

## ANNOTATION

Of thesis work for Ph.D. degree in specialty 6D020600 – Religious studies.

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**“Position and significance of ‘Ali Ibn Mohammed al’-Isbidgabi (535/1141 N.S.)**  
**in the history of Central Asian Islamic law”.**

**General description of the thesis:** The thesis work is devoted to life, service and manuscript “Sharkh Muhtasar at-Tahawi” of Turkic scientist, Ali Ibn Mohammed al’-Isbidgabi, born in Isbidgab city.

**Importance of the researched topic:** Currently thanks to specialists in religious and Islamic studies, who know Middle East languages, religious books are being printed and serve to the society’s benefit; the books cover some aspects of the Aqidah, Hadith and Fiqh teachings. However, the books refer to separate problems of Shari’ah and do not cover the general aspects. For these reasons a research of religious heritage, created by scientists of the past, is necessary as well as inclusion of the information into the current scientific rotation. Within frames of program “Social heritage”, started upon initiative of the country President, N.A. Nazarbayev, and under strategic Programs “Kazakhstan– 2030” and “Kazakhstan– 2050”, revival of forgotten history, religion and native culture of Kazakhstan people is one of important issues in the agenda. In this connection for the purposes of national religion and Islam studies research, publishing and propaganda of scientific heritage left by classical scientists of Kazakhstan land, who contributed a lot to Islamic law (Fiqh) of hanafi madhab, that served as foundation for shaping traditional religious concept, is an important issue. Names and works in the field of Islamic law (Fiqh) of such scientists as Mohammad al’Kerderi, Mahmud bin Ali at-Tarasi, Husam ad-din as-Syganaki and Amir Katib al’Itkani as well as others took their place in the history. They devoted their lives to well-being of Islamic law and left an important heritage behind. They provided solutions with substantiation of legal grounds and principles as regards problems that were not depicted in religious texts due to different situations in the development of Islamic law (Fiqh) environment. Muslim jurists (fukaha) were closely connected with population in their activity (some of them were communicating closely with governing persons as well) and thus were aware of the society needs. Thanks to that they connected religion with culture and local Muslim society traditions, suggesting interpretations of different levels.

Interpreting within frames of hanafi madhab is necessary for establishing uniform religious ideology in our country, based on religious mindset of our nationality. Since at the present moment for sufficient understanding of Shari’ah teachings the students studying religion and Islam in High educational establishments and religious madrasah, need first of all to study in detail and analyze authors of ancient Fiqh works, their ways to make examples and provide explanations,

principles for providing other proof putting aside a previous proof in cases where decision of our madhab contradicted to decision of another madhab.

Besides, the first obstacle in study and analyzing of local Islamic history realities of the Great Kazakh steppe in XI-XII centuries is deficiency of materials dated by that epoch. However there are lots of written documents, created within indicated centuries of the ancient Kazakhstan. They are kept as manuscripts in different libraries of the world. One of such documents, kept as a manuscript, is a work by local scientist specialized in Islamic law (Fiqh), Ali Ibn Muhammad al'Isbidgabi, - "Sharkh Muhtasar at-Tahau". Studying the work of the scientist we find interesting the fact that the document shows us hidden sides of cultural, social, political and economic life in the middle ages. The work, being viewed as subject of study, is being examined from scientific viewpoint for the first time. The information is precious, since the work was written by scientist who lived in XI-XII centuries and took high state (judge, etc.) and religious (mufti, etc.) positions.

Based on the above the thesis significance is connected with the fact that in our country biography and works of leading Abu Hanifa madhab's representative and Muslim jurist, who reached level of mujtahid, Ali Ibn Muhammad al'Isbidgabi, are being examined for the first time.

**Purpose of study:** Review of the scientist's life, paying attention to religious policy, economic, social, cultural situations in the times of Al'Isbidgabi. To make list of available manuscripts "Sharkh Muhtasar at-Tahau" by Al'Isbidgabi, to define which libraries keep these works, and establishing historical chronology of the work's variants to unveil contents of the text, to research its structure and principal chapters. Besides, principal purpose of the work is definition of methods and grounds which Al'Isbidgabi used in his explanations.

**Tasks of research:**

- To describe religious background at the times of Al'Isbidgabi's life;
- To review life of Al'Isbidgabi, his written works and service in the field of Islamic law (Fiqh) of hanafi madhab;
- To collect data as regards available variants of manuscript "Sharkh Muhtasar at-Tahau", to analyze and define the basic differences;
- To make review of researches made as regards work "Sharkh Muhtasar at-Tahau" and of its authors' short biography, compare data of such researches;
- To describe activity of Ali Ibn Muhammad al'Isbidgabi;
- To analyze texts of tombstone "Chakar-diza", to explain them and make detailed research of their significance;
- To show new sides of social, cultural life of Isbidgab and Samarkand cities in XI-XII centuries;
- To define scientists originating from Isbidgab city, to search data related to them and praise their names.

