In this paper we study two Muslim theologians of the late 2nd/8th century, Hišām ibn al-Ḥakam and Sulaymān ibn Ġarīr, who made extensive use of the joint negation of opposites, i.e. the formula that a certain thing X can be neither A nor not A. We show how this position is in continuity with Posidonius’ Stoic doctrine of being as the supreme genus, transmitted through the Syriac tradition. We then study what distinguishes Sulaymān ibn Ġarīr from Hišām ibn al-Ḥakam, namely: the distinction of the thing and the existent, two concepts identified by Hišām ibn al-Ḥakam. In doing so, Sulaymān ibn Ġarīr appears as the first ‘inventor’, in the Arabic tradition, of the distinction between the thing and the existent. We finally conclude that the lineaments of a proto-intuitionism that would blossom, a century later, in Abū Hāšim al-Ǧubbā‘ī (d. 933), are perhaps discernible in our two authors.