





FCR YAYIN LTD.  
General Publication Number: 1664  
Certificate Number: 46550  
ISNI: 0000000446571968  
ROR ID: ror.org/00zznvq98

Imprint: Fecr  
Publication Number: 1001

Book Title: The Presentation of the Murji'a in Islamic Literature  
ISBN: 978-625-5576-55-2  
DOI: doi.org/10.70458/fcr.9786255576552

Author: Ibrahim Hakki Inal | orcid.org/0000-0001-6115-5864  
Institution: Ondokuz Mayıs University  
ROR ID: ror.org/028k5qw24

Book Type: Monograph  
Language: English  
Dimensions: 135 x 210 mm  
Edition: 1  
Pages: 182 pages (xii+170)

E-Publication Date: 18 August 2025 (Print: FCR Yayin Ltd., 2021)  
Place of Publication: Ankara, Türkiye  
Layout and Cover Design: FCR

#### Subject Categories

BIC: HRHİ - History of religion: Islam  
BISAC: REL037010 - Religion / Islam / Theology  
THEMA: QRYJ - Islamic theology  
LC Classification: BP166 - Mohammedan sects and theology  
DEWEY: 297.2 - Islamic theology  
WoS Category: - Religious Studies  
WoS Citation Topics Meso: - Religion  
WoS Citation Topics Micro: - Islamic Theology  
Scopus Subject Areas: 1202 - History

Catition: Inal, Ibrahim Hakki. *The Presentation of the Murji'a in Islamic Literature*. Ankara: FCR Yayin Ltd., 2025.

© All rights reserved | FCR YAYIN LTD.



Hacı Bayram Mah. Boyacılar Sk. No: 14/1 06050  
Altındağ-Ankara/TÜRKİYE • Tel: +90 (312) 310 08 60  
www.fcr.com.tr • fcr@fcr.com.tr

# **The Presentation of the Murji'a in Islamic Literature**

Ibrahim Hakki INAL

Ankara 2025

## **About the Author**

**Ibrahim Hakki INAL**

Ibrahim Hakki Inal is a senior lecturer in the History of Islamic Sects at 19 Mayıs University, Samsun. He obtained his BA degree in Marmara University, Istanbul, where he also received an MA in Islamic History. He completed his second MA and PhD at University of Manchester in 2002. His main research interests are structural analysis of heresiographical literature in early Islam and contemporary Islamic thought.

## About the Book

### **The Presentation of the Murji'a in Islamic Literature**

This book provides a comprehensive examination of the Murji'a, an early theological movement in Islam, and its representation in Islamic literature from the formative period to later historical narratives. Through critical textual analysis of primary sources—including early creedal texts, historical chronicles, and theological treatises— the study investigates the origins, doctrinal positions, and political implications of Murji'ite thought. Central to the Murji'a was the emphasis on postponing judgment (*irjā'*) regarding the faith status of Muslims engaged in sin, prioritizing belief over deeds in defining true faith. The work explores how this theological stance emerged in response to the political and sectarian conflicts of the first Islamic centuries, particularly the Kharijite insistence on expelling sinners from the Muslim community. By tracing portrayals of the Murji'a in both sympathetic and hostile sources, the book reveals the group's evolving image—from a movement advocating communal unity and tolerance to one criticized for moral laxity. It also analyzes the role of major Muslim historians, theologians, and jurists in shaping these narratives, showing how political contexts influenced the reception of Murji'ite ideas. Additionally, the study engages with modern scholarship, re-evaluating the Murji'a's contribution to Islamic theological diversity and its relevance to contemporary debates on faith, works, and communal boundaries. By situating the Murji'a within the broader history of Islamic thought, the work underscores their lasting impact on theological discourse and sectarian identity formation.

**Keywords:** Murji'a; Early Islamic Theology; Sectarianism in Islam; Faith and Works Debate; Islamic Intellectual History



## CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND</b>	1
1. The Scope of the Thesis	1
2. The Muslim Concept of Heresy	3
3. The Emergence of the <i>Murji'ī</i> Idea	11
4. Theological <i>Murji'a</i>	15
5. The position of Abū Ḥanīfa	17
6. Sources	19
6.1. Structural Analysis of Muslim Heresiography Works	19
6.2. Theology	25
6.3. Biography	25
7. Plan of the Thesis	27
8. Technical Points	28

## CHAPTER I

### **ASH'ARĪ'S PRESENTATION OF THE MURJI'A**

1. Introduction	31
2. al-Ash'arī	31
3. The Depiction of the <i>Murji'a</i> by <i>Ash'arī</i> Scholars	45
4. al-Malaṭī, Abū 'l-Ḥusayn Muḥammad b. Aḥmad's <i>Kitāb al-tanbīh</i> (d. 377/987)	46
5. al-Bāqillānī (d. 403/1013)	48
6. The <i>Murji'a</i> in al-Baghdādī's <i>al-Farq Bayn al-Firaq</i>	51
7. Abū 'l-Ma'ālī al-Juwaynī (d. 478/1085)	55
8. al-Ghazālī (d. 505/1111)	57
9. al-Shahrastānī's <i>al-Milal wa al-niḥal</i>	60
10. The <i>Murji'a</i> in <i>al-Milal wa al-niḥal</i>	61
11. al-Khaṭīb al-Baghdādī's (463/1071) <i>Tārīkh al-Baghdād</i>	66
12. Ibn Ḥibbān's (d. 354/ 965) <i>Kitāb al-Majrūḥīn</i>	72
13. Conclusion	73

## CHAPTER 2

### **ḤANBALĪ PRESENTATION OF THE MURJI'A**

1. Introduction	77
2. Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal (d. 241/855)	77
3. Ibn Baṭṭa <i>al-Ukbarī's Kitāb al-sharḥ wa'l-ibāna</i>	81
4. The Presentation of the <i>Murji'a</i> in Ibn Taymiyya's <i>Kitāb al-îmān</i>	83
4.1 The Definition of <i>Îmān</i>	87