**Scientific methods of research.** As part of the study the scientific methods and approaches of the following type were used: mainly historical-comparative and semantic-etymological analysis, paleographic and codicological method, theological analysis, chronological analysis, classification, description, summarizing.

**Research purpose and subject.** The purpose of the study is to determine within Central Asian Islamic law the place of 'Ali Ibn Mohammed al'-Isbidgabi, who lived in the XI-XIII centuries, as well as to determine the religious policy of the Karakhanid nation. The subject of the research is the place of 'Ali Ibn Mohammed al'-Isbidgabi in the history of Central Asian Islamic law and the importance of the work "Sharkh Muhtasar at-Tahaui, gravestones of "Chakar-Diza" mausoleum.

### **Scientific novelty of the study**

- The work "Sharkh Muhtasar at-Tahaui " was recognized as one of several scientists of Isbidgab. in order to determine the correctness or falseness of our belief, the work of Al-Isbidgabi in the sphere of Islamic law "fiqh" is attributed;
- New writings of the tombstone of "Chakar-Diza" mausoleum of the X-XIV centuries were considered as new sources, introduced into scientific circulation;
- New aspects of the social and cultural life of the cities of Isbidgab and Samarkand were determined in the 11th-12th centuries;
- A study of the religious policy conducted by the Karakhanid nation has been conducted, as well as a conclusion on this issue was made scientifically for the first time;
- The names of 17 scientists from the city of Isbidgab were determined, each was considered separately. In particular a study of the life and activities of 'Ali ibn Muhammad Al-Isbidgabi was performed and it was proved that he is a scientist who achieved the title of " mujtahid";
- According to the saved variants of "Sharkh Muhtasar at-Tahaui " and the waqf seals, personal seals (exlibriser) performed there, information about the colophon, fly-leaf, nachsatz and frontispiece, using the historical-philological, paleographic and codicological methods, the scope of work distribution was determined;
- For the first time was investigated the use by the scientist of comparative law (fiqh al-muhamaran) in the work "Sharkh Muhtasar at-Tahaui".

### **Main findings and conclusions for the defense**

- The work of a native of the Kazakh land, 'Ali Ibn Mohammed al'-Isbidgabi in the sphere of Islamic law (fiqh) "Sharkh Muhtasar at-Tahaui" is a new knowledge determined today. This information fills a gap in the history of the XI-XII centuries, unfilled with any information;
- Century Al-Isbidgabi coincides with the government of the Karakhanid nation. In the history of Kazakhstan there are very few materials on the Karakhanid period. In this connection, when studying the historical existence of local Islam in Isbidgab and neighboring territories in the time of the Karakhanid governments, this source has a great importance;

- During the study in the higher educational institutions and religious madrassas of the Shari'ah, for adequately acquirement by students primarily, it is necessary to study the works of the authors of the ancient fiqh, and here is a need to master the conclusions and works of al- Isbidgabi for mastering their methods of bringing evidence and explanations;
- Was determined one of the parties, principles and positions of the religious policy of the Karakhanid nation for two and a half centuries;
- Reviving the traditional religion on the hanafi madhab, in order to preserve the younger generation from the negative influence of various ideologies, from religious extremism and radicalism, it is necessary to be guided by the works of Al-Ishibijabi in the field of Islamic law "Fiqh";
- Analyzing and identifying the works of Al-Isbidgabi, preserved in the form of a manuscript, has great scientific significance.

**Theoretical and scientific-practical importance of the study.** Scientific results and conclusions obtained during the study can be used as additional material on the specialties of religious studies, Islamic studies in higher educational institutions, secondary professional and higher educational institutions (in madrasahs of Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan, universities), scientific centers for the study of religious doctrines.

As well as the names of scientists from the Kazakh land of the X-XIII centuries are very often found in tombstones. The study of these inscriptions will open the way for the formation of a new topic and the scientific work of future historians and religious scholars.

Currently, with the purpose of scientific prevention of religious radicalism and extremism in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, this information is an important source in the study of the historical religious world outlook of people.

**Publication and approbation of the study.** The main findings and conclusions of the dissertational material are published in domestic and foreign scientific publications in the form of 8 scientific articles. Including 1 article is posted in the Scopus Information Database, 4 articles are covered in international conferences, and 3 articles are posted in journals approved by the Committee of Control in Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

**Structure of the thesis work.** The structure of the thesis work in accordance with the purpose and objectives of the study consists of an introduction, 3 chapters (the first chapter contains 3 sections, the second chapter contains 3 sections, the third chapter contains 3 sections), total 9 sections, conclusion, list of references and applications.