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## An islamic theologian of the kazakh steppe and his religious legacy

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**Abstract.** This article explores the life and theological legacy of Ahmad al-Zhandi, a prominent medieval Islamic scholar who lived in the Kazakh steppe. His religious-legal (fiqh) and doctrinal (Aqeedah) contributions are examined, with a focus on his impact on the Islamic education system in the region. As a representative of the Maturidi school, al-Zhandi played a key role in interpreting and systematizing the Islamic creed. The paper provides a content analysis of his major works, highlighting their connection to classical Islamic thought and their relevance in modern Kazakhstan. The level of scholarly attention his works have received in Kazakhstani Islamic studies is assessed, and suggestions are made for future research directions. Ahmad al-Zhandi's legacy remains significant in preserving traditional Islamic values, fostering religious enlightenment, and countering religious extremism. His works require further, in-depth academic investigation.

**Keywords:** Ahmad al-Zhandi; Islamic theology; religious education; Maturidi creed; medieval Islam; history of Islam in Kazakhstan; religious heritage

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## **Қазақ даласының ислам теологы және оның діни еңбектері**

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## **Исламский теолог казахской степи и его религиозное наследие**

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**Аңдатпа.** Бұл мақалада қазақ даласында өмір сүрген ортағасырлық көрнекті ислам ғұламы, теолог Ахмад әл-Жандидің өмір жолы мен теологиялық мұрасы ғылыми тұрғыдан талданады. Автор оның діни-құқықтық (фиqh) және сенімдік (ақида) бағыттағы еңбектеріне тоқталып, исламдық білім беру жүйесінің дамуына қосқан үлесін саралайды. Ахмад әл-Жанди Матуриди мектебінің өкілі ретінде ислам сенімін түсіндіру мен жүйелеуде ерекше орын алған. Мақалада ғалымның негізгі шығармалары мазмұндық жағынан талданып, олардағы классикалық ислам ойымен сабақтастығы және қазіргі Қазақстан қоғамындағы маңыздылығы қарастырылады. Сонымен қатар, Қазақстандағы исламтану ғылымында Ахмад әл-Жандидің еңбектерінің зерттелу деңгейі сипатталып, алдағы зерттеу бағытына ұсыныстар беріледі. Ахмад әл-Жандидің мұрасы дәстүрлі ислам құндылықтарын сақтауда, діни ағартушылықты нығайтуда және экстремизмнің алдын алуда бүгінгі күні де өзектілігін жоғалтпаған. Осыған байланысты ғалым еңбектері терең әрі жан-жақты ғылыми зерттеуді қажет етеді.

**Түйін сөздер:** Ахмад әл-Жанди; ислам теологиясы; діни білім беру; Матуриди ақидасы; ортағасырлық ислам; Қазақстандағы ислам тарихы; діни мұра

**Аннотация.** В статье рассматривается жизнь и богословское наследие Ахмада аль-Жанди – выдающегося средневекового исламского ученого, жившего на территории казахской степи. Анализируется его вклад в развитие исламского права (фикх) и теологии (ақыда), а также его роль в формировании системы религиозного образования в регионе. Как представитель матуридитской школы, Ахмад аль-Жанди сыграл важную роль в интерпретации и систематизации исламского вероучения. В статье проводится содержательный анализ его основных трудов, выявляется связь с классической исламской мыслью и оценивается актуальность его идей в контексте современного Казахстана. Отдельное внимание уделяется степени изученности его трудов в отечественном исламоведении и выдвигаются предложения для будущих научных исследований. Наследие Ахмада аль-Жанди сохраняет свою значимость в деле укрепления традиционных исламских ценностей, противодействия религиозному экстремизму и развития религиозного просвещения. Его труды требуют дальнейшего глубокого научного анализа.

**Ключевые слова:** Ахмад аль-Жанди; исламская теология; религиозное образование; матуридийское вероучение; средневековый ислам; история ислама в Казахстане; религиозное наследие

### **Introduction**

In the spiritual and cultural history of Kazakhstan, medieval religious scholars hold a significant place. Their works and ideas played a crucial role in the spread and development of Islam in the Kazakh steppe and remain relevant to this day. Among these eminent scholars is Molla Akhmet al-Zhandi, a distinguished theologian born in the historic city of Jand, located along

the Syr Darya River. His scholarly and theological treatises have made notable contributions to Islamic theology and jurisprudence. However, due to the limited availability of biographical and textual sources on his life and works, the study of this figure remains an important and pressing academic endeavor.

