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Publication date
2014

Document Version
Final published version

Published in
Казанское исламоведение = Kazan Islamic Review

Citation for published version (APA):
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‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm’s Biographical Dictionary on Siberian Islamic Scholars*

Summary: This article is a publication of facsimiles and annotated English translations of two versions of a biographical dictionary of Siberian Islamic scholars. The work written by ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm deserves serious attention from scholars because it opens up a world of intellectual life among the Muslims in Western Siberia almost unknown so far. The sources provides us information on local scholars who lived between the 18th and late 19th centuries, their interests, education, networks and theological debates. All of this allows us to claim that an elaborated Islamic discourse existed at that time in Siberia.

Key words: ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm, biographies of Islamic scholars, Islamic discourse, Islam in Siberia, Islam in Russia, Siberian Tatars, the Tatar manuscript culture, Riḍā al-Dīn b. Fakhr al-Dīn.

The heterogeneous milieu of the pre-revolutionary Islamic elite in Western Siberia, biographies of scholars, their writings on different topics, their inter-regional networks and their role in establishing local religious institutions are poorly known in modern scholarship. The goal of this article is to publish two previously unknown texts which shed new light on the intellectual life of Muslim communities in Siberia between the late eighteenth and early twentieth century. My argument here is that an elaborate Islamic discourse existed in the region which was strongly interconnected with the legal and theological debates idiosyncratic to the Volga-Ural region, Central Asia, and Daghestan.

* I would like to thank James Pickett (Princeton University) for reading a draft of my article. This research has been supported by the Russian State Foundation for Humanities (РГНФ, project no. 13–31–01011) and the Russian Foundation for Fundamental Research (РФФИ, project no. 13–06–97069п_поволжье_а).
Two texts analyzed in the present article are in fact drafts of the same work written by the famous traveler ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm (1857–1944) and entitled Sibiriyada zaman sabaqta wa hazirda bulunmuş ‘ulamalar (Siberian Scholars in Past and Present). In what follows I will offer a short description of the work and a discussion of its contents.

Description of the manuscripts

This particular biographical dictionary of Siberian Islamic scholars survived in two copies. Both of them originate from the archive of the prominent Tatar scholar Riḍā al-Dīn b. Fakhr al-Dīn (1859–1936). Since the late nineteenth century Riḍā al-Dīn had been collecting historical sources on famous and prominent Islamic figures of the Russian Empire and later published two volumes of his biographical dictionary Athār (the third and fourth volumes remained in the manuscript form and were published only recently [12]). Riḍā al-Dīn disseminated letters to prominent intellectuals of his time requesting memoirs, biographical accounts, and other narratives on local Islamic history. These collected texts underwent a critical selection and linguistic modification, which means that not all of the collected sources were published in Athār in their entirety and their language was ‘corrected’ in accordance with Riḍā al-Dīn’s understanding of the Tatar literary language. Fortunately, many original texts sent to Riḍā al-Dīn b. Fakhr al-Dīn survived in his private archive, two parts of which today are located in St. Petersburg and Ufa.

The earlier copy of the biographical dictionary is preserved at the Scientific Archive of Ufa in the Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences [1]. The copy is bound with other manuscripts in a huge volume (560 folios). Late 19th century Russian paper was used. Two separate paginations are visible on the folios: one done by Ibrāhīm and another by Fakhr al-Dīn. Black ink is used; the style of handwriting is ta’liq and belongs to the hand of ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm. The number of lines on each page varies significantly. The earlier copy bears only two comments by Riḍā al-Dīn, one of which clarifies that “the notes on these ten pages belong to the pen of ‘Abd ar-Rashīd qāṭī Ibrāhīm” [1, f. 17b].

The second and larger copy of ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm’s biographical dictionary is stored at the Archive of the Orientalists of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg) [2]. The manuscript appears to be a small notebook with the Russian pagination made by pen at the archive. The number of lines varies greatly. Much free space was left between the blocks of text devoted to individual scholars so that the author could add new information. The text is written in black pen, the style of handwriting is ta’liq and belongs to the hand of ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm. The Russian paper is dated to the late 19th century. The left bottom part of page 5a bears a stamp reading “Uspenskoi fabriki №6”. In front of many biographical blocks Riḍā ad-Dīn b. Fakhr ad-Dīn wrote the word yazıldı, meaning written, i.e. used for his own work in Athār. Sometimes he also shortly commented on the text [2, f. 8b–9a]. Most probably this version of the dictionary was finished in 1894–95 because there are no later dates in the text.
The language of both versions is Ottoman Turkic with some Tatar elements. These manuscripts reflect different stages of writing, with some sections remaining unfinished. There is a significant overlapping in both copies, but some important details remained specific to each separate work. Therefore I have rejected the idea of constructing a ‘critical text’ and prefer to publish both versions separately.

Islamic Discourse in Western Siberia

It is certain that ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm meant this collection of biographies as a separate work because it has a title, clear structure with a section on history of Imams in Tara, a list of rural Mulas of the past and present as well as biographies of rich philanthropists who were also well-versed in Islamic sciences. With regard to the structure, it is noteworthy that in the St Petersburg manuscript Ibrāhīm offers the names of Imams in each village that he knows of, trying to also specify the full names and even nick-names of the local intellectuals. Moreover, in conformance with the classical Arabic genre of pious biographies (tabaqāt), the author introduces his entries with the formulae “and among them” (“wa minhum”).

The author’s style is rather uneven: next to quite small sections on important scholars whom ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm would have known personally or at least by reputation, he writes long anecdotes which tell us very little about intellectual life in the region. Generally, Ibrāhīm’s attitude towards his compatriots was rather denigrating: he acknowledged the prominent scholars of the past, but in his eyes very few such exemplary intellectuals were still alive in his day.

Ibrāhīm’s sensibilities notwithstanding, between the late eighteenth and early twentieth centuries there was a stable circle of Islamic scholars in Siberia who expressed their views on various religious topics. The legacy of legal debates among the Siberian ‘ulama has only just started to be explored, but from already known manuscripts one can clearly understand that Islamic discourse in Siberia was strongly bound with the trends and discussions common throughout the Volga-Ural region, Dagesthan and Central Asia. From Ibrāhīm’s dictionary and from some other manuscripts we learn that the fifth daily prayer has always been an issue for local Muslims. Some of the Siberian scholars, namely Muḥammad Niyyāz b. Ḥaydar (Aitikin) [1, f. 15; 2, f. 14b], Shaykh Muḥammad b. Șāliḥ [1, ff. 16–17] and Şabanči b. Șar Muḥammad [1, f. 14; 2, ff. 11a–12a] presented a legal recommendation (fatwa) from the Madīnān Mufti ʿAbd al-Raḥmān al-Sirāğ (d. 1836), in which it was claimed that the fifth prayer should be performed even in the northern lands where days were short [2, f. 11b]². But the final point in the debate was made only after the local scholars got acquainted with the works of ʿAbd al-Nasīr al-Qūṣāwī (1776–1812) [3, p. 272–307; 4; 5], the Volga-Ural scholar who made the decisive argument that concluded the debate. Another example deals with

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² | The text of that fatwa survived in a collection of spiritual chains and legal documents from Sayīd Vakhīdī’s (1887–1938) collection and is preserved at the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts (St Petersburg), MS B2695, ff. 1b–13a.
the precise calculation of the Islamic calendar and with the associated discipline of astronomy. As a result of debates on the astronomical calculations in the city of Tara, the local scholar Dawlat Bāqī b. ‘Alī Asgār (d. 1840) went to Bukhara in order to improve his knowledge of these sciences. By some miracle the astrolabe, which belonged to Dawlat Bāqī and is described in our manuscripts in detail, found its way to local museum in the city of Tobol’sk and still remains there [1, f. 11; 2, f. 3a, see figure 3 attached to this article]3. Other notable legal debates prominent in neighboring regions are curiously absent in Ibrāhīm’s dictionary. For example, he does not mention the discourse on the vocal and silent forms of Sufi litanies (adḵār), engaged major ritual activity and controversy among local Sufis4, because ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm does not really distinguish between Sufis and those without Sufi affiliation, though he does mention that this or that person was “an Ishan” with no further details offered. From other biographical sources with overlapping coverage we can observe Sufis who served prominent roles in local villages, such as Khwājā Bārdī Ishān (d. 1855) from the village of Sāwusqān. This is likely also a result of the fact that in the 1890s, when he compiled his dictionary, Ibrāhīm simply was not involved in this network and therefore fully omitted Sufi aspects of religious life in Siberia.

Among the important details Ibrāhīm did offer were descriptions of private libraries and rare books. For instance, Ibrāhīm lists “an old” copy of Iḥyā’ ‘ulūm al-dīn by al-Ghazālī which was preserved first in the hands of Fayd Allāh b. ‘Alī Asgār and then moved to the Qarīmšaqūf library [1, f. 12; 2, f. 3a]. In all likelihood this masterpiece is now lost. Almost every mentioned scholar had a personal library, but unfortunately very few remnants out of these collections are known us today.

Who is a Scholar?

For ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm, Muslim scholars were required to play a central role in the life of Islamic community and were responsible for its development [9, pp. 281, 284]. How did he define those intellectuals whom he included in the dictionary?

While compiling a list of scholars and gathering information about them from oral and some documentary sources, Ibrāhīm did not cover every person who ever studied at religious schools, wrote something, or collected a library, but wrote only about the persons about whom he managed to gather sufficient information in a short period of time. Some important people are not mentioned at all because their active involvement in the social life started a bit later. For example, the poet Māwlūkā b. Yūmāchīq (1834–1910) from the village of Yānba and the Imam Ḥujjat al-Ḥakīm b. Dawīd from the village of Aubāṭqān both published quite a lot of works in Kazan’ and Orenburg in the 1910s, but neither was included in Ibrāhīm’s biographical dictionary.

