

School of Qur'ānic Exegesis, and gives him several famous pupils, notable among whom were Mujāhid,<sup>1</sup> 'Ikrima,<sup>2</sup> Ibn Jubair,<sup>3</sup> 'Aṭā',<sup>4</sup> and Ibn Abī Rabāḥ.<sup>5</sup> It is probable that all these men had more or less contact with Ibn 'Abbās, but it is hardly correct to think of them as pupils of his in this science or as carrying on his tradition as a School in the way we speak of the pupils of the great Jewish Doctors. Any student of the Tafsīr will have noticed how much of the traditional exegesis is traced back to this group, much of it possibly quite correctly, and this is particularly true of the statements as to the foreign words in the Qur'ān,<sup>6</sup> so that al-Jawālīqī at the commencement of his *Mu'arrab*<sup>7</sup> can shield himself behind their authority from any accusation of unorthodoxy.

It is clear that in the earliest circle of exegetes it was fully recognized and frankly admitted that there were numerous foreign words in the Qur'ān. Only a little later, however, when the dogma of the eternal nature of the Qur'ān was being elaborated, this was as strenuously denied, so that al-Jawālīqī can quote on the other side the statement of Abū 'Ubaida<sup>8</sup> as given by al-Ḥasan -- 'I heard Abū 'Ubaida say that whoever pretends that there is in the Qur'ān anything other than the Arabic tongue has made a serious charge against God, and he quoted the verse: 'Verily we have made it an Arabic Qur'ān.'''<sup>9</sup> The question is discussed by many Muslim writers, and is excellently summarized by as-Suyūṭī in the Introduction to his treatise *Al-Muḥadḍ-ḥab*, and further in chap. xxxviii of his *Itqān* (Calcutta ed., pp. 314-326). The discussion is of sufficient interest to engage our attention here.

<sup>1</sup> Mujāhid b. Jabr died in A.D. 719 at the age of 83. See an-Nawawī, 540; adh-Dhahabī, i, 14.

<sup>2</sup> He was a Berber slave of Ibn 'Abbās and died about A.D. 723 at the age of 80. He is said to have travelled widely in Irāq, Khorasān, Egypt, and S. Arabia. See an-Nawawī, 431; Yāqūt, *Irshād*, v, 62 ff.; adh-Dhahabī, i, 14.

<sup>3</sup> Sa'īd Ibn Jubair died in A.D. 713 at the age of 49. See adh-Dhahabī, i, 11; an-Nawawī, 278.

<sup>4</sup> 'Aṭā' b. Yasār died in A.D. 712. See an-Nawawī, 424; adh-Dhahabī, i, 13.

<sup>5</sup> 'Atā' b. Abī Rabāḥ died in A.D. 733. See an-Nawawī, 422; adh-Dhahabī, i, 16.

<sup>6</sup> A glance at as-Suyūṭī's *Mutawakkilī* will serve to show how large a proportion of the foreign words he treats are traced back to the authority of one or other of the members of this circle.

<sup>7</sup> Ed. Sachau, p. 4, quoted also by al-Khafājī, 3. قال ابو عبيدة وروى عن ابن عباس. ومجاهد وعكرمة وغيرهم في احرف كثيرة انه من غير لسان العرب.

<sup>8</sup> Abū 'Ubaida Ma'mar b. al-Muthanna, the great Humanist of the reign of Harūn ar-Rashīd, who was of Judaeo-Persian origin and a student of the rare words in Arabic. See *Fihrist*, 53, 54; Ibn Khallikān, iii, 388; al-Anbārī, *Tabaqāt al-Udabā'*, 137; an-Nawawī, 748; Siddiqi, *Studien*, 29.

<sup>9</sup> as-Suyūṭī, *Itqān*, 315, gives the tradition a little differently.