

The Hasid and Mahsoud By Al-Jahiz A study in Arabic Semantics and Rhetoric

Dr. Samirah Salami*

Abstract

This research paper studies the Hasid and Mahsoud by Al-Jahiz from two basic perspectives:

First: From a semantic viewpoint that portrays the feeling of envy harbored in the inner life of a person, and is self destructive hitting on one's own spirit. The feeling of envy as a concept captured by Al-Jahiz is thoroughly described, its causes enumerated, its effects explained, as well as the know how to discern its essence from the ways it is vented out through the acts, character, and behavior of a person.

Al-Jahiz continues to discuss how and why such a social phenomenon, a mentality became so wide spread beleaguering relatives, neighbors, and even scholars more often than laymen. He elaborated on who is the subject of envy, and causes behind such ill feelings.

He moves on to thoroughly depict the person who harbors a general sense of envy, his characteristics, inner pain, malice, and how to break away from such negative sentiments fending off its effects.

Secondly: The research paper approaches this work of Al-Jahiz from aesthetic viewpoint highlighting the distinctive features of his style.

A number of key issues are brought under the limelight: the controversial debate of quoting anon),. rous, sometimes well known figures, the rhetorical devices and aesthetics of his language.

This masterpiece is a sample of Al-Jahiz literary talent, philosophical approaches, style, and distinctive touches of what later became a literary trend called after him displaying his craftsmanship, and captivating language.

* Department of Arabic - Faculty of Arts and Humanities - Damascus University
For the paper in Arabic see pages (11-44).