3 | This passage had been analyzed in our article: [6].
4 | See the documents and their analysis in my monograph: [7, pp. 77–83, 88–100].
5 | See a letter of Muṭāṣim b. Bilāl, a local Imam, to Rūḍa al-Dīn b. Fakhr al-Dīn, dated from 1895 [8, f. 111b]. This letter was written as addenda to Ibrāhīm’s dictionary.
Hujjat al-Ḥakīm b. Dawūd closely cooperated with Ibrāhīm, who published the former’s articles in his journal Bayān al-ḥaqī. Surprisingly, Ibrāhīm also fails to provide us with detailed accounts of several scholars with whom he was personally familiar or about whom he knew a great deal. For example, he writes only a short paragraph about Raḥmat Allāh al-Yāṅgūrāzī (1824–1887), a teacher and Imam of the Tārā mosque, whom Ibrāhīm replaced after Raḥmat Allāh moved to Petropavlovsk. Even more surprising are very brief notions on Ni’mat Allāh Qarīmsaqūf (1829–1901), a merchant from the village of Yānbāy who supported the local scholarship and established a rich library [2, f. 2a; 7, p. 39–43]. One can only speculate that as far as both survived versions of the dictionary were still the work-in-progress, Ibrāhīm planned to include Qarīmsaqūf as well, while his attitude towards al-Yāṅgūrāzī might have been rather ambivalent: the latter became an enemy of the Aytikins trading family, who actively supported Ibrāhīm at the early stages of his career.

Interestingly, Ibrāhīm distinguishes individuals according to their origin: whether they are the representatives of local tribes (Ayālī and Qurtāq are among mentioned), or members of Central Asian migrants (some of them being descendants of saints with the titles of Khwāja, Shaykh and Sayyīd), or settlers from the Volga-Ural region. Symptomatically, while including Mulas and merchants under the same notion of ‘ulama, Ibrāhīm says nothing about descent groups connected to the particular grave of a saint, who are often represented by Russian ethnographers as ‘local spiritual authorities’ and ‘elite groups’ [10]. One might reply that this omission reflects a clear distinction between more or less official Islamic institutions (mosques, schools, and Sufi lodges) and ‘underground’, unofficial Islam represented by descent groups at the sacred places.

Two points should be clarified here. First, ‘ Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm and scholarly circles more generally did not regard shrine keepers as a similarly privileged class: in the eyes of the ‘ulama, the academic credentials of the shrine keeping profession were unimpressive. Learned society united only those who distinguished themselves due to their scientific talents, ‘seeking of knowledge’ (ṭālib al-‘ilm), and long-term study of classical books at the knees of established scholars. Second, the fact that absolutely no sacred place was mentioned by Ibrāhīm suggests that between the eighteenth and early twentieth centuries the veneration of shrines did not play a central role in the religious life of Siberian Muslim communities. Significantly, there is also no discussion about the legitimization of sacred places in the framework of Islamic law; this phenomenon is totally absent in our sources. My hypothesis is that the Soviet transformations of Islamic communities and disappearance of highly educated elite lead to the growing significance of local descent groups and sacred places which became the only spots of communal and individual worship while mosques were closed down. In the context of religious revival in the late 1980s up to the present day, believers employed the mass media and anthropological publications to put sacred places at the core of local Islamic identity and even reconceptualised them in national terms, quite in the Soviet fashion [7, pp. 63–77].

6 | For further information see: [7, pp. 23, 40, 150].
7 | For a detailed account on this person: [7, pp. 21–39 (plus facsimile of his work in the appendix)].
It seems that in the 1890s ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrahīm still had a quite romantic understanding of how the real Islamic scholar should comport himself and hence his long anecdotes about scholars and merchants sometimes helps us understand the spirit of that time better. When describing the fate of each scholar, Ibrahīm offers information on the individual’s lifespan, places of birth, education, travel, and death. ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrahīm also mentions the qualities of scholar’s heirs, often complaining that they were “insignificant” or rather “unfortunate”.

These characteristics mean that as a source on individual biographies Ibrahīm’s dictionary is not comprehensive. In fact it constitutes a rather sketchy description of Islam in Siberia, though valuable and unique in its own right. Siberian Scholars in Past and Present is an introduction to the Islamic history of Western Siberia, which maps the geography of Siberian Muslim identity, provides a list of main personalities and illustrates the networks of scholars and their debates on religious issues.

In February 2008 and March-April 2009 I had the auspicious opportunity to have a close look at Riḍā al-Dīn’s archive in St. Petersburg and to refine my observations during a joint trip with Igor’ V. Belich to Ufa in November 2008. It is my pleasure to thank our colleagues at the Section of Manuscripts and Documents of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts (St. Petersburg) as well as Dr. Marsil’ Farkhshatov (Ufa) for providing me with the high resolution copies that are published here.

Facsimile
Alfrid K. Bustanov | ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm’s Biographical Dictionary on Siberian Islamic...
مما می‌توانست منجر به آمیختگی این دو امر باشد که به این ترتیب که در اینجا ذکر شده است. به طوری که در اینجا ذکر شده است، این مراحل به طوری که در اینجا ذکر شده است، به‌طور کلی ممکن است ساده‌تر باشد.
...
در ماهمناطق یا گذاشتن ماهÚدة تا عصر ماهÚدة یا عصر ماهÚدة در ساعت های سحر، ساعت های میان عصر و ساعت های زوال، باعث قدردانی و رعایت نبود.

به وقایع های زیادی از این موضوع اشاره کرده‌ایم. این امر به چنین فکر می‌کنیم که به عنوان یک گام نهایی در مسیر پیشرفت و ترقی و بهبود حیات انسانی، این امر به عنوان یک تحقیق علمی و اقتصادی در شرایط فعلی و برای آینده باید انجام شود.
Alfrid K. Bustanov | 'Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm’s Biographical Dictionary on Siberian Islamic...
متن نمایش داده نشده است.
Alfrid K. Bustanov | 'Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm's Biographical Dictionary on Siberian Islamic...
Translation


This person was famous for his brightness. After performing pilgrimage to Mecca the Honorable in 1866, he met Raḥmat Allāh efendi, one of the famous Indian scholars, and in front of him he carefully read [Raḥmat Allāh’s] treatise entitled Aẓhār al-Ḥaq. ['Abd al-Aḥad’s] efforts in dissemination [of this work] were not successful until he met students suitable for this job. He had put much effort in everyday lessons, guiding students, and hence ['Abd al-Aḥad] produced good followers. Many of these students came from Cheliabinsk, Shadrinsk and Ekaterinburg provinces, one of them also from Siberia. [Among his students] we know by names and places of origin more than two hundred Imams and up to twenty five teachers. But they did not live long and therefore could not bring [their learning] to public.

['Abd al-Aḥad] taught the following subjects: morphology, syntax, Talkhīṣ, Isāgüji in addition to Nuḥmān Shamsiya and the text of ‘Aqāid maʿa Khayālī, Mukhtaṣar Hidāya, Tawdīḥ maʿa Tahlīl from the juridical sciences, Qāḍī Baydāwī from commentaries [on the Qurʾān]. There were no other subjects taught. All of these books were copied by ['Abd al-Aḥad’s] father Ḥaḍrat ‘Abd al-Naṣr, who continued writing until the end of his days. His copy of ʿInāya was made when ‘Abd al-Naṣr was 93 years old. He used to write in the moon light. In dark nights he wrote with a lamp (chirāgh). Since there were no candles, he used put a bowl with water under the lamp and shook off the top of the wick by his pen to water. I know about this from [a note at] the end of his book. /9/ His handwriting was extremely beautiful. It was similar to the thulth style. ‘Abd an-Naṣr Ḥaḍrat studied with Daghestani scholars. His son ‘Abd al-Aḥad obtained his education in Machkara, but did not finish his studies and returned to his father. He reported that he learned most of the [Islamic] sciences from his father. At that time ['Abd al-Aḥad] was widely known. In the last years of his life he travelled several times to Siberia, where he left a good impression of himself. In 1866 he was fired [from his post of Imam] because he officially registered a marriage of his brother Ḥamīd with an underage girl. When in 1867–68 he was suggested for a position of a licensed (ukaznyi) Imam, he rejected it and continued to give lessons and perform duties of Imam without any license. Even though a parallel Mulla (iptāsh mullas) Tuḥfat Allāh Anwārūf was jealous, he did not pretend to take ‘Abd al-Aḥad’s position or claim against him, but tried to imitate him. The deceased ‘Abd al-Aḥad Ḥaḍrat gave his perfect lessons until the last years and he passed away to the mercy of Allah in 1879, when he was sixty five. He was buried in the village of Alman.

‘Abd al-Aḥad did not have sons. Even though there were many daughters, when ‘Abd al-Aḥad was alive he did not give them his books, because they still were kids. The majority of these books moved to Shihāb al-Dīn b. Ḥusām al-Dīn, the son of his brother and an assistant Imam. Even though the deceased Shihāb al-Dīn was well-educated, he did not use them, and the books remained untouched up to now. There

8 | This section was fully included in Athar. Cf.: [11, pp. 176–177, 349–350; 12, pp. 112, 549].
were very precious books among them. Most of them were manuscripts. May God’s mercy be upon him!

/10/ Among the students of deceased [‘Abd al-Aḥad] we know the following residents of the Tumān district: Jalāl al-Dīn b. Zayn Allāh from village Muḥammadāyr, ‘Izz al-Dīn b. Mullaš from Yānbaŷ village, Fatḥ Allāh Mulla from the same village, ‘Alī Mulla ‘Usmānūf from Yaqğ village, his predecessor Sayf Allāh Mulla; in Yaluṭor district: ‘Awwas Bāqī Mulla from Tārkhan village, ‘Abd al-Bāqī Mulla in Iskī village; in Kāinskī district: ‘Alī Akbar akhūnd ‘Abd al-Rashīdūf. In Tara region there were very good students, but all of them did not live long. None of them gave lessons.

/11/
Some of the Famous Siberian Scholars

Dawlat Bāqī b. ‘Alī Aṣḡar lived in the village of Ubā known as Bīrnāsh. For several years he performed the duties of Imam in the city of Tara. In the early 1800s he started his education in Bukhara the Noble. The reason of his return from Bukhara was that once he saw in his dream a girl named Zulfiya, a daughter of someone from the mentioned village, and fell in love with her. He confessed in his love, saying that he had seen her in a dream. After he spent two or three years working as an Imam, Dawlat Bāqī participated in some debates about a crescent moon (hilāl). He was defeated by his opponents because of his lack of knowledge in astronomy (‘ilm nuḡūm) and astrolabe. In order to learn these sciences he went to Bukhara again. He obtained very good knowledge during these studies, but on the way back he died.

After his death astronomical instruments and related to these sciences books were sent back to his family by inhabitants of the village where he was buried. After all, since there were no [direct] heirs in his family, the books went to the hands of Niyyāz Aytikīn. One of the Niyyāz Ḥājjī’s children, Naṣr ad-Dīn b. Niyyāz transferred a portative astrolabe of the aforesaid Mulla to a museum in Tobol’sk. In size this instrument was like a bottom of a round cup. On the surface of this and some other instruments a blessed verse was placed: “His Throw comprises the Heavens and Earth”11. It was impossible to read and understand his books, because they were composed of different sorts of tables, numbers, and inscriptions. Nowadays one of his books is in the hands of Naṣr ad-Dīn b. Niyyāz.

