



SCIENTIFIC ROLE OF JAMĀL AL-QARSHI IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUR'AN STUDIES

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Abstract:

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In this article, a scientific analysis was conducted on the value of the historical and chronological information presented in the life and works of Jamāl al-Qarshi, a scientist who lived at the end of the 13th century and the beginning of the 14th century

Keywords: Mulhaqot, Chagatai khans, Karakhanids, East Turkestan

Jamāl al-Qarshi was born in 628 AH, 1230 AD near the present city of Olmaliq. His father was from the city of Balāsaghūn, and he memorized the Qur'ān. His mother was originally from Marv and belonged to a noble family¹. Jamāl al-Qarshi received his first education from Zahir ud-Din Ashraf ibn Najib al-Kasani. Later, Jamāl al-Qarshi mentions in his work "Mulhaqat al-surah" that Badr al-Din Muhammad al-Farahi's services were great in his recognition as a scientist. Then he won the favor of Buzar's son Syganaq tiyin, who founded the dynasty under the title of Tughrul Khan and was appointed as a teacher to Syganaq's son Ilbutarga and the daughter of Jochi a Mongol Princess Biki. Sadr Burhan al-Din appointed him a position in the king's cabinet and gave him the nickname Karshi².

Jamāl al-Qarshi was exiled to Kashgar in 662 AH and 1263 AD. During his exile, he met Sadr Kamal ad-Din and earned his respect. After that, he stayed in the important cities of Central Asia until 1303, meeting with many scholars and sheikhs of his time. These trips were useful in the preparation of his famous work "Mulhaqot"³.

In fact, in 1273, Jamāl al-Qarshi, who went from Shash (Tashkent) to the Lower Saykhun tribes and visited the cities of Barchkend and Chand, had the opportunity to study the works of a fiqh scholar named Hamid ibn Asim al-Barchinli (Barchini, Barchkendi) and in "Mulhaqot" he gave information about these works.

Although the date of Jamāl al-Qarshi's death is not known, the work "Mulhaqat" was completed in the early years of ruling of Chapar, the son of Khan Chagatai Khan Kaidu, who ascended the throne at that time, shows that he did not live long after 702 (1303) AH⁴.

The title of Qarshi (Mongolian word qarsi means palace, i.e. of the palace) was given to him due to his connections with the rulers of Almalik, and this nisba(title) was not related to the Quraysh tribe.

As for Jamāl al-Qarshi's writings, he has two main works, the first is "Al-Surah min al-Sihah", Jamāl al-Qarshi wrote this work in 1282, based on Abū Naṣr al-Jawhari's "Al-Sihah" dictionary. In the work, the Persian alternative of every word in the Arabic dictionary is given⁵. The second famous work is "Al-mulhaqat al-surah", written at the beginning of the 14th century, this work is a supplementary commentary to the above dictionary and is an important source about the early years of the existence of the Chagatai tribe. A part of this work was published in the first volume of the work "Türkistan during the Mongol period" published by the Russian scientist Bartold in St. Petersburg in 1898. The work contains valuable information about the states established in Turkestan, especially the Karakhanid and Chagatai Khans' period, and famous sheikhs and scholars are also mentioned in the work. Although the quotations are mostly narratives, historical and chronological information can sometimes be found. Especially, the author's narratives about contemporary sheikhs and scholars in the work are important from the point of view of the educational life of that period. According to Bartold, the occasional comparison of Arabic-Persian and Turkish languages in the work is noteworthy as the earliest examples of comparison within the framework of the data so far obtained. Mehmet Fuat Köprülü accepts this work as

¹ Jackson P. The Dissolution of the Mongol Empire // Central Asiatic Journal. Vol. 22. 1978.

² Abuseitova M. X. (sost.) Istoriya Kazakhstana v persidskikh istochnikakh. (The history of Kazakhstan in Persian resources) Vol. 1. Jamal al-Karshi. Almaty: Dyke-Press, 2005. - 410 p. 103

³ H. F. Hoffman, Turkish Literature, A Bio-Bibliographical Survey, Utrecht 1969, III/1-3, p. 84-89. 104

⁴ <https://islamansiklopedisi.org.tr/cemal-i-karsi>

⁵ https://uz.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamol_Qarshi



an important evidence of the development of Islamic and literary sciences in Eastern Turkestan during the Karakhanids. In this work, Jamāl al-Qarshi also provides information about the geography of the places he visited and the ethnic structure of the region's population. In particular, he calls some cities, including Syğanaq, Turkmen lands (bilad at-tarokima) and emphasizes that Barchkend is the homeland of Turkmens. Historian Faruk Sümer, based on the information about the Lower Sayhun regions given in Jamāl al-Qarshi's work, says that Turkmen may have preserved the memories of the Seljuks in this region⁶. In conclusion, because Jamāl al-Qarshi left valuable historical information in his works, the scientific study of his works is one of the urgent tasks of science.

LIST OF SOURCES

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⁶ <https://islamansiklopedisi.org.tr/cemal-i-karsi>