



## Research Paper

# Analysis of the Growth Factors of Mystical Texts in the Middle Centuries (460-638)

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## Abstract

The rise or fall of schools of thought is influenced by various factors. Looking at the history of the creation of mystical texts over many centuries, the quantitative and qualitative increase or decrease of these texts can be seen. Using the descriptive and analytical method and referring to historical reports, the present research seeks to answer the question of why the frequency of mystical texts has increased significantly in the historical period from 460 to 638 AH. What caused the growth of mystical texts in this period is the expansion of the Ash'ari school and their special attention to the "heart" as a practical tool in epistemology, which can be categorized under cultural developments. Although Mu'tazila school also continued this intellectual life, the dominance of some Ash'ari principles can also be seen in Mu'tazila's writings. Among these principles is "intuitionism and relying on the heart" as a tool of knowledge. The support of the Abbasid caliphs for this school was also in the process of its spread. The existence of a relationship between the leading scholars of this school with the Abbasid rulers or the rulers under their influence was also among the political reasons that greatly contributed to the expansion of the Ash'ari school.

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## Extended Abstract

### 1. Introduction

Some schools grow and develop within the boundaries of their hometowns, and the activities of some other schools go beyond their borders. Mystical schools are not excluded from this category. The entire scope of the historical geography of Islam is full of symbolic and allusive texts and the examination of the authorship history of these writings shows that they have a significant variety in terms of quantity and quality. In some centuries, the tendency towards mysticism and mystical texts is more intense, and in other periods, writings with a jurisprudential or hadith tendency have grown increasingly. The compilation of Masanid and Hadith collections, al-Sihah al-Sittah, and the four Shia Hadith books can be mentioned as some of its examples. These books are one of the most important hadith works, based on which many hadith works have been written until the present age. Although this issue can only be considered from a historical point of view, examining it from an epistemological point of view is also important.

### 2. Method

The study method in this research is based on descriptive and analytical approaches and historical reports.

### 3. Findings

What caused the development of mystical texts in this period is the expansion of the Ash'ari school and their special attention to the "heart" as a practical tool in epistemology, which can be categorized under cultural developments. Although Mu'tazila school also continued this intellectual life, the dominance of some Ash'ari principles can also be seen in Mu'tazila's writings. Among these principles is "intuitionism and relying on the heart" as a tool of knowledge. The support of the Abbasid caliphs for this school was also in the process

of its spread, as well as the existence of a relationship between the leading scholars of this school with the Abbasid rulers or the rulers under their influence was among the political reasons that greatly contributed to the expansion of the Ash'areh school.

### 4. Result

By presenting the historical documents that were examined in the present study and paying attention to the intuitionism of the great scholars of the Middle Hijri era, the process of scientific and cultural trends is influenced by the decisions of political rulers and there is a positive correlation between them; this means that wherever the political rulers have supported a school more, that school has expanded in terms of quantity and quality. The reverse is also true.

The existence of some intellectual bases of the Ash'aris in relation to the conditions of political governance and its legitimacy, which can be considered passive and active, paved the way for the growth of Ash'ari thinking. This thought, with special attention to some tools of knowledge, caused mystical texts to expand increasingly.

The special attention of the above-mentioned mystics to "intuition" as an effective element in epistemology and the help and support of the Abbasid caliphs to this school paved the way for the further growth of intuitionism, which became the basis for special attention to mystical analysis and compositions of this kind. Therefore, cultural developments in the shadow of political developments helped to expand and deepen mystical texts, examples of which were presented in the current research.

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### **Contribution of Authors**

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### **Conflict of interest**

Mustafa Rezazadeh (corresponding author) declares that he has completely

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