/12/ Fayḍ Allāh b. ‘Alī Aṣḡar. This person taught in the Tara madrasa. He was a wise and distinguished person. One of his students, Mahdī Seydūkūf, became his successor (khalīfa). Even though Fayḍ Allāh Mulla was prominent [as a scholar], he was not perfect in teaching due to physical weakness. His elderly son, who is still alive has in his possession wonderful books. His name is ‘Abd Allāh b. Fayḍ Allāh, he destroyed the majority of ‘useless books’ and did not keep them.

9 | A 16th century copy of the Qur’an from ‘Abd al-Aḥad’s library found its way to the collection of the Kazan Federal University. See: [13].
10 | Cf.: [11, p.176].
11 | Qur’an, 2: 255.
12 | Cf.: [14, pp. 53–54].
In accordance with his intention, the deceased [Fayd Allah] went to Hajj. On the way there he [died and] was buried in Odessa. Some of his books were sent back to home. [The copy of] *Ihyā‘ ulūm al-dīn* is now in the library of Ni'mat Allah b. Qārimshāq Seydūkof’s brothers in the village Yanbāy called otherwise Māñchīl in the Tumān region. The Bukharan manuscript [of *Ihyā‘*] had absolutely no diacritics. The deceased [Fayd Allah] was very much attached to this book. Besides of this copy, the [Seydūkof] library has two or three other books [from Fayd Allah’s collection] which I placed there after I bought them from the heirs of Mahdī Seydīkūf. ‘Abd al-Rashīd b. ‘Umar.

Ibrāhīm b. ‘Abd al-Rashīd b. Ibrāhīm b. ‘Abd al-Raḥīm. This person was the father of our father and he gave a name to our family. He was famous both for being an Imam in Tara and for his wealth. Ibrāhīm was also known for his modesty and piety (ittiqa‘) and even excelled his own father in piety. His son-in-law told me that once, after he organized Muslims to cover the roof of a stone mosque with iron, he painted it himself in green. /13/ In 1829 at the end of his life [Ibrāhīm] left twelve thousand Rubles in cash for boys and six thousand for girls and went to Hajj. In [18]31 on the way back from Hajj together with his friends Ibrāhīm and his son Muḥammadi died in Beirut. I have [an exemplar] of *Jāmi‘ al-Rumūz* copied by him. May God bless them!

In 1794 Ibrāhīm’s father ‘Abd al-Rashīd b. Ibrāhīm b. ‘Abd al-Raḥīm together with rich merchants of that time built a stone mosque in Tara. That mosque is still there. I did not find somebody who knows his biography. Though he is known under the title of akhūnd, I did not find any official written evidences. I have heard only stories about his generosity and wealth. This person died in the early 1800 and was buried in the village of Sayid located in fifteen versts from Tara.

/14/ A person famous as Būṭik Ishan lived in the region of Tobol’sk. I do not know the name of his father. He was a wise and distinguished person. During the short nights he did not perform the fifth prayer (‘ishā’ namazi). Damullā Sabanchī b. [Yār Muhammad] did his best to make him perform the prayer of ‘ishā’ during the short nights. [Sabanchī] brought him treatises of all the famous scholars of that time, and even when he went to Mecca the Honorable, he obtained there a treatise by ‘Abd al-Raḥman Sirāj. However, when Būṭik Ishan read all of these treatises, he refused them. Eventually Sabanchī b. [Yār Muḥammad] brought a treatise by ‘Abd al-Naṣr

13 | This biographical entry was used by Murād al-Ramzi in his *Tafsiq al-akhbār wa talqīh al-āthār fi waqā’ī Qazān wa Bulghār wa mulūk al-Tatār* [15].
14 | In his other work ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm wrote the following about the building of the Tara mosque: “In 1790 ‘Abd al-Rashīd akhun went to the Irib market, [where he] collected money for building a mosque in Tara. (...) In 1793 (sicl) Sayyid Baba from the Ayali [tribe] and ‘Abd ar-Rashīd akhun from the Bukharans built the present day stone mosque. After the death of ‘Abd al-Rashīd akhun his son Ibrāhīm Bay became an administrator (mutavelli) of the mosque. This person was my grandfather; our current last name was first given to him. Ibrāhīm Bay was a famous merchant and took the mosque and madrasa affairs on his own. Even though he was busy with trade, he taught the Mathnawī to the madrasa students. Ibrāhīm, Mulla of the Uba village, told me that he studied the verses of the Mathnawī with Ibrāhīm Bay at the Tara mosque in 1823.” [16, p. 11]. Cf. information provided in Ibrāhīm’s diary: [28, pp. 72–74, 171–172].
15 | “Khwajam Wirdī b. Suyūnch Bāqī was a Sufi master (murshid) in the village Sawusqăn close to the Siberian city of Tobol’sk and died in 1273 (=1856/57). His teacher Abu ‘Abd Allah ‘Abd al-Qādir b. Niyyāz Aḥmad al-Fāruqī died in 1271 (=1854/55)” [29, p. 25].
al-Qūṣāwī. After reading this treatise, Būtīk Ishan accepted it with great respect and honor, and [henceforth] made the performance of the ‘ishā’ prayer a rule for himself. When he progressed with reading ‘Abd al-Nasr Qūṣāwī’s treatise, he was impressed by [the author’s] skills in Islamic law (*usūl-i fiqh*). Būtīk died around 1833.

/15/

The Famous Merchants of Siberia

In the early 1800s there was a very famous adherent to the Sunna, a pious friend of scholarship Ḥājjī Niyyāz b. Ḥaydar16. Among his contemporaries this person stood out for his courage. Being involved in the leather production, he became an owner of a big factory. He paid great attention to the improvement of a mosque and a madrasa [in Tara]. Ḥājjī Niyyāz mastered Qur’anic sciences (*’ilm Qur’ān*). Between prayers of ‘asr and *maghrib* and between *maghrib* and ‘ishā’ Ḥājjī Niyyāz studied the recitation of Qur’an (*qirā’a*). This person learned the science of recitation with Egyptian scholars in Cairo as well as at home with local scholars. He used to spend a lot of money to support intellectuals. Because of his great love of scholars, he made a donation (*waqf*) of 30 thousand Rubles in cash for sustenance of local scholars. In the document (*waqf-nāma*) he said that even if his children would like to have money back, it was impossible. Besides his generosity Ḥājjī Niyyāz was known for bravery. In the city of Tara all Russian merchants and authorities were under his feet. He even dared to send off the head of the city. They put pressure on one of his Russian servants (*prikashchik*), Loskutov, in his own home. The latter died there and they called his son, gave him 5 thousand rubles in cash so that he could take his father’s corpse and bury it. They also fired another officer (*ispravnik*), [because he] announced that the Aitikin family does not possess rights on their lands17. [Niyyāz’s] lastname was Aitikin, [because] his father was nicknamed ‘Aituka’.

/16/ Ḥājjī Niyyāz left four sons and five daughters. All of his daughters inherited 70 thousand Rubles in cash (*baqir hisabta*) each. In 185218 he was buried in a village Sabalak which is in 20 km from Tara, may God’s mercy be upon him. His children at that time were regarded among the richest people, because of their rank19.

Muḥammad Shikhūf was one of the Siberian merchants. Perhaps, this person was even richer than the deceased Ḥājjī Niyyāz. Their houses stood in front of each other. Whatever Ḥājjī Niyyāz did, this person tried to imitate. He was very arrogant. Following Ḥājjī Niyyāz, he donated ten thousand Rubles to the mosques’ benefit. However, in the documents (*waqf-nāma*) he wrote that “in case my descendants will be need, they are free to get money back”. After his death and big troubles, his heirs returned that money and spent them. The majority of his descendants and

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16 | Cf.: [14, pp. 33–35].
17 | About the Aitikins’ huge landownership see: [17].
18 | Here addition in the margins by Riḍā al-Dīn b. Fakhr al-Dīn: “In the later works [he wrote that it happened] later.”
19 | On sources of their legitimacy see: [18]. A photographic portrait of the family see in figure 2 attached to this article.
descendants of their descendants became stained and miserable and died in great need. Nowadays one of his daughters Laṭīfa is working as a lawyer. Another daughter Marthiya nicely lives with her only son in a village of Birnash. This son became a good man: Ṭāšbūlāt b. ‘Abd an-Nasr Kniazev serves in big committees (komissiia). The deceased Muḥammadi Ḥājjī died when he was fifty years old. He was buried in a village of Sabālak. A stone construction on his grave was sold by his son ‘Abd al-Ḥay to Rogachev, a Russian.

Genealogy which goes back to the descendants of hazrat ‘Ali, be God’s mercy upon him, was in the hands of Muḥammadi Ḥājjī20. /17/ Abd al-Jabbār b. Muḥammādī wanted to approve its authenticity in St. Petersburg, but he did not succeed in obtaining the duke status and soon died. This ‘Abd al-Jabbar Ḥājjī was a wonderful person, but he died too early in his thirty three. Much of his work remained unfinished, may God bless him21.

Facsimile
او لمشوره تا مسجدنا با سیله، رخصت بیا بیگانه.

۱۳۸۹/۱۳۱۴

مبلغ، ۱۳۱۴/۱۳۱۴ آرامش می‌شود، خود را به سیرالار لازیم گرداند.

مسبقه بان مسجد اینجا که از اینجا به سیرالار سپرده اندارند اولاً دوم که دیدار ذکر کنند، اعمال

اولین مسجد سپرده باید نیکوکار بیگانه و تصمیم

یارانت، مسجد آمیزه‌ند. اینگونه این مسجد به مباین سید به ایران

بن عبدالمحمد بن ابراهیم بن دینا سر بیک مباین اموی مدرک

بن میان‌المن، فی الجای مسجد معنی او محل، دست مسجدش انتقال

تبیر ایله یا نیک روب یانشنل به یا ایلندن اور نقره‌ی مرگ برای شن. 

تیاری اسلا مسیه، دس میه اموی مباین شریفیت دیون د

ایل مربیش دس میه اموی مباین اموی مرگبر. 

