

## **Annotation of dissertation**

For the degree of Ph.D. with specialization “6D020600 – Religious studies”

**By Kayirbekov Nurlan Evfratovich**

### **Signification of Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Isbidzhabi in Islamic law history in Central Asia (based on his writing “Zad al-fukah”)**

**Main characteristics of dissertation research.** Dissertation is dedicated to research of Bah ad-din Abu-l-Ma’ali Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Isbidzhabi’s activity and work who was from medieval Isbidzhab (now South-Kazakhstan oblast).

His writing “Sharh Muhtasar al-Kuduri” still in manuscript influenced on further development of Islamic law (fikh) in Central Asia and in the whole Islamic world. Along with basic Islamic statements this work retained details and numerous examples of local religious and cultural life, standards of social and economic life of local society, living conditions, traditions in Central Asia and particularly in Isbidzhab. In regard to this writing is very essential and authentic source for history of Kazakhstan culture.

In dissertation main features of the local form of Islam existence in medieval Kazakhstan and Central Asia, substance and main features of religious politics in Karahanid’s State (382-607/992-1211) were analyzed in terms of the writing Bah ad-din al-Isbidzhabi.

**Thematic justification of dissertation.** Significance of dissertation research lies in ineffective state of knowledge of sources in history of Islamic studies and Islamic society in cities of Central Asia during Karahanid’s dynasty administration.

Revealing and introduction of law written artifacts for scientific use produces authoritative source reference for research of leading theologians activity of this region. Large urban centers took an even more importance where leading religious scholars fakihis and “ulama” were imploded. Throughout learning of theological environment of that period it is possible to research religious politics of Karahanids.

As known, local Islamic societies were formed as a result of Islam spreading in this historical and cultural region. Ancient civilizations included in religious life of Islamic society and introduced their peculiar religious ethic perceptions, regulations, customs and cultural traditions to this religion. Different parts of Islamic world adjusted to Islam not simultaneously. In the end Islam acquired specific features distinguishing this local form of existence from another. The consecration process of local traditions, regulations with Islam and transformation it into own religion is connected with formation of local class of religious authorities and local religious centers.

In virtue of Islam specificity the crucial part in this process belonged to Islamic theologians and jurists (fakihs). In accordance with one of the main idea of Islam there is a unitary world which must live according to holy religious law heaven-sent in Quran, embodied in Sunnah of Muhammad prophet and interpreted in fikh. Fikh is restatement of studies concerning principles and life rules of Islamic family and community. Different regulations of political, economic, social and cultural life in Kazakhstan and Central Asia (during the period of Qarakhanids' administration) were reflected in writings of famous scholars of that period. One of those works is Bah ad-din Abu-l-Ma'ali Muhammad ibn Ahmad Isbidzhabi's writing.

**Level of topic working out.** Biography and the name of the only writing of Baha' ad-din al-Isbidzhabi were mentioned in historiographic works devoted to Islamic studies development under Qarakhanids. As a rule these facts were extracted from famous classical works of historical and biographical literature. The first attempt to research al-Isbidzhabi's writing "Zad al-fukaha" was made by candidate Id ibn Muhammad ibn Hamd ad-Dusari from University "Umm al-Kura" (Medina, Saudi Arabia) in 2014. However his unpublished work consists of critical text compilation of the one part (from "Kitab ihiya al-mavat" to the end of the book). In brief research part the candidate made philological collation of texts "Muhtasar al-Kuduri" and "Zad al-fukaha". He distinguishes this writing as an artifact of juridical literature under Abbasids (749-1258) and it is not concerned with history of Central Asia.

Most researches in history of Central Asia during the Qarakhanids' period are devoted to history of this dynasty and political aspects of its administration. Religious aspect of their politics is not considered because of lack of source documents. Some parts of religious life of the Qarakhanids' period were considered in monograph of a researcher Muminov A.K. However they were elucidated in the work "Kata'ib a'lam al-ahiyar min fukaha'mazhab an-Nu'man al-muhtar" ("Classification of famous theologians of an-Nu'man school") of Mahmud ibn Suleiman al-Kafavi who was the Golden Horde descendant (died in 989/1581).

So then this scientific problem was not considered in terms of research of religious politics representatives and origin sources belonged to active participants of those processes.

**Purpose and objectives of research.** The main purpose of this dissertation is an integrated and contrastive-comparative analysis of "Zad al-fukah" and Baha' ad-din Abu-l-Ma'ali Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Isbidzhabi's activity with other sources of religious politics of Qarakhanids' Turkic dynasty (382-607/992-1211) which has a great value and importance for religious processes administration in modern period.

