XVI-XIX. Yüzyıl Karaman Vakıflarının Hizmet Alanları
Service Areas of Karaman Foundations (Waqfs) During 16 – 19th Centuries
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EXTENDED SUMMARY

Karaman province has been one of the most important centers of Seljuk Empire, Karakamanogulları and the Ottoman Empire. Foundations (waqfs) established in Karaman undertook important functions in terms of the religious, economic, educational and social development of the province.

The tradition of Ottoman foundations was influenced by Anatolian Seljuk and Mamluk State. Ottoman rulers maintained and developed the foundations which had been taken from other Muslim societies. Foundations and their connected buildings improved the conquered cities and turned them into Turkish cities.

It is documented in the 49 numbers of foundation certificate-charters between the centuries of XVI-XIX in the province of Karaman that many foundations (waqfs) were built to be able to serve in the following areas: mosque, masjid, madrasah, islamic lodge-zawiyah, chants, prayers, social welfare and civil service establishment.

The purpose of establishing these foundations is to earn reward and to be saved from the hell. Mosques, besides being a worship place, are also used for educational, cultural services, public administration, justice and military purposes in the Islamic states. These foundation certificate-charters in the province of Karaman include a total of 50 conditions of foundation. Examined foundation certificate-charters contain following conditions of foundation: repairing of the mosques and masjids, meeting the needs, paying of wages to imams and preachers, trustee, and muezzin. Archives of General Directorate of Foundations (AGDF) indicates in the records with numbers of 484/458/46 that Sayyed Haji Zeynel Abidin Agha Ibn Sayyed Abdurrahman Agha wanted to meet expenses of foundations's revenue, repair, and ammunition. Further, he noted in the foundation conditions that a scholar imam and a muezzin beautiful voice must have been appointed to mosque. He also asked fora devirhan and a naaathan to read the Qur'an on Fridays; and he assigned the amount to be paid for these people.

Masjids which is smaller than mosques were used both places of worship as well as for educational activities. In the examined foundation certificate-charters there are following foundation requirements: 5 to cover the repair and needs of the mosque, 5 for the payment of imams, 1 for the payment of preachers, 1 for the payment of trustees 1, 2 for the payment of the muezzin, and 1 for the payment of collector.

Many madrasas in the Islamic world were established as foundation and all their costs were covered by the foundations. Between XVI-XIX centuries, 17 foundation were established for madrasas in Karaman. For example, in the record of AGDF 591/57/53 Sherife Aline who is daughter to Sayyid Ahmad Agha wanted to be provided ever year 10 esedi kurus to the preacher of Arslanlı Madrasa, 10 esedi kurus to the preacher of Haji Suleiman Effendi, 10 esedi kurus to the preacher of madrassa located Kulhan Neighborhood with the condition that they would read and send her soul Surah of Ihlas three times and Surah of Fatiha one time after every class. Dervish lodges and shrin eshled an important place among the institutions came equipped with a foundation’s allowances. It was possible to eat and accomodate freely in the dervish lodges and shrines.

Dervish lodges and shrines which benefited from the foundations had great roles to spread Islam and Turkish-Islamic culture to newly conquered places and to develop cultural relations between Muslim countries. In the record of AGDF 579/8/6 Es-Sayyid Mehmed Efendi ibn Es-Sayyid Abu Bakr Ağa stipulated to be given 15 Kurus every year for catering to the persons who were staying, reciting and chanting for Prophet Muhammad at the Aladdin Rumi and Maderi Hazreti Mevlana Lodges. Between XVI-XIX centuries, 23 foundation were founded for recitation and prayers. Founders of the foundations wanted to be read the Quran for their souls, relatives, saints, prophets and Prophet Muhammad. Founders, stated in terms of the property to be read Surah Yasin and Mulk on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Foundations established for religious aims as well as to improve poors in terms of their economic and financial situation. Sergeant Ahmad b. Budak stated in the foundation conditions to be read out Surah Yasin after the morning prayer, Surah Nebe after the afternoon prayer, Surah Mulk after isha prayer in the mosque (AGDF, Foundation Register (2176/446/738). On the other hand, many foundation were founded in Haramain (Mecca and Medina). While civil and municipal services are covered by municipalities in today’s society, then conducted by the foundations. These followings were the main services of foundations: water facilities, waterways, construction and maintenance of fountains.

The foundations, which established between XVI-XIX centuries in Karaman, positively affected economic, social and cultural development of the province. Because of these foundations Karaman has become one of the major centers in the period of Ottoman Empire.