امدی اسلام ارگانی ایلادن به این

ایدوب او سفره بعد اداهالی اوغل یام اردوی پیرویت.
33

Alfrid K. Bustanov | ‘Abd al-Raḥīm ibn Ṭayfūl ibn Ṭayfūl ibn al-Ḥusayn’s biographical dictionary on Siberian Islamic...
เนื่อง بل لأ من دعس إيران، فقيد المبتكر لم يكن بعد خمسين سنة عشرة. تدهم الحزام، ملك البلاد، على تجربي على تيهة إيران.

ومنذ ذلك الحين، تأثرت إيران بنظامها السياسي واقتصادي، وقد شهدت البلاد عدداً من الأزمات السياسية والاقتصادية.

إنها خريطة حاضرة، تشهد على مدى إسهاماتنا في تنمية البلاد.

فلاTrain الانتهاز جزءاً من تلك الحكمة، وقد وَنَهَضَمْتُ في تجربتي، على ما عُلِهَتْهُ إيران.
الرجل هو في دروس إيلان،
مساعد للمعلم في مدرسة تابعة
بطريركية الموسكو وبطريركية 
الموسكو.

1883

1884

1885

1886

1887

1888

1889

1890

1891

1892

1893

1894

1895

1896

1897

1898

1899

1900
‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm’s Biographical Dictionary on Siberian Islamic...
Alfrid K. Bustanov | ‘A ḍ al-Raṣḥīd Ibrāhīm’s Biographical Dictionary on Siberian Islamic...
لا يوجد نص يمكن قراءته بشكل طبيعي من الصورة المقدمة.
نیا رویه آخربن بن میار دارویه ۶۰ هجری می‌توانند ترنتران
قلم سهند ان میلند ۵۰۱۰ بال‌ها آخربن جریان ۱۸۳۲ سیم لشگر
ویانه یا میلند عبدالمجید می‌توانیم ابتدا به موزول لر دندان بگیریم. این تزیینی نمی‌بایست یا اینکه نمی‌بایست
عبدالمجید بن نیا رویه از هنما می‌توانیم بیان دامنه یا آخربن اولاه
پدیدساده هدیه یا می‌توانیم اولاه از آخربن یا می‌توانیم کیهک اولاه
لا يمكنني قراءة النص العربي بشكل طبيعي. إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة في شيء آخر، فأخبرني بذلك.
‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm’s Biographical Dictionary on Siberian Islamic...
عبدالرضا ابن محمد بن حسن زرتشتی چهارم نیوزاد و سفیر عالی سیاسی کشور ترکمنستان به بلاد ایران، معلمی در مدرسه علمیه مسیحی، سرداری در میدان و سیاست‌مداری بود. او از جمله اولین افرادی بود که در اطین‌الماکینه از اولین افرادی که در اروپا به اسلام و ادبیات مسلمانی علاقه‌مند شدند. او با این نظریه‌گران ارتباط گزیند و در سال‌های مختلفی در ترکمنستان و ایران به‌عنوان سفیر و معلم فعالیت کرد.
در اینجا نمی‌توانم متن را قابل خواندن کنتم. چنانکه می‌توانم به شما کمک کنم، لطفاً متن را بازنویسی نموده و به من ارائه دهید.
إذا، ماذا عن علماء الدين الذين ينتقдают الوعي العلمي؟ كيف يمكن تعزيز الوعي العلمي في مجتمعات المسلمين؟ يُناول هذا الإجابة في كتاب "علماء الدين والعلم"، الذي يعتبر من أهم الأفكار التي تركز على نشر المعرفة العلمية بين المسلمين. يتناول الكتاب عدة مواضيع، منها تأثير الإسلام على العلوم، ودور العلماء المسلمين في تطوير العلوم. كما يتناول الكتاب الأفكار الدينية والعلمية فيโมطن الإسلام، ويوجه إلى أن العلم والمعرفة هما وسيلة يمكنها أن تساعد المسلمين على التحقق من حقائق العالم من خلال الأدلة العلمية. يتناول الكتاب أيضًا الأفكار الدينية والعلمية في مجتمعات المسلمين، ويشير إلى أن العقل والإيمان من مصادر المعرفة التي يمكن أن تساعد المسلمين على التحقق من حقائق العالم من خلال الأدلة العلمية.
Alfrid K. Bustanov | ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm’s Biographical Dictionary on Siberian Islamic...
لا يوجد نص يمكن قراءته بشكل طبيعي من الصورة المقدمة.
Альфрид К. Бустанов | ‘Абд ар-Рашид Ибн Ибн аль-Алави: Биографический словарь сибирских исламских...
محمد ثاکر بن محمد سعیّدی به سال ۱۸۳۶ میلادی در مسجد تاج‌آباد تنبیه می‌شود که در ایام اولیه قرن نوزدهم هجری بود.

در این زمان، معزّت و نیکوکاری داشت که به‌عنوان سردار عادل ویژه مورد توجه قرار می‌گرفت. اما در سال ۱۸۷۱ میلادی، او به دلیل پیاده‌رفتن در مسجد تاج‌آباد به علت علل سازی ناشی از درد نیروی نظامی احضار گردید.

پس از این‌گونه تحملات، معزّت، در زمان حکومت شاهنشاهی ایران تحت نظر وظیفه خود باقی ماند و به‌صورت طبیعی از دنیا رفته است.

منابع: تاریخ اسلامی، مبانی اسلامی، تاریخ به اسلامی.

توجه: این متن به‌طور کامل به دست خوانده نمی‌شود و به‌عنوان نمونه‌ای ارائه می‌شود.
لا يوجد نص يمكن قراءته بشكل طبيعي من الصفحة المقدمة.
Translation

/1a/

[The Imams of Tara]

Ibrāhīm b. ‘Abd al-Raḥīm. This person is well known as an akhūnd of Tara. Nobody knows about his deeds, but I know four of his sons. One of them also became an akhūnd, namely ‘Abd al-Rashīd akhūnd b. Ibrāhīm b. ‘Abd al-Raḥīm. This ‘Abd al-Rashīd akhūnd was the first [among the Siberian scholars] who received his appointment at the Spiritual Board in the times of Mufti Muḥammadānī. He became an akhūnd in 1790. Together with a rich man named Sayyīd [‘Abd al-Rashīd akhūnd] built a stone mosque in the city of Tara. To put the first stone into the mosque’s fundament, they gathered scholars from [various] places. Then scholars considered that person (i.e. Sayyīd Bāy) and found him appropriate [for this mission]. Sayyīd Bāy said: “I did not leave prayer to be paid back (qaḍā), please give me permission to place [the first stone]. The scholars jointly praised him and allowed Sayyīd Bāy this job. This event took place in 1794. /1b/ Permission of the building of a stone mosque from the 19th August 1794 was registered under the number 20898 after decision of a court of Tobol’sk governorate. Expenses of the mosque construction fell on akhūnd ‘Abd al-Rashīd, but others also helped. Sayyīd Bāy solved issues with the Russians.

Ibrāhīm b. ‘Abd al-Raḥīd b. Ibrāhīm b. ‘Abd al-Raḥīm was the son of akhūnd ‘Abd al-Raḥīd. Ibrāhīm devoted himself to the eternal world and became a disposer (mutaveli) of a stone mosque built by his father. He covered the roof of the stone mosque by metal and colored it in green. He studied along with trade; twice per week he took lessons on Mathnawī-yi Šarīf. He had three sons: the younger ‘Umar, the middle Bāyazīd, and the elder Muḥammadī. Together with his son Muḥammadī he went on the Hajj in 1834. During the trip the son of Ḥājjī died in Baghdad in his seventeen years old, while [Ibrāhīm b. ‘Abd al-Raḥīd] died in Beyrut, /2a/ when he was forty. They are buried there, may God’s mercy be upon them. The existing

23 According to archeologist Sergei F. Tataurov (Omsk, Russia), an old wooden mosque in Tara was burned in 1755/56. Since that time Muslims started to send petitions to Russian administration asking to rebuild the mosque. On the city map from 1775 a mosque-in-progress is mentioned, but only the 1802 map indicates a functioning mosque, therefore, in Tataurov’s mind, the building process was finished only around 1801. Thus, due to bureaucratic circumlocution the permission to re-build the mosque was given only after twenty years of the first request. I duplicate here information generously provided by Dr. Tataurov in his private letter to me (10.11.2011).
24 The Persian text of Mathnawī was used along with its translations and commentaries. However, the Tatar manuscripts of this book are not numerous: there are only three copies at Kazan’ Federal University (F=402, F=505, F=528) and one copy at the National Museum of the Republic of Tatarstan (No. 18363–67, copied by ‘Abd al-Raḥīm al-Uṭīz-Imiani). So far no copies of Mathnawī have been discovered in Western Siberia.
25 In other work ‘Abd al-Raḥīd Ibrāhīm added: “A bequest, written by our grandfather from the mother’s side Ibrāhīm Bāy when he turned his view towards Hijaz, is preserved today at the home of my brother. He died in Beyrut after he visited Damascus on the way back.” [16, p. 12].
mosques in the villages Sayyīd and Uush were built by Ibrāhīm Ḥāj̱ī. Naṣīr b. Murād Baqī helped in erecting the mosque in a village of Sayyīd26, therefore he became known as Naṣīr the beneficent.

Faḍīl Ḥāj̱ī from the village of Alman of Chilābī district of Orenburg governorate started to teach in Tara in 1815. When Faḍīl Ḥāj̱ī arrived, he was accompanied by two students: Subḥānqil and Ibrāhīm. [The latter] Ibrāhīm b. Ja’far received from Faḍīl Ḥāj̱ī and the Tara scholars a consentient appointment [as an Imam]. After that Faḍīl Ḥāj̱ī decided to go back home, and people asked him: “Leave us one of your best students for teaching and explaining [religion]”. They left my grandfather [from mother side] Ibrāhīm b. Ja’far, who was from a respected family. When Faḍīl Ḥāj̱ī returned to Alman, he sent the women of Ibrāhīm together with [his father] Ja’far Bābā to Tara. Since that time Ibrāhīm b. Ja’far /2b/ taught in Tara for a couple of years. Then, in 1821, after being called for the Cossack service, he escaped from the Russian government to Tashkent. There he lived for several years in the Shāhī madrasa. Then, in 1821, after being called for the Cossack service, he escaped from the Russian government to Tashkent. There he lived for several years in the Shāhī madrasa27, conducted trade and studied. My grandmother stayed in Tara with three daughters: Fāṭīma, ‘Āfīfa, and Ḍa’īfa. Fāṭīma gave birth to ‘Abd Allāh b. Naṣīr Allāh, ‘Āfīfa — to us, ‘Abd al-Rashīd, and Isma’īl. Ḍa’īfa [gave birth to] Ayyūb b. Khalīfī. The rest [of his kids] died. In 1832 [Ibrāhīm] again visited Tara, after that he went to Tashkent and there he went to the Mercy of God. He was supposedly buried in the Shākūr Khān quarter28. After that ‘Arīf Khān b. Ya’rīm, a relative of Dīn ‘Alī Sayyīd29, was appointed a new Imam. He did not stay for a long time, because he was fired after ‘Abd al-Jalīl b. Khilvetī’s examination in 1825. We will go back to this later.

