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**“Discourse of the Mu'tazila Concerning the Createdness of the Qur'an”**

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This paper seeks to analyze the early Mu'tazila schools of 'Ilm al-Kalam and its influence on the createdness of the Qur'an. One of the most widely discussed topics among the Sunni theologians (*mutakallimun*) during the early ninth century was the problem of the nature of the Qur'an. The debates among the *mutakallimun* gave rise to significant questions that led to a complex controversy about the nature of God's word, the word of man, and their interrelationships. Also, this subject pushed many scholars, especially the Mu'tazila, to believe that the Qur'an was the created word of God, which meant that when God is the speaker, his speech is not considered to be human; but rather, divine. The Mu'tazila considered that this view affects him eternally in his attributes. Since the focal point in the Mu'tazila's theology was the doctrine of the absolute unity of God and His justice, the problem of the created or uncreated word of God became central in the debates between the Mu'tazila and their opponents. Furthermore, since they considered the issue of God's attributes to be very sensitive, and in particular the attribute of Speech, their goal was to maintain and uphold His absolute unity, uniqueness, and immutability. In addition to which, they also claimed that it is impossible to hold that even divine revelation could share with, or enter into these characteristics. They affirmed that attaching attributes to God would taint His oneness, and as a result, immediately affect the fundamental element of divine justice which would lead to the notions of God's arbitrary rule and predestination. This presentation will, therefore, highlight two specific problems associated with this issue. The first problem concerns God and His attributes, and the second one deals with God and His Word. Islamic thought pertaining to the first problem (God and His attributes) was influenced by the translation of Greek philosophy into the Arabic language during the eighth century. Also, with the rise of Islamic theology (*'ilm al-Kalam*), Muslim scholars were able to defend their positions by using logic. This presentation will also discuss two points concerning the doctrine of the createdness of the Qur'an. The first point will examine why the Mu'tazila admitted the eternal existence of the pre-revealed word of God and address the following question: “Which word of God from the Preserved Tablet did the Mu'tazila believe in?” The second point will examine why some of the Mu'tazila denied the existence of a pre-revealed word of God, even as a created one, and insisted that the Qur'an was created only at the time of revelation. In addition to outlining various viewpoints held by those thinkers who differed among themselves regarding the meaning of the word of God

and how it was created, an explanation of why some Mu'tazila believed that the Qur'an is an inimitable man-made book will be provided.