4.2. The Position of Sinner	90
4.3 Abū Ḥanīfa	91
5. The Murji'a in Ibn Ḥazm's <i>Kitāb al-Faṣl al-Milal wa'l- Niḥal</i>	93
6. Conclusion	96

### CHAPTER 3

#### THE DEPICTION OF THE *MURJI'A* IN *SHĪ'Ī* LITERATURE

1. Introduction	101
2. The <i>Murji'a</i> in al-Nawbakhtī's <i>Firaq al-Shī'a</i>	101
3. The <i>Murji'a</i> in Abū Ḥātim al-Rāzī (d. 320/932)	103
4. The <i>Murji'a</i> in Ibn al-Murtaḍā's <i>al-Baḥr al-zakḥkhār</i>	106
5. Conclusion	108

### CHAPTER 4

#### THE PRESENTATION OF THE *MURJI'A* BY THE *ḤANAFIS*

1. Introduction	111
2. al-Māturīdī and the <i>Murji'a</i>	111
3. The <i>Murji'a</i> in al-Nasafī's <i>Kitāb al-radd</i>	114
4. The Presentation of the <i>Murji'a</i> in al-Bazdawī's <i>Uṣūl al-dīn</i>	121
4.1. The <i>Murji'a</i> and the Definition of <i>Īmān</i>	123
4.2. The Position of the Sinner	126
4.3. Revolt Against an Unjust Ruler	129
4.4. Erroneous Groups	131
5. The <i>Murji'a</i> in al-Nasafī's <i>Tabṣīrat al-adilla</i>	135
6. al-Ṣābūnī's (d. 580/1183) <i>al-Bidāya</i>	139
7. The <i>Murji'a</i> in Abū 'Uthmān al-Ḥanafī	140
8. Abū Ḥanīfa in the <i>Ḥanafī Manāqib</i> and <i>Ṭabaqāt Works</i>	142
9. al-Muwaffaq b. Aḥmad al-Makkī's (568/1172) <i>Manāqib Abī Ḥanīfa</i>	143
10. The presentation of Abū Ḥanīfa in al-Tamīmī's <i>al-Ṭabaqāt</i> (d. 1005/1596AH)	147
11. Ibn Ḥajar al-Haytamī's (d. 975/1567) <i>Khayrāt al-ḥiṣān fī-manāqib al-Imām al-A'zam</i>	151
12. Conclusion	153

<b>GENERAL CONCLUSIONS</b>	155
----------------------------	-----

<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	161
---------------------	-----

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people have contributed to this study. First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and warm appreciation to my doctoral supervisor, Professor Oliver Leaman for his enthusiastic encouragement and patient guidance.

A debt of gratitude is owed to Professor Sonmez Kutlu for his invaluable contribution and constructive suggestions.

I am indebted to the editorial staff at Fecr Publications, particularly my dear former student Tevfik Aksoy, for their assistance in preparing the book for printing.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to Professor Rifat Atay, 'my brother here and Hereafter,' without his persistent help, this book would not have been possible.

In preparing me for the future through education, I am extremely grateful to my parents for their love, supplications and sacrifices they endured. Last but not least, I am very much thankful to my beloved wife Esra Afife and my precious children, Ahmet Talha, Recep Saki and Hayrunnisa Gul, for their affection, understanding, prayers and continuing support to complete this research.

**Ibrahim Hakki INAL**



## ABBREVIATIONS<sup>1</sup>

- EI* (ii) : *Encyclopedia of Islam*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.  
*Farq* : *Kitāb al-farq bayn al-firaq* by 'Abd al-Qāhir al-Baghdādī.  
*Firaq* : *Kitāb al-firaq al-muftariqa* by 'Uthmān al-Ḥanafī.  
*Formative*: *Formative Period of Islamic Thought* by W. M. Watt.  
*IC* : *Islamic Culture*.  
*Ibāna* : *al-Ibāna 'an uṣūl al-diyāna* by al-Ash'arī.  
*Imān* : *al-Īmān* by Ibn Taymiyya.  
*Ihyā* : *Ihyā' 'ulūm al-dīn* by al-Ghazālī.  
*Inṣāf* : *al-Inṣāf fi mā yajib i'tiqāduhū* by al-Bāqillānī.  
*Irshād* : *Kitāb al-irshād ilā qawāṭi' al-adilla* by al-Juwaynī.  
*JSS* : *Journal of Semitic Studies*.  
*Maqālāt* : *Maqālāt al-Islāmiyyīn wa ikhtilāf al-muṣallīn* by al-Ash'arī.  
*Milal* : *al-Milal wa al-niḥal* by al-Shahrastānī.  
*MW* : *Muslim World*.  
*Radd* : *Kitāb al-radd 'alā ahl al-bida'* by Abū Muṭī' al-Nasafī.  
*Schismes* : *Les Schismes dans l'Islam* by H. Laoust.  
*SI* : *Studia Islamica*.  
*Tabṣira* : *Tabṣirat al-adilla* by Abū 'l-Mu'īn al-Nasafī.  
*Tanbīh* : *al-Tanbīh wa al-radd* by Abū 'l-Ḥusayn al-Malaṭī.  
*Tārīkh* : *Tārīkh Baghdād* by al-Khaṭīb al-Baghdādī.  
*Tawḥīd* : *Kitāb tawḥīd* by Abū Manṣūr al-Māturīdī.  
*Uṣūl* : *Uṣūl al-dīn* by Abū 'l-Yusr al-Bazdawī.

---

<sup>1</sup> Full publication details can be found in the bibliography.