/3a/ During the year 1839 Muḥammadān akhūn b. ***30 taught in Tara. Biography of this Bashkīr is unknown.

In 1831 Dawlat Bāqī b. ‘Alī Aṣūr became an Imam [in Tara]. He obtained his education in Bukhara. After four years of performing the duties of Imam he occasionally came across a question of new moon [in the context of Islamic fast]. Because of his weakness in front of the arguments of the opponent, [Dawlat Bāqī] understood the importance of astronomy. In order to study the subject, he went to Bukhara. He studied eagerly, obtained some [astronomical] instruments there and went back to Tara, but on the way stopped in Aqmullā,31 where was killed. His books and instruments were transferred to the heirs. In particular, one of the instruments had on its surface a noble verse “The Skies and Land are embraced by His Throne”32

26 | A Tatar village Sayyīd awlī or Khwāja awl (Rus. Seitovo) is still located in Tara region of Omsk oblast.
27 | Before the Revolution in Tashkent there were two madrasas with the same name of Shūkūr Khān. One of them, located in the quarter of Kukcha, was open in the early 19th century. Most probably, this is the madrasa mentioned here. More details on the Shūkūr Khān madrasa: [19, pp. 153–154].
28 | ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm summarized this information in his later work: “The father of my mother Ibrāhīm Mulla originated from the village of Alman. After performing the duties of a teacher in Tara, he went to Tashkent, where he passed away after a plenty of time teaching. He was buried near the Shūkūr Khān madrasa.” [16, p. 18, footnote 1].
30 | The name of his father is not mentioned.
31 | Aqmullā was the former name of Astana, the capital of Republic of Kazakhstan.
32 | Qur’ān, 2:255.
was written. [This instrument] fell into the hands of Naṣr al-Dīn b. Niyyāz in Tara\(^{33}\), who placed it in the Tobol'sk museum. Since that time it is preserved there.

In 1841 Fayḍ Allāh b. ‘Alī Asghar after studying in Bukhara taught in Tara. He lived 61 year, studied a lot and became a martyr while performing the pilgrimage in 1852. He was a well-educated, dignified and pious person. Many of his books, unfortunately, did not return [from his last trip], with an exception of a copy of Ḣiyā’ ‘ulūm [ad-dīn]. This is an excellent, exceptionally old copy. In the end the manuscript moved to the hands of Mahdī b. Saydek, who exchanged it with Ni’mat Allāh Ḥājjī to a modern printed book. Nowadays [this manuscript] is kept at the library of Ni’mat Allāh Ḥājjī in Tiumen’. /3b/ Descendants [of Fayḍ Allāh] lacked God’s blessing and lost all books. Now one of his sons is living in the village of Bīrnāsh\(^{34}\).

Since 1853 Mahdī b. Saydek was a teacher in the Tara madrasa\(^{35}\). This person originated from the village of Ishīn Tamāq\(^{36}\) in Tara district of Sārghāch volost’. He was from the Qurtāq tribe. He obtained his education from the Tara madrasa at the time of damulla Fayḍ Allāh, reached a stage of excellency [in sciences] and became accustomed to studying all the time. He was an extremely learned person and also acquainted with the Russian system. Being familiar with each local community (maḥalla) in the Tara district, he served as muḥtасib in the times of mufti ‘Abd al-Wāḥīd\(^{37}\). Therefore, [every time] when an Imam of a certain village passed away, he used to take register books (mītrīkā dāftāre) of this village and did not give a permission to elect a new Imam. This way at the end of his life he appeared to be an Imam of fourteen villages. /4a/ These villages were dispersed on three hundred versts: on the one side there were [the villages] Ollī Qūl\(^{38}\) and Tārlar-Tāzlars; on the other side there were Aymī and Ishīn Tamāq. Once, when his children studied in Uush, in a village Soldatovo\(^{39}\), which is located in a half a verst, in a house of infidels (i.e. Russians) several people were killed. When the majority of stolen from that house things were discovered in the living house of Mahdī b. Saydek, he was blamed in robbery and murder. For further investigation they chained his arms and legs and sent him to the fortress in the Kolosov province. After that they transferred him to Tara for inquiry. Because the famous and rich men of Tara respected scholarship and because [Mahdī’s] wife was a relative to the Aytikins’ mother, [the Aytikins] collected a lot of money to release [him from prison]. After [his jail release, Mahdī b. Saydek] settled in Tara and occupied position of Imam for a while. He had a quarrel with ‘Abd al-Fattāḥ b. Niyyāz [Aytikin]\(^{40}\) because of money [donated by Niyyāz Aytikin to the

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33 | Naṣr al-Dīn b. Niyyāz (d. 1894) belonged to the Aytikins family and was the son of Niyyāz b. Ḥaydar (1777–1847).
34 | Present-day village of Bernagul’ (Rus. Berniazhka) in Tara region of Omsk oblast.
35 | Cf.: [12, pp. 206–207].
36 | Present-day village Ust-Ishim in Omsk region.
37 | ‘Abd al-Wāḥīd (1786–1862) occupied the post of Mufti in 1840–1862.
38 | Present-day village Ollu Qul (Rus. Bol’shie Murly) in Bol’sherech’e region of Omsk oblast.
39 | Today the village Zur Uush (Rus. Bol’shie Turaly) in Tara region of Omsk oblast incorporates the Russian village Soldatovo.
40 | ‘Abd al-Fattāḥ b. Niyyāz (d. 1883), nicknamed as ‘Patta’, was the oldest son of Niyyāz Aytikin and a successful merchant with trading centres in Pavlodar, Semipalatinsk, Vernyi (Almaty), and Tara [20, p. 123].
In 1866 [Mahdī] took the money in his hands. After being involved in a great trouble he resigned from his post of muḥtasib in 1868. When time passed, after reconciling with a merchant ‘Abd al-Fattāḥ and others, he slaughtered a sheep, feed people and claimed: “I took the post again and became a muḥtasib.” At that time, when the trouble was settled, they agreed [to recognize Mahdī’s claim] without demanding a proof. [therefore] it is unclear whether he [really] had a permission (ukaz) or any other document, but he became a muḥtasib again and carried out his duty until the end of his days.

During his life time [Saydek] married sixteen women. This was of some profit: when a rich man died, the muḥtasib used to marry his widow, take the property, and then to divorce. If there was a beautiful women, he could blame a husband in infidelity (takfīr), deliver a judgment to deprive the wife, and then marry her himself. [This way] he married many widows and virgins. Even at the end of his life in his seventy five /5а/ he married a sixteen-years-old girl from a village Ollī Qūl; this was in 1890. At the end of his life he became known for beautiful Qur’an recitation (tilāwat) and apologized to everybody. In January 1891 he suddenly passed away in a settlement (zaimka) Būksīm in three verstas from Tara. Some people say that he was poisoned, but there is no proof. His grave is there, may God’s mercy be upon him.

‘Ashūr Bāqī b. Rajab Bāqī was an Imam [in Tara] between 1837 and 1887. The start of his life was marked by prosperity, but he ended up in poverty. His descendants were rather unfortunate. Before his appointment Imamat in the city of Tara functioned without any conflicts for a century. This person was the only one who did not accept property [well-being of religious authorities who did not work], and caused a trouble. Some Mulas left their positions by their own will; others were fired by the government.

Raḥmat Allāh b. Yūsuf from a village Iangūrāz in Temnikovsky district of Tambov governorate was a teacher at the Tara madrasa since 1856. During his teaching at the Tara madrasa this person enjoyed a wide fame; his students were numerous and gathered from many places. Raḥmat Allāh taught there for more than twenty years, married the daughter of a rich man Mīr Šālīḥ, and was so pious that he did not possess any windows [at home] on the street side and those windows that were close to the street were locked. From two to five of his students were strong. One of them, Hamza b. Muḥammad Amīn was an Imam in the city of Tūm (Tomsk). Another, Mu’tasim b. Bilāl was an Imam in a village of Qomārāw in the Tobol’sk governorate. Raḥmat Allāh b. Yūsuf lived in Tara very well and gained much prosperity: more than ten thousand Rubles. As a result of a conflict with merchants, in 1876 he decisively

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41 | “Ashūr Bāqī b. Rajab Bāqī was an Imam in Ṭāra together with damullāh Raḥmatullāh ḥaḍrat. He was buried in the city of Ṭāra” [8, f. 1a].

42 | ‘Abd al-Rashīd Ibrāhīm remembers that he had a possibility to study with Raḥmat Allāh in Tara, but by unclear reasons his father preferred to send him to Alman in the Orenburg governorate. [16, p. 17]. Cf. his biography; [12, pp. 139–143]. “Raḥmat Allāh b. Yūsuf was born in the village Yāngūrāz of the Tmnikūf district in the Ṭanbāv governorate. He studied for fifteen years at a school of damullāh Ismā’il b. Mūsā in Qishqār. In 1856 he arrived to the city of Ṭārā, where he started to teach at the age of thirty five. He spent twenty years in Ṭārā and moved to the city of Qızıl Yar, where he taught for five years and was buried there. Khamza Ḥamīdūf and Mu’tasim Bilālūf are his students” [8, f. 1a].
moved from Tara to Petropavlovsk. Before becoming an Imam there Rahmat Allah remained unemployed for nine years, because of some trouble. Only in 1884 he was appointed and started to teach, but already in 1887 he passed away there. May God’s mercy be upon him.

In 1885, after my return from Medina the Radiant to Tara, I, a weak ‘Abd al-Rashīd b. ‘Umar b. Ibrāhīm b. ‘Abd al-Raḥīm b. Ibrāhīm b. ‘Abd al-Raḥīm, became an Imam-khatīb and teacher [at the Tara madrasa]. On 7th January 1891 I was appointed as an akhūnd according to the decision number thirty four of the provincial government. On 22nd April 1892 the Ministry of Interior Affairs granted me an appointment as a judge (qāḍī) under the number 1837. /6a/ Details of my biography are treated in my work *Zevāl ba’dinda newāl yaki Zillet ba’dinda ‘izzet*⁴³. Those who are interested can consult that book.

