Free will as for Al-Juwayni and Muhammad Abdu

Abstract

The Islamic scholars have interested in issue of free of will in the ancient and modern, and the issue of the philosophical thought in Islam has not been as important as it.

In the ancient, we find Imam Al-Juwayni (478 A.H.) one of the scholars of the Asharites doctrine dealing with this issue, which was controversial in his thought, and a decisive turning point in his doctrine. He started his doctrine by supporting the idea of the Asharite acquisition, which doesn't prove the effect of human ability to do, then felt of the inconsistency of this theory with the reality of man and his positive role in cosmos, he changed his opinion and developed his doctrine, he confirmed in his last opinion that the ability and choice of human have an impact and role in the act, it is real ability, not fake.

In the modern era, the intellectual Egyptian thinker Imam Muhammad Abdu (1323 A.H.) dealt whit issue of free of will. He said that human had a choice and ability to do, depending on religion, reason, sense and conscience evidence. His opinion was a wall against the doctrines of fatalism which spread the ideas of dependence and negative and unemployment, and his opinion was an extension of the developed attempt of Al-Juwayni in that problem, but he is distinguished by dealing with real problems, such as: trust.

The two thinkers agreed in the positive outlook on the human being, that view which confirmed the human ability and his freedom and choice in his action, and thus confirms his positive role in society.

These two attempts highlight creativity, innovation, and rationalism in the philosophical thought of Islam in all its ages and stages. It wasn't a rigid thought, or not restricted by a specific doctrine or theory.