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**The Reformist Discourse of Contemporary ItezAlis:
A Critical Approach to the Claim of the Existence of
Neo-Mu'tazila**

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Abstract

The reformist discourse which is based on wisdom and the challenge of imitative ideas, as it is introduced by Seyed Jamal al-din and Muhammad Abduh in the Arab World, has been the impetus for some scholars to connect these two reformists to Mu'tazili rationalist ideas and argue for a Neo-Mutazili school of thought as a sign of the revival of Itizali thought. The present article attempts to first critically discuss the origins of the emergence of Neo-Mutazila. It then traces the sustenance of this idea after Abduh and provides evidence from Abduh,s life showing that the claim to

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include him among Mutazilis has no strong basis. The conclusion is that his identification with the revival of Itezali thought is not correct.

Key Terms: *Neo Mu'tazila, Reformation, revival of Mu'tazila, critical approach, Muhammad Abduh, Rissalat al Tawhid.*

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