**Rural Mulas of the Tara district**

Niyyāz Muḥammad akhūnd b. Murād lived in Tūzqazan⁴⁴, which is located in sixty versts away from Tara. In 1790 he became an akhūnd and died in 1838. He was the leader of those who were dismissed after Mulla ‘Abd al-Jalīl’s examination. Though originating from Bukharans, [his father] Murād registered himself as a native (inorodets), therefore his descendants today are regarded as such⁴⁵.

‘Abd al-Malīk b. Niyyāz Muḥammad was an akhūnd of the same village and accepted this post from his father. He was very simple and a great joker. When he has already become an akhūnd, small children used to /6b/ call him Mulla ‘Abd. He argued much with the local population⁴⁶.

‘Abd al-‘Alīm b. ‘Abd al-Malīk was an Imam of the abovementioned village since 1863. He studied with damullā Nūr Allāh b. ‘Abd Allāh⁴⁷ in a village Sātlī Khān⁴⁸ of Tobolsk district. He served as Imam for twenty six years and continued improving his knowledge. Only at the end of his life ‘Abd al-‘Alīm changed his attitude towards studies. His physical power and impressive body guaranteed that population and elite (al-‘awwam wa-l-khawwas) were careful to his words. He did not reach his goals and died when he was around 73 years old in 1889. ‘Abd al-‘Alīm was buried in Tūzqazan. Two of his sons are living there.

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⁴³ | ‘Abd al-Raḥīd b. Ibrāhīm’s work under this title is not familiar to me and is not mentioned in the list of his writings [21, pp. 102–130; 22, pp. 416–418]. It might be that he had in mind his biographical book that was published under the title *Tercüme-i Halim* in St. Petersburg in 1912.
⁴⁴ | Tuzkazan’ is located in the Bol’sherech’e region of Omsk oblast’.
⁴⁵ | Most probably Murād moved to the iasachnye category. According to the Russian legislation those who immigrated to Siberia as a state farmer (gosudarstvennyi krest’ianin) were obliged to fulfil the military service and pay additional taxes. See other examples of similar shift in status: [23, p. 53].
⁴⁶ | The following sentence was crossed out: “After examination of mulla ‘Abd al-Jalīl he (‘Abd al-Malīk) was fired.”
⁴⁷ | “Nūr Allāh b. ‘Abd Allāh Bāṭirkāyūf, whom you have mentioned, was born in the village Irī of the Qūrdāj volost in the Tārā district, but the date is unknown. For five years he studied with Bāy Murād ḫadrat in Qāzān and then for a couple of years he taught in the village of Ğāṭlū Khān which is located in three verst from Tobol’sk [city]. He became very old and died of asthma in his seventy. He was buried in the village Ğāṭlū Khān in 1861” [8, f. 1a].
⁴⁸ | This village in the Tobol’sk region does not exist anymore.
In 1891 ‘Abd al-Salām b. ‘Abd al-Karīm b. ‘Abd al-Salām Ishān Saydāshev at-Tobūlī became an Imam in Tūzqazan⁴⁹. He was so greedy for worldly goods that when collecting a tenth (‘ushr) from the village inhabitants, he took it from infidels [i.e. Russians] too. /7a/ Therefore he was in a great quarrel with locals. In a short period of time he managed to collect much wealth. In 1893 ‘Abd al-Salām went to Ḥajj together with ‘Abd al-Raqīb b. ‘Abd al-‘Wāḥid. There, in Mecca the Honoured, he passed away. He obtained his education in Bukhara.

In the same year ‘Abd al-Ḥākim b. Khayr Allāh b. ‘Ārif Khān b. Yā rim was elected [as an Imam] in Tūzqazan. He is not yet officially approved, may God help him. In 1894 he was finally employed as an Imam. Though he does not teach, he has a good reputation as an educated person. Fortunately, he returned from his trip to the provinces of Egypt and Hijaz⁵⁰.

/7b/ ‘Ubayd Allāh b. Niyyāz Muḥammad b. Murād served as an Imam in Shikhler or Rājāb which is located fifteen versts away from Tara⁵¹. At that time he was a famous scholar, a master of word, a possessor of high morals, and a modest person. After arrival from that village to the city (i.e. Tara), he visited lessons every day. ‘Ubayd Allāh was totally indifferent to fame. In 1874 he went to the Ḥajj, but did not receive a pass and returned from Odessa. The duty of Ḥajj he fulfilled later in 1875. After a safe return, he established many pious endowments: in the village of Tūskazan he built a madrasa and set up a lecturing room. They have books there. His children and grandchildren were insignificant. ‘Ubayd Allāh died in his seventy five years in 1882 and was buried in Shikhler.

Urāz Muḥammad b. ‘Awwas b. Mādī, a native of this village of Rājāb, known by his nickname (lagab) as Tutāy, became an Imam in Qızıl Qūsh in 1822. He was a great master of the spoken word and a joker. His courtesy was very pleasant. In 1828 twelve Mulas of the Tara district jointly examined Mulla ‘Abd al-Jāhīl b. Khilwetī. They found him suitable to be an Imam, and wrote a letter to [the Orenburg Muslim Spiritual] Assembly: “We accepted the exam, but there is an obstacle for going to Assembly and holding an exam there — he is lacking health. Therefore please give him a permission to be an Imam without an official exam.” Then /8a/ all those who signed the letter were fired. Their leader Niyyāz Muhammad akhūnd [from Tūzqazan] was fired too. On this occasion Tutāy Mulla made a joke: every year crop fields are getting frozen, this year Mulas and akhūnds were frozen too.

When my father-in-law Hurrem Shāh b. Haydar⁵² returned from the Hājj, Tutāy Mulla accompanied by two other Mulas came to visit him. Thereby Ḥājjī gifted each

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49 | “Abd al-Salām Ishān lived in the Tobol’sk region. You say that you have no information about him. He received a license (markhas) in Bukhara the Noble in the khānaqā of khānīa Niyyāz Qūl Ishān Turkmānī ḥaḍrat. ‘Abd al-Salām Ishān was a teacher and died of bavma decease in the village Bāyān Yūrshāq of the Tobol’sk district of Tobol’sk governorate on 29 March 1844, when he was 68 years old. It appeared that aristocrats (mtrzā) were buried in the village of Yūrshāq, but no registers exist. That year no register out of fifty five was found. We know that he was born in 1776, but the exact date is unknown” [8, f. 1a].

50 | The last three sentences were added later.

51 | Present day village Rechapovo is a part of settlement Mezhdurech’e in Tara region of Omsk oblast’.

52 | Hurrem Shāh b. Ḥaydar b. Yārim b. Ḥaydar b. Mīr ‘Alī b. Sayyid Muhammad b. Dīn ‘Alī died in 1877. He was an elderly brother of famous Siberian merchant Niyyāz Aytkin, lived in Tara. A comprehensive genealogy of Hurrem Shah and all of his close relatives between the 16th and early 20th centuries survived as a manuscript entitled Kitāb ṣhaqarat al-nasab khwājagān [24, f. 45].
Mulla with a rosary with thirty three granules. A certain rich man named Kūchī was also at that meeting. He was praised with a rosary of ninety nine granules. In response Tutāy Mulla said that he understood superiority of ninety nine granules over thirty three: one rich man appeared to be equal to three Mulas.

On the way back from examination he stayed for two years in the outskirts of Tobol’sk, studying with ‘Abd al-Salām Ishān. After that, when he returned to Tara, one of his fellows asked him, whether he studied properly. The answer was “I studied very well and for a long time.”

His descendants were rather fruitless. He died in 1848 and was buried in the village Qızıl Qaş. In our times one of his sayings turned to be the opposite. It was always like this: a birth of Mulla from Mulla is a custom; a birth of an ignorant from Mulla is unbelievable. Nowadays indeed Mulla gives birth to an ignoramus.

/8b/ In 1842 Nur Allāh b. ‘Abd Allāh Bāṭīkāev became an Imam in the village of Yirď53 of the Utūz volost of the Tara district. He was a very smart person. His father, ‘Abd Allāh akhūnd, came from Russia and in order to save children from military service registered himself as a native (inorodets). In 1815 he studied Tawāthīh with Faḍil Ḥājjī, when the latter was an akhūnd. Nur Allāh is originally from a village of Kāyna in Perm governorate. He is a Bahkīr. I have seen a letter to Nur Allāh from Mulla Nu’mān b. Sa’īd from the village of Qāmaqa in Cheremshan volost of the Spassk district. From the letter it has become clear that [Nur Allāh] was a student of the writer (i.e. Mulla Nu’mān). The year is unknown, only fifth January is mentioned. This person [Nur Allāh] is bound with a Mulla Jalālī akhūnd Yūsufī. At the end of his life Nur Allāh taught in Sāṭlī Khān near Tobol’sk. In 1861 he died there. His descendants were unfortunate. One of his sons is a very bad Imam in the village Yirī.

Husām ad-Dīn b. ‘Alī b. Ḥusayn. **54 was an Imam in a village of Qızıl Qaş or ‘Ayqūl55 which is located twenty five versts away from Tara. He studied in Bukhara and was a simple, eloquent, and forthright person. In 1860 he became an Imam and died in 1865. He did not have children.

/9a/ ‘Umar b. Muḥammadī b. Ḥusayn. **56 was an Imam and teacher in the village of Aubāṭqān57, which is located 120 versts away from Tara. He studied for twenty years in Bukhara. ‘[Umar] was an easily irritable person. He died in 1877 and was buried in the village of Aubāṭqān. He did not have children.

