ABOUT THE COPIES OF MAHMUD ZAMAKHSHARY’S BOOK “ATWAQU-Z-ZAHAB FI-L-MAVOIZ VA-L-KHUTAB”

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Abstract. The period of East Renaissance is important with the popular scientists. One of the scientists, who lived and created in that period, is Mahmud Zamakhshari. His valuable works served to the development of several sciences and nowadays they serve yet. Particularly, Mahmud Zamakhshari’s important didactic works are valuable. One of the works of him is “Atwaqu-z-zahab fi-l-mavoiz va-l-khutab” (Golden sheaves in preaching and prayers). This work was created in Mecca and it consists of hundred articles. There are valuable opinions and thoughts about the meaning of intelligent person and education of generation in every article of the work. By following article the author wrote about the bibliographic analyses of four copies of the lithography, which are kept in the Manuscript found of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Uzbekistan Science Academy.

Keywords: Mahmud Zamakhshari, lithography, copy, didactic works, Atwaqu-z-zahab fi-l-mavoiz va-l-khutab, intelligent generation, manuscript, Manuscript found, Uzbekistan Science Academy, Institute of Oriental Studies, article, education, scientist, valuable thoughts.

Khoresm erudite Mahmud Zamakhshari’s philosophic-didactic works form the inseparable part of his scientific heritage. One of his works of this direction is “Atwaqu-z-zahab fi-l-mavoiz va-l-khutab” (Golden sheaves in preaching and prayers), which was created in Mecca. The work consists of hundred small articles. There are folktales, aphorisms, admonitions about people’s positive and negative qualities in every article. In addition, in this work Zamakhshari discussed many problems about social, economic and spiritual life. The author gave and account of his own attitudes, opinions about the post of different social estates, different profession owners in society. Especially, he criticized hardly tyrant kings, grafters judges and unfair functionaries (Brockelmann, 1898, pp. 224-230).

One of the values of the work is its prevalent in the world. The manuscripts of “Atwaqu-z-zahab fi-l-mavoiz va-l-khutab” are kept in the Arabic manuscripts found of British museum in London (No. 1003), in the Arabic manuscripts library in Vatican (No. 1380), in the Asian museum of Saint-Petersburg (No. 922), in the library “Daru-l-kutub” in Cairo (203). In addition, the copies of manuscript are kept in founds named after Asir Afandi (No. 471, 416), Ayo Sofiya (No. 2911, 3780), Khafiz Afandi (No. 275-I), Rashid Afandi (No. 715-3) which are in the structure of Sulaymon Library in Turkey (Az-Zamakhshari, 1998, p. 512).

“Atwaqu-z-zahab fi-l-mavoiz va-l-khutab” was translated into several languages. Particularly, in 1835 Fon Joseph Khammer printed the German translation with Arabic text again in Vienna, Leipzig. In 1863, Gustavo File translated the work into German for the second time. The French Barbie Lanerd also researched about this work. He translated “Atwaqu-z-zahab fi-l-mavoiz va-l-khutab” and printed it in Paris in 1876. The Turkish translation of the work was printed in Constantinople, in 1870 (Abu-l-Qosim Mahmud Zamaxshariy, 1992, p. 28).

“Atwaqu-z-zahab fi-l-mavoiz va-l-khutab” also printed in Arabic states. Firstly, it was printed with the commentary of Sheikh Yusuf ibn Abdulkadir in Beirut in 1875. This work was printed again in 1895, 1903. This work was also printed by the printing house “Saodat” in Egypt in 1909, by the printing house “Mahmudiya” in Cairo in 1925, in Damascus in 1992.
The different scientists wrote the commentaries to the work. They are kept in the libraries of the cities like Cambridge, Leipzig, Berlin, Vatican, Saint Petersburg, Mashhad, Istanbul, and Beirut (1968, pp. 4-5).

The four lithography copies are kept in the manuscript found of the institute of Oriental studies named after Abu Rayhon Beruni, Uzbekistan science Academy. The lithographs, which are kept by the stock number 16016 and 18970, are the similar. The size of the lithography is 13x19 and it consists of 112 pages. The publisher Mohammad Said Rofi printed them in the printing house “Saodat” in Egypt. The first lithography is separate book; the second lithography is the fourth work of the collections, which consist of five books.

There was given the name of the work, the author of the work and his honorable names in the title page of the lithography.

The lithography was begun with the introduction of the publisher Mohammad Said Rofi. In the lithography there was written about the necessity of the publishing of the work, the importance of this work, the genius of Zamakhshari. The language of the work is difficult, that’s why the commentaries for the words, phrases, sentences were given and it helps to readers to understand easily.

The table was lined in every page of the lithography; the numbers were drawn out of the table, in the bottom of the page. There is a text with bigger letters in the above of the table and there is a commentary with smaller letters in the bottom. The text and commentary was separated with the line.

There are diacritical signs in the text, but there are not diacritical signs in the lithography. The footnote was used for the commenting. There is a number in the brackets in the end of commentary word, phrase or sentence. In the bottom of the page the word, phrase and sentence with the numbers were commented.


As an author emphasized, there are golden sheaves under every article. There is a name of the article in the lithography, which was divided, with the lines in the table, the name is written in nastalik script in the brackets. Even in the commentaries which were given in the bottom of the table were divided as an article. When the commentary of the word or phrase of the article finished, the number of the article in the brackets was shown before giving the commentary of the next – the second article, for example, “The third article”, “The sixteenth article”.

The size of some articles are not similar, some articles are shorter and some of them bigger. Particularly, the articles under the number 2, 3, 12, 13, 72, 74, and 84 consist of one or two sentences. Articles under the number 17, 31, 41, 42, 43, and 57 are bigger and they equal to one page.

One of the copies of the lithography in found is kept under the stock number 18952. It was published in Egypt in 1873. The size of lithography is 13[21, consists of 177 pages. The condition of the lithography is bad in spite of repairing again.

The table was drawn in every page of the lithography. The work was begun with Mahmud Zamakhshary’s introduction. Then Zehni’s Usman translation was given. There are titles of article (“al-Maqalatu-l-ula” - “The first article”, “al-Maqalatu-s-salisa” -“The third article”, “al-Maqalatu-s-saniya ashara” – “The twelfth article”) in the patterned brackets in nastalik script. There are the analyses of some grammatical question after every article. The text was given in nashk script with diacritical marks. After that the Usman meaning of the text was given. So on hundred articles were commented grammatically and their Usman meaning was given.

Every three lithography of Mahmud Zamakhshari’s “Atwaqu-z-zahab fi-l-mavoiz va-l-khutab” which is kept in the Manuscript found of the Institute of Oriental studies named after Abu Raykhan Beruni. Uzbekistan Science Academy, are valuable lithographers. They are the full copies, but there are some defects. There are many possibilities of learning the “Atwaqu-z-zahab fi-l-mavoiz va-l-khutab” by the copies of the work.
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