Critical Analysis of ibn Taymiyyah's Point of View on the Scientific Status of Imam Riḍā (as)

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Abstract

Wahhabism's enmity with the Ahl al-Bayt of infallibility and purity is not hidden from anyone. Ibn Taymiyyah, as the main flag bearer of this sect, has always tried to deny the virtues of the Ahl al-Bayt (as) and make them look like ordinary human beings. With the same approach of denigrating and denying the virtues of the Ahl al-Bayt (as), he raises doubts about the scientific position of Imam Riḍā (as) and believes that the Shiites have exaggerated his position. Claims such as "Imam Riḍā (as) not being more knowledgeable", "Imam Riḍā (as) not narrating narration", "Islamic scholars not narrating from him", and "Lack of narrations of Imam Riḍā (as) in Siḥāḥ Sittah" has been quoted by ibn Taymiyyah to deny the high position of Imam Riḍā (as). In this research, with a descriptive-analytical method and a critical approach, while examining the sayings of Sunni elders and citing narrations in Sunni hadith and commentary books, an attempt has been made to respond to ibn Taymiyyah's claims. The conclusion is that ibn Taymiyyah's claims about the position of Imam Riḍā (as) are nothing more than fallacies and are inconsistent with the views of other Sunni thinkers.

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