



Acknowledgment

The authors are grateful to the anonymous reviewers and the journal's former associate editor, Mohammed Rustom, for their helpful input.

Aziz Mahmud Hüdâî

012436

02 Mart 2023

MAKALE YAYIMLANDIKTAN
SONRA GELEN DOKÜMAN

Religious Practice and Social Services in an Ottoman Sufi *waqf* Foundation

F. Cangüzel Güner Zülfikar | ORCID: 0000-0002-4345-4999

Department of History, Institute for Sufi Studies, Üsküdar

University, Istanbul, Turkey

canguzel.gunerzulfikar@uskudar.edu.tr

04062



Abstract

This article investigates the endowment (*waqf*) foundation established by an Ottoman Sufi master of the Jilwatiyya order, 'Aziz Mahmūd Hudā'ī (1541–1628), and the impact of his philanthropic works on religious, social, and cultural life in sixteenth and seventeenth-century Istanbul. While providing his disciples with space for spiritual training in his Sufi lodge, Hudā'ī's *waqf* also funded public services at his mosque. In contrast to the perception of the Ottoman Empire as an "Oriental despotism," this article sheds light on the development of Hudā'ī's *waqf* foundation as part of a public sphere and foci of the vibrant civil society that emerged in Ottoman lands. Such investigation also aims to demonstrate how the philanthropic work of a single individual living in Ottoman Istanbul could provide a space for solidarity building and collective activities among local communities and spur their engagement in civic services and additional charitable donations.

Keywords

'Aziz Mahmūd Hudā'ī – Ottoman Istanbul – Sufi – *waqf* – social services – religious services – educational services

...

The most excellent charitable foundation is one that fulfills the greatest need of the people.¹

1 Ömer Hilmi, *İthâfir'ahlâfî Ahkâmîl-evkâf* [A Treatise on the Laws of *avqâf*] (Istanbul, 1307), 15, "Vakfın efdâli, nasın kendüye eşedd ihtiyac ile muhtac olduğu bir şeyi vakf etmektir."