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53 | Most probably ‘Yirdi’ refers to the village Ia-Irtyskhaia in Omsk region. See: [25, pp. 113–134].
54 | “Husām al-Dīn b. ‘Alī, whom you have mentioned, was born in the village Qızıl Qaş, which is located in twenty five versts from Ėarā. He studied in Bukhara the Noble in the khānaqa of Ḥusayn and received a license (markhas). When he returned back, he taught at that village and was buried there. It is known from the register [compiled by] Ḥalidīf that Ḥusān al-Dīn was an Imam and Mulla” [8, f. 1a].
55 | This village in the Tara region of Omsk oblast’ disappeared in the late 2000s.
56 | “‘Umar b. Muḥammadī, whom you have mentioned, was born in Yaşa awil, which is located in hundred versts from the aforementioned Ėarā. Several years he studied in the village of Şawiqcan of Tobol’sk governorate with Ḥusayn Hūjam Wirḍī and afterwards he went to Bukhara the Noble. There he studied for thirty years together with Ḥusān al-Dīn b. ‘Alī, received upbringering and knowledge in the aforementioned khānaqa of Ḥusayn. After return he taught for a couple of years in Yaşa awil, where he was then buried” [8, f. 1a].
57 | This village was located in Bol’sherech’e region of Omsk oblast’ and mainly inhabited by the Siberian Bukharans.
Habīb Allāh b. Nad Bāqī was an Imam in Tār Tāmāq. He was among ‘the frozen Mulas’ in the Mulla ‘Abd al-Jalīl’s affair of 1825. He died in 1841.

Dost Muḥammad b. Muḥammad Bāqī from the village Uush was also among the ‘frozen’. He was a temporary Imam in Qīzīl Qāsh.

‘Abd al-Jalīl b. Khilvetī b. Raḥīm Bāqī b. ‘Ashūr Bāqī b. Nadir Bāqī b. al-Muḥammad at-Turkistānī b. ‘Abd al-Razāq. He was an unregistered young teacher in the village Qīzīl Qāsh, which is located twenty five versts away from Tara. His health was not perfect; therefore Imams of the Tara district freed him from the exam [in Ufa], which he was not able to attend, but they found him suitable for the position /9b/ and collectively sent a report to [the Muslim Spiritual] Assembly. Afterwards those Mulas who signed that report were fired. ‘Abd al-Jalīl served an Imam and teacher without a license.


Ḥusayn b. Uraż Muḥammad belonged to the Ayālī tribe. He studied with Mulla Ibrāhīm in Tara and then went to Tashkent to study with another Ibrāhīm. In 1838 he got sick and returned with a caravan to Tara. Here he recovered and became an Imam in the village of Tārlar-Tāzlar in 1845. In 1851 [Ḥusayn] used his Imam license (ukaz) as a guarantee to a Russian merchant from a village Jawār and took from him twenty five Rubles as an interest-free loan (qard hasan). The same year that Russian died. He did not have money to give back for five month, but after that he [brought money] and asked the Russian heirs about the document. The answer was: “We do not know about any license. Our father was not an appointed Imam.” In 1858 during an inventory in the village of Birnash or Ubā they did not find the date and number of his license, and [Ḥusayn] lost his post. /10a/ He got sick for several years. Though he explained the situation many times, [Ḥusayn] failed to return his position. It is now possible to do without the explanation of another story of that man’s biography, still I found it is appropriate to give one more account. And this is an extraordinary story that is unlike everything else.

Mulla Ḥusayn b. Uraż Muḥammad hated one person in the village so that he wanted to beat him, but did not want to be shamed by the settlers and took a bit of time to take rest. He took one day to recur to his mind and decided to drink some alcohol not to feel shame. Late at night he went to the Russian village nearby, got drunk there and asked an alcohol seller: “Do I look drunk?” The seller answered: “No.” He did not know the drinker, but he was aware of the signs of drunkenness. Then [Ḥusayn] said that he wants to fight that person [whom he hated] and that
he is not afraid of him. It was already very dark, when he went back to his village. Almost as a warrior (they call him Ḥusayn the Hero) he got ready for a battle and went directly to the enemy’s house. /10b/ Such a camel!!!62 /11a/ There were so many stories with Ḥusayn the Hero like this that one could compile a book. Now he is seventy five years old, but does not have white hairs on his head and beard. He is absolutely black so that he looks like forty five years old. He died in 1894 and was buried in the village of Birnash63.

Sabanchī b. Yār Mūḥammad was a famous scholar of the Tobol’sk district64. He was a very pious and dignified person. He brought up many students. In the 1221 year of Hijra [1806–07] Sabanchī went to Ḥājī. It was the starting Hajj of Siberian scholars.65 This person died around 1832 r. From ‘Abd al-Ḥāman Sirāḡ, a scholar from Hijaz and Medina the Rediant, he received a special decision (istiḥār) concerning the necessity of the night prayer (‘ishā) during short nights in Siberia.

/11b/ A great scholar Khwājam Bīrdī b. *** known as Būtīk lived in a village Sāwūsqaṭ which is located fifteen versts away from Tobol’sk66. He thought that the night prayer during the short nights is not obligatory. Sabānchī Mulla discovered for him very good treatises on the topic of night prayer. [Khwājam Bīrdī] did not accept any of them, even the treatise of ‘Abd al-Ḥāman Sirāḡ from Mecca the Honourable. After that he turned to a treatise by a famous scholar ‘Abd al-Nāṣr Qāṣāwī. He read it, accepted [the arguments], and smoothly conducted the night prayer. [Khwājam Bīrdī] died around 1855.

/12a/ Well-informed Sabānchī b. Yār Mūḥammad was an Imam in the village of Nūr Bāqī Qūllārī which is located twenty versts from Tobol’sk.

Rūzī Ishān b. ‘Umar was a very famous person67. He died in a village of Shūlḡūn around 1857. This village is located fifteen versts from Tobol’sk. In Tobol’sk he
converted to Islam one of the big Russian merchants, who himself invited Ishan for declaration of the [faith] testimony. His children did not understand him.

Suyūch Bāqī b. ‘Abd al-‘Azīz was an Imam in the village of Qumārāw, which is located in twenty five versts from Tobol’sk. He died in 1875.

/Qurbān ‘Alī b. Abū Shiḥma was an Imam in Kazanlı village of the Tobol’sk district. He brought up many students and died around 1870. Three of his sons serve now as Imams in the Tobol’sk district. Two of them are not significant, whereas the third, named Abū Shiḥma, is rather strong in scholarship. He also produced some students.

So far we have mentioned only those Imams, may God’s Mercy be upon them, who have already passed away. Let me shortly mention the contemporary Imams. Today twenty five Imams are serving in thirty five mosques of the Tara district. If five of them are worthy, the rest cannot distinguish north (shimāl) and right (yamīn), leanness (hizāl) and fatness (samīn), Khitay and Khotan, the right direction (karte) and the opposite (chiten), dumbness (bakam) and “how much” (bi-kam), stomach (shikem) and having sex (segam). Decrease of brains, disease of understandings, emptiness of results, doubled stupidity, latent madness, difficulty of concentration, trust in slandering are the results of it. There are Imams even of such level that they do not know how to perform funerals. I was amazed when I heard from a trusted person how an Imam performed funerals. May God correct this situation!

/Ismat Allāh Būrūndūkov is among Siberian scholars that should be mentioned. He was a teacher and Mulla in the village of Mānchil or Yānbaṣ of the Tiumen’ district, where he arrived due to invitation of Qarīṁshaq Saydūkov in 1856 and therefore established teaching there. He originated from a village in the Ḥwālīn district of the Saratov governorate. He studied in Machqara as well as in Bukhara, but lived there only for a short time. I do not know his scientific level, but between 1856 and 1893 he had always been busy with teaching 200–300 seekers of knowledge. One of his students became a teacher and now he is an Imam in our Tara district. He is among the aforementioned twenty five Imams, but this student stayed at the madrasa only fifteen years. If he would stay ten years longer, he could have joined those five distinguished [scholars mentioned above].

68 | This is one of the rare examples of a Russian Muslim of the 19th centuries. For more information about the history of Islam among the Russians see: [27].
69 | “Imam of the Muslims Ḥājjī Suyūch Bāqī b. ‘Abd al-‘Azīz was born in the village Qomārāw of the Tobol’sk governorate in 1802. He studied with ‘Abd al-Nāṣir ḥaṭrat in Almān. He served as an Imam and teacher of this village Qomārav and died in 1877. He was buried on the local cemetery” [8, f. 2b].
70 | Cf.: [14, p. 135]. “Qurbān ‘Alī b. Abū Shiḥma, whom you have mentioned, was born in the village Qāzānli of the Uvād volost in the Tobol’sk governorate. The concrete date is unknown. In Machkara he studied with damulla ‘Abd Allāh b. Yaḥyā al-Chartūṣī ḥaṭrat. He taught in the village of Qāzānli for a couple of years. He died in his sixty seven in circa 1872 and was buried in the aforementioned village Qāzānli” [8, f. 2b].
Mu'taṣim b. Bilāl is an Imam in Qomārāw village of the Tobol'sk region. He studied in Tara with Raḥmat Allāh b. Yūṣuf. This person, though he was first subject to different calls from abroad and was also imprisoned by the state, since his release from prison he is busy with teaching the students at madrasa. In 1893 he also became an akhūnd. Today in Tobol'sk /13b/ region he is the best among scholars.

ʿAbd al-Khāliq b. *** is an Imam-khaṭīb and muḥtasib of Bīk village in the Tobol'sk region. This person is living with four wives. Today he has forty six children, but I do not know from how many mothers. He is still alive.

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72 “Imam and akhūnd Mu'taṣim b. Bilāl was born in the village Qomārāv of the Tobol'sk governorate on 6 January 1838. I went to the city of Ṭārā in the year [18]56 and studied with damulla Raḥmatullah b. Mulla Yūṣuf during fifteen years. In 1871 I came back to the village Qomārāv, opened a school Khaliṣāliya, [where] I taught children for five years without an appointment (ukaz). In [18]81 I passed an exam at the Spiritual Assembly, on 3 August [18]82 I received a license (ukaz). Now I carry out Imamat and teaching, I am fifty eight years old” [8, f. 2a].

73 A manuscript with his autographs is preserved at the National Library of the Republic of Tatarstan, manuscript no. 1062T. See their photographic reproduction in [7, p. 35].

74 Mu'taṣim b. Bilāl provides us with some more biographies of Siberian Islamic scholars:

“Ḥādhrat ʿAyd Muhammad akhūnd Chanāyūf was born in the village Aghīd Bāsh of Ṭu♭ād volost in the Tobol'sk governorate in 1805. He studied in Qazan with damulla Ḥaṣāq Ḥaḍrat. In 1835 he went home, became an akhūnd and muḥtasib. He died in his seventy years old in 1877 and was buried in the aforementioned village Aghīd Bāsh.

Sabānĉī b. Bāḡḥāy was born in the village Ṭūḡīz of Ṭu♭ād volost in the Tobol'sk governorate in 1710. He studied in Almān with a certain ʿAbd al-Karīm qaḍī and died in his ninety years in 1800.