The following research objectives are posed and resolved in this work for purpose achievement:

- Research of Baha' ad-din Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Isbidzhabi's biography in connections with theological environment of Isbidzhab which became an important center of Islamic studies and Islamic jurisprudence along with other cities of Turkestan (Otrar, Arsubanikent, Sheldzhikent, Taraz, Dzhakil, Balasagun);

- Analysis of "Zad al-Fukah" of Bah ad-din al-Isbidzhabi as a source in reciprocity of Islamic law regulations of hanafit school and local traditions and customs of Central Asia population;

- Ascertainment of main stages of theological and religious environment transformation during Qarakhanids' administration through Baha' ad-din Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Isbidzhabi's activity;

- Specification of principles of religious skilled workers' formation, influence of government on religious situation and Islamic society through administrated theological environment;

- Research of attribution of Baha' ad-din al-Isbidzhabi's work "Zad al-fukah";

- Research of conception of cooperation of Islamic religion with national culture in a local society;

- Ascertainment of influence of Central Asian hanafit authors' works on development of religious literature of the Islamic world in terms of Baha' ad-din al-Isbidzhabi's writing "Zah al-fukah".

**Scientific innovation** of dissertation is concluded in the following:

1. For the first time complex analysis of an unpublished source "Zad al-fukah" by Baha' ad-din Abu-l'Ma'ali Muhammad ibn Isbidzhabi was implemented and introduced for scientific use in terms of information from all the existent lists.

2. Baha' ad-din al-Isbidzhabi's activity as a supreme religious person (muftiy) of Qarakhanids in Samarkand was investigated in terms of contrastive-comparative analysis of facts of historical and biographical literature, epigraphic monuments and "Zad al-fukaha".

3. For the first time complex research of writings about religious politics of Qarakhanids' government was implemented and substance and main features were defined in Kazakhstan science.

4. The importance of the writing "Zad al-fukah" was defined and acknowledged in further development of Islamic law in Central Asia through its influence on 'Ala' ad-din as-Samarkandi's activity (died after 539/1144-1145), Burhan ad-din al-Marginani's activity (died in 593/1197) and their followers.

5. As exemplified by Baha' ad-din al-Isbidzhabi's activity the historical importance and potential of traditional Islamic heritage were revealed for research, characterization and influence on modern processes in religious sphere of Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

**Objective and subject of dissertation.** Objective of research is the theory "fikh" by Baha'ad-din Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Isbidzhabi and position concerning Islamic regulations. Subject of research is conclusions of Islamic regulations and thesis of Baha' ad-din Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Isbidzhabi in his work "Zad al-fukaha".

**Scientific methods and procedures of research.** In the course of research historical contrastive-comparative and semantic etymological contextual review, hermeneutic, theological and comparative method, theological analysis, classification, characteristics, generalization and other scientific methods.

**Theoretical, methodological and scientific-practical significance of research consist of:**

Firstly, a new source concerning history of religions in Kazakhstan was introduced that reveals perspectives for research activation in this way;

Secondly, it demonstrated methods of administration of religious situation through theological environment in terms of religious leader's activity;

Thirdly, competitive practice of theologians featured in dissertation conduces the development of religious studies.

Fourthly, it reveals a new way in studying forms of Islam existence in this region;

Finally, for the moment this dissertation is one of the most important in the revival process of traditional religious conception corresponding to religious ideology and perception of Kazakh nation connected with the modern religious situation in the whole world and Central Asia. Along with that the dissertation exudes as a source for research in religious studies, history and culture.

Theoretical regulations of History of religions of medieval Islamic East are methodological basis of research. In this work we relied on the main results, research conclusions and newest methods developed by native and foreign religious studies scholars and Islamic studies scholars concerning Islamic questions and peculiarities of regional forms of Islam existence in different part of the Islamic world.

Substance of this approach is complex processing and analysis of write-ups extracted from sources for more adequate and complete scene of relations

between governments and Islamic society. One of these sources is the writing “Zad al-fukaha” by Baha’ ad-din Muhammad ibn Ahmad al Isbidzhabi which includes specific demonstration and real examples of local religious and cultural life, regulations of social and economic life of local society, daily life and traditions of population in Central Asia and Isbidzhab particularly. In this regard this research can be essential and authentic source for culture history of Kazakhstan and Central Asia in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Historical and philological approach to research of texts in the Arabic language was used during analyzing the source. Special methods of paleography and codicology of eastern manuscripts were applied to research of manuscript sources.

**Applicative significance of dissertation results** is that it demonstrated the importance of historical experience of traditional Islam for working-out of modern politics in religion and also it proved necessity to initiate a new study guide in religious education system of our country. Conclusions and scientific results of dissertation can be used as a source or study guide in secondary special education and higher education with specialization Religious studies and Islamic studies.

**Approbations of research results.** Main regulations and progress of dissertation research were tested and reflected in 13 scientific articles. One of the articles was published in the magazine included in data basis Scopus, two articles were published in foreign edition, five articles were published in international scientific practical conferences, five articles were published in scientific editions recommended by the Committee for Control Education and Science of Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Kazakhstan.

**Research composition** appropriates to objectives and logic of research objectives solving. Dissertation consists of introduction, three chapters; each chapter is divided into three parts; conclusive statement and reference list and appendixes corresponding to purpose and objectives of research.