

*A Rhyming Spree
for Imam Abu Jafar
At Tahawi*



**An Acrostic Embellishment of
*Al-Aqida At-Tahawiyya***

By Novid Shaid

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A Rhyming Spree for Abu Jafar At Tahawi

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Author's Note and Dedication

As salaamu alaykum,

This work intends to be an embellishment and complement to *Al-Aqida At-Tahawiyya* in the English language, which teachers and students could use to enhance their journeys through the text. To aid teachers and students, I have italicised the translated points and numbered the lines to coincide with each point in *Al-Aqida At-Tahawiyya* and Iqbal Ahmed Azami's translation (UK Islamic Academy Publication).

I assert copyright on this poetic work; however, I give open permission for publishing and reproduction for the purpose of teaching and learning *Al-Aqida At-Tahawiyya*, and aqida studies in general. All I ask is that you remember me in your duas. I hope that Allah Most High accepts this as a sadaqa jaariya, which may expiate my sins, and benefit my family and friends.

I would like to express special thanks to the following:

Imam Abu Jafar At Tahawi (RA- 239-321 AH) the legendary polymath whose text is ever-present and ever relevant.

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Victorian wordsmiths like Lewis Carroll, who used to set themselves enjoyable verbal challenges, which this work is an example of.

Novid Shaid, October 2020/Rabi Al Awwal 1442

*In the name of Allah
the Most Gracious
the Most Merciful*

*All Praise is
For Allah
Lord of the Worlds
And Peace and Blessings
Upon the Beloved Mustafa,
And Upon
his family and companions*

Abiding in Egypt, there was a wise faqih
Listed as Abu Jafar Ahmed At Tahawi,
Living in Taha from a lineage of nobility.
And in this book of verse is his treatise
Holding to the doctrine of the Muslim creed

In the name of Allah, *whose help we need*, (1a)
So, *we say about His unity*: (1b)

One and true, *Allah is One* and free (1c)
Nothing is like Him, without partners, you see (2, 1d)
Ever existent, *nothing routs Him, indeed!* (3)

No god but Him, this we must believe (4)
On and on He lives, pre-eternally (5a)
There was no start for Him, no delivery (5b)
He is eternal, enduring endlessly (5c)
Infinite and rich, *He will not de cease* (6a)
Nor come to end, Creator of entropy (6b)
Good God! *Nothing stirs but by His will, decreed* (7)

Imaginations cannot conceive Him, utterly (8a)
So, *no understanding holds Him in surety* (8b)

Living uniquely, unlike created entities (9)
Infinitely active, He never dies or sleeps (10)
King of Kings; *He creates without a need* (11a)

Effortlessly, He provides, without a need (11b)

He causes all to die without anxiety (12a)

Instilling and restoring life without difficulty (12b).

Moreover, before creation's history (13a)

With His attributes, He has existed One and Free. (13a)

Instilling life brought no auxiliaries (13b)

To His Attributes, no increase in degree (13c)

He lives, with His attributes, pre-eternally (13d)

On and on, He will remain, eternally (13e)

Unifier of multiplicity

The Named, the One and Only Entity

Put simply, He was not described only

As Creator after acting creatively (14a)

Read this, He was not described only

The Originator after acting originatingly (14b)

Now even when there was nought for Him a Lord to be (15a)

Ever the Lord He was so uniquely (15b)

Related to this previous pure decree,

So, He was Creator, even when none created was to be (15c)

Named Bringer of Life and Death, so deservedly,

Of which it counts even before life was brought to be,

There was nothing alive, still this name agrees (16a)

Hear this! Even before He created the things we see

In the same way the name Creator deserves to be (16b)

Nonetheless, He has power over everything, verily (17a)

Granted, everything before Him is needy (17b)

Relate this: everything for Him is just easy (17c)

Own this: He depends on nothing, He is free (17d)

Understand this Quranic certainty

There's nothing whatsoever like Him, The Listener, Who Sees (17e)

So,

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