Navrūz b. Sabānĉī was born in the village of Ṭūḡīz of Ṭu♭ād volost in the Tobol'sk governorate in 1800. He studied at the school of famous Sabānĉī b. Yār Muhammad, who studied in Bukhara the Noble, in the village Qullār of the Tobol'sk governorate. In 1812 he received a position (ukaz) [of an Imam]. He died in his sixty seven years old in 1867, on the fifty fifth year of his Imamat, and was buried in the aforementioned village Ṭūḡīz.

Mulla Muḥammad Raḥīm b. Navrūz was born in the village of Ṭūḡīz of Ṭu♭ād volost in the Tobol'sk governorate in 1811. He studied in Qazan [region] in the school of Machqara with damulla Ḥaḍrat ʿAbd Allāh b. Yāḥyā al-Chartūshī. He received an appointment (ukaz) in 1844 and for several years he was an Imam and teacher. On the thirty third year of being ana Imam and teacher he died in the aforementioned village Ṭūḡīz in 1874 r.

Muhammad Sharīf b. Muḥammad Raḥīm was born in the village of Ṭūḡīz of Ṭu♭ād volost in the Tobol’sk governorate in 1838. He studied at the Machqara school with damulla Ḥaḍrat ʿAbd Allāh b. Yāḥyā al-Chartūshī and after his death at the school of damulla Muḥlis Allāh b. Maqsūd. With time he became one of the famous khaliṣa. He died in his twenty six years old in 1864, directly in the class-room of damulla Muḥlis Allāh.

Mulla Yaʾqūb b. Mulla Muḥammad Raḥīm in the same village of Ṭūḡīz. He studied in Machqara with damulla Muḥlis Allāh Maqsūd. In 1871 he received an appointment (ukaz). He is still alive and is an Imam of the village Ṭūḡīz.

Mulla Muḥammad Ḥāfīz b. Muhammad Raḥīm was born in the village of Ṭūḡīz of Ṭu♭ād volost in the Tobol’sk governorate. First he studied for twelve years in the village of Mālchīn of Tiumen’ district with damulla ʿIsmaṭ Allāh b. Sayf al-Dir Ḥaḍrat from the village Yırliq (?) of the Ḥwālin district of the Şarāṭāv governorate and then he moved to ʿArabīstān. He lived there several years and then became an Imam and teacher in the village of Qızıl Bāy of Tobol’sk governorate and is still working there.

Mulla Baḥāʾ al-Dir b. Mulla Muḥammad Raḥīm was born in the village of Ṭūḡīz of Ṭu♭ād volost in the Tobol’sk governorate. He studied with the same damulla ʿIsmaṭ Allāh b. Sayf al-Dir Ḥaḍrat. He was eleven years with him and then spent three years with ʿIsān ʿAbd al-Raḥman b. ʿAṭāʾ Allāh Ḥaḍrat al-Qursāwellī in Yāṛqand. He came back to Ṭūḡīz and presently does not have any appointment. This person is the youngest son of damulla Muhammad Raḥīm. He is approximately twenty five years now.

Ishan ʿAyd Muḥammad b. Niyūyāz was born in the village Qomārāv of the Tobol’sk governorate in 1786 r. He studied in Bukhara the Noble, where he entered jariqat. After return back he taught for several years. He died in 1844.
/14a/ Muḥammad Ṣāḥir b. Muḥammad Bāqī became an Imam in the city of Tobol’sk in 1873. He studied with Mulla ‘Imad ad-Dīn in the village of Mānchīl near Tiumen’ and also half a year in the village of Alman in Cheliabinsk district. He was satisfied with this [education]. On the Holy Ramaḍān of 1890, at night, when a quarter guard Ṭāsh Muḥammad Qul-Muḥammadāḏūf entered an ordinary house performing his police duty, Mulla Muḥammad Shākir was drinking wine there. He rose to his feet and threatened Qul-Muḥammadāḏūf: “Why did not you go to the tarawīḥ prayer, why are you hiding here?” His opponent got struck, though he has a right to quarrel with the Imam!!!

/14b/ Among the Tara merchants in the Tobolsk region a Bukharan Niyyāz b. ‘Aytuka was a honourable person, worthy of gratitude. This person was very influential and he loved scholars. In 1820 he decided to perform the duty of pilgrimage and went to Hijaz. His two-year passport is still preserved in a frame on the wall of his heirs’ house. He studied the recitation of Qur’ān (qira’at) for six month in Cairo. After his return he used to spent time studying the science of recitation between [the prayers] al-‘aṣr and al-maghrib. He was so influential in the local government that once he even fired a mayor of Tara, after inviting him to the court. Everybody from the lower part of the city of Tara, be it Russian or Muslim, was permitted to ride on his cab. He donated

Mulla Sa’d al-Dīn b. Bayān Khwāja was born in village Qomārāv of the Tobol’sk governorate on 13 January 1844. He studied in Tārā with the same damūlā Raḥmat Allāh b. Mullā Yūsuf Ṭānbāwī. He received a license (ukāz) in [18]71 and is currently teaching and carrying out Ḥimat in the village of Qullār of the Kūrālskī volost of the Tobol’sk governorate. He is alive.

ʿAbd al-Khālīq b. Sharāf is in the village of Bīk in the Wāghāy volost of the Tobol’sk governorate.

ʿAbd Allāh b. ʿAbd Allāh Qūl b. Avnāk is in village Qomārāv of the Tobol’sk district of Tobol’sk governorate. There is not register with his date of birth. He studied in the school Mīr ‘Arab with Ishān Niyyāz Qūl Turkmānī ḥadrāt. He accepted fariqa’ from the hands of great masters. After his return to Qomārāv he was busy with teaching. He went to visit (ziyārāt) the sacred tombs in China and saw either in a dream or during muraqqa’ab Khwāja-yi Bāhā’ al-Dīn ḥadrāt, who hold his right hand and said: “You do not have a permission to go back.” I have heard this from his companions and much later I have also seen his letters. I do not know who possesses them now.

Mulla Fakhr al-Dīn b. Yārlīqāsh was in the village Wāghāy of the Tobol’sk district of Tobol’sk governorate. There is not register with his date of birth, but he studied for several years in the village Mīrīm Qullār of the Tobol’sk district of Tobol’sk governorate at the school of Mullā Sabānchī b. Yār Muḥammad. Later, in the times of Muftī ʿAbd al-Wāḥid he received a license (ukāz). During fifty years he was an Imam in the village of Wāghāy. He died on 25 May 1895, when he was 88 years old and was buried in the Wāghāy village. Mullā Nu’man b. Tūlū Muḥammad was in the village of Qızīl Bāy of the Tobol’sk district of Tobol’sk governorate. There is not register with his birth date, but he went to Qāzān and studied in Qishqar with damūlā Ismā’īl b. Mūsā. Then he served as a teacher, Imam and akhūnd for several years. He died on 20 December 1892 and was buried on the cemetery of the village Qızīl Bāy.

Muhāmmadī b. Qāsim was in the village Yūrshāq the Tobol’sk district of Tobol’sk governorate. His date of birth is also unknown, but he went to Qāzān and studied in Machqara with ʿAbd Allāh b. Yāḥyā al-Charṣūshī ḥadrāt. He was among five oldest students. After that he carried out and taught for several years in the village of Yūrshāq. He died on 10 November 1869, when he was 58 years old and was buried in the village of Yūrshāq.

Mulla Abū Sa’īd b. Awwas Bāqī was born in the village Ishāy of the Tobol’sk district of Tobol’sk governorate on 2 February 1866. He went to Qāzān and studied for eight years in the Qishqar school with damūlā Ismā’īl b. Mūsā ḥadrāt. Then he returned back to the Tobol’sk governorate and now he is an Imam and teacher in this city [Tobol’sk].

This was written on the basis of research and analysis by Mu’taṣīm b. Bīlāl b. Niyyāz b. Rahīm Qūl b. Avnāk, an Imam and akhūnd of Qomārāv. On 1 September [18]95 I have finished my research” [8, ff. 2ab].
to Imams and teachers thirty thousand Rubles in cash and placed it as a charitable endowment. Now scholars are still living on this money. He left four sons and three daughters. His elderly son ‘Abd al-Fattāḥ b. Niyyāz Ayṭikīn was a well-educated man. He possessed a state suit (mundir) and a medal (orden). The second son, Raḥmat Allāh b. Niyyāz Ayṭikīn75, has recently opened an Uspenskii paper fabric. The third son Naṣir al-Dīn b. Niyyāz Ayṭikīn for a while used to have shipping industry on the Irtysh River. Later he visited famous European cities in France and Switzerland. In 1880 he went to hajj and then died in Tara, when he was fifty three years old, in June 1894. He left two sons.

75 | See his photographic portrait in figure 1 attached to this article.
Figure 1. A photographic portrait of Raḥmat Allāh b. Niyyāz Aytīkīn taken in 1905. From the private archive of F.T-A. Valeev (Kazan’).
Figure 2. A collective portrait of the Aitikin family taken in the early 20th century. From the private archive of F.T.-A. Valeev (Kazan’
Figure 3. An astrolabe of Dawlat Bāqī b. ‘Alī Aṣğar, Isfahan, 17th century. Now preserved at the Tobol’sk State Historical and Architectural Museum, no. 16501. The photo is taken by Sergei Zhdanovskii.
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16. G. Ibrahimov, Türjemâi hâlem iaki Bashyma kilgânnâr (Kazan: Iman, 2001)
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Аннотация: В статье представлены факсимиле и комментированные английские переводы двух версий сборника биографий мусульманских ученых Сибири. Этот труд был написан ‘Абд ар-Рашидом Ибрахимом (Ибрагимовым), и заслуживает серьезного внимания ученых, поскольку открывает для нас мир интеллектуальной жизни мусульман Западной Сибири, практически неизвестный до сих пор. Источники предоставляют нам информацию о местных богословах, работавших в XVIII–XIX вв., об их интересах, образовании, социальных связях и спорах на религиозные темы. Все это позволяет говорить о довольно развитом исламском дискурсе в Западной Сибири того времени.

Ключевые слова: ‘Абд ар-Рашид Ибрахим, биографии исламских ученых, исламский дискурс, ислам в Сибири, ислам в России, сибирские татары, татарская рукописная традиция, Риза ад-Дин б. Фахр ад-Дин.

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16. G. Ibrahimov, Türjemāi hülem iaki Bashyma kilgānnār (Kazan: Iman, 2001)


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