A COMMENTARY ON SHIA ARGUMENTS BY IMAM AL-SHAFI’I
R.H.M

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Abstract

The purpose of this working paper is to see the extent of thoughts of Imam al-Shafi’i r.h.m in the polemic of Shia. General public knows Imam al-Shafi’i r.h.m as a great figure in the school of Fikah and Islamic Law. However, it may be rarely known about the thought of Imam al-Shafi’i r.h.m that focused on Shia. Hence, with the application of qualitative approach and historical design analysis on the background and history of his life, this paper makes an attempt to explain the early experience of Imam al-Shafi’i r.h.m in Shia thoughts and how the Shia attempt to claim him as Shia followers. This paper also tries to see how he was recognized as the figure of Arabic language and Literature of his time, apart from the figures in the school of fiqh and Islamic Law. The outcome of the analysis found that Imam al-Shafi’i r.h.m received an early exposure in Arabic language education and literature during his childhood until teenager, and he was chosen as a transcendent figure of Arabic language and literature at his early teens.

Keywords: Imam al-Shafi’i r.h.m, education, Arabic language, Arabic literature, Arabic language and literature.