammar.

Of all the earlier books of Seerat, Seerat Ibne Hisham is the only book that has come down to us in its complete form.

Ibn Hisham has quoted his traditions from Zeyad Bukai and then added details to their brevity, shed light on their ambiguities and completed the incomplete narratios.

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