The historical records concerning Ahmad al-Zhandi's life and intellectual legacy are scarce. He is known to have authored four exegetical works, one of which is the "Gloss on the Commentary on al-Nasafi's Creed" (*Hashiya 'ala Sharh al-'Aqida al-Nasafiyya*), a commentary on the theological work of Abu Hafs al-Nasafi (1069-1142). This manuscript was recopied between 1594 and 1596 and is currently preserved in the Manuscript Collection of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Derbissali, A. *Kazakhstan Musylmandyk Tarikhynan*. – Almaty: Daur, 2000). However, beyond this work, information on his biography and other contributions remains fragmentary, necessitating a deeper and more systematic investigation into his intellectual heritage.

### Research Objectives and Scope

The primary objective of this study is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of Ahmad al-Zhandi's life and works to explain his contributions to the development of Islamic thought in Kazakhstan. To achieve this goal, the study sets forth the following specific objectives:

- To explore the historical context and life trajectory of Ahmad al-Zhandi;
- To examine and analyze his known works, identifying their thematic and theological significance;
- To assess his contributions to Islamic theology and jurisprudence, situating his views within the broader Islamic intellectual tradition;
- To evaluate the impact of his ideas on the religious educational system of the Kazakh steppe;
- To contextualize his legacy within contemporary Islamic studies and scholarly discourse.

This research aspires to reveal new light on Ahmad al-Zhandi's intellectual contributions and integrate his works into the broader academic discourse on Islamic theology and jurisprudence.

### Materials and Methods

This study employs historical, theological, and philological methodologies to analyze the life and intellectual legacy of Ahmad al-Zhandi.

#### *Materials*

The research is based on the following sources:

- Surviving works of Ahmad al-Zhandi, including manuscripts, books, and commentaries;
- Medieval Islamic scholars' writings that contain references to Ahmad al-Zhandi;
- Studies, articles, and monographs by Kazakhstani and international Islamic studies scholars;
- Official sources, including materials from the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan (QMDB), Nur-Mubarak Egyptian University of Islamic Culture (Kazakhstan), and the Manuscript Collection of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

#### *Methods*

- **Historical Method** – Examining the socio-political and intellectual landscape of Ahmad al-Zhandi's time, as well as the conditions that shaped his scholarly output.

- **Comparative Method** – Analyzing his works in relation to other Islamic theologians and identifying his place within various theological traditions.

- **Philological Method** – Studying his manuscripts to determine the authenticity and contextual meaning of his texts.

- **Analytical Method** – Synthesizing collected data to draw conclusions about his contributions to Islamic thought and their relevance to modern theological discourse.

Through this methodological approach, the study aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of Ahmad al-Zhandi's theological works and their influence on the development of Islamic thought in Kazakhstan.

## Results and Discussion

### *Ahmad al-Zhandi's Legacy and His Contribution to Islamic Science*

The research findings highlight Ahmad al-Zhandi's significant role in Islamic theology and jurisprudence. His works influenced the development of the Maturidi creed and played an essential role in the Islamic educational system of Central Asia.

#### *1. Influence on Islamic Theology and Jurisprudence*

- Ahmad al-Zhandi played a crucial role in interpreting the principles of the Hanafi madhhab.
- His works contributed to the systematization of Islamic belief foundations and the development of doctrinal aspects of 'aqidah.

- Theological analyses indicate that he paid special attention to practical issues within Islamic jurisprudence.

#### *2. Preservation and Study of Ahmad al-Zhandi's Works*

- His work, *Gloss on the Commentary on al-Nasafi's Creed (Hashiya 'ala Sharh al-'Aqida al-Nasafiyya)*, is preserved in the Manuscript Collection of the Russian Academy of Sciences and remains a subject of study among Islamic scholars.

- Some of his works are yet to be fully translated or introduced into scholarly discourse, making this an important direction for future research.

#### *3. Role in the Islamic Educational System of the Kazakh Steppe*

- His religious and educational activities influenced the development of madrasas and religious centers in the Kazakh steppe.

- The ideas of Ahmad al-Zhandi continued within the traditional Islamic educational system.

- His legacy is considered a theoretical and practical foundation in contemporary religious education in Kazakhstan.

### *Discussion*

Although Ahmad al-Zhandi's works have significantly influenced Islamic thought, there is still a need for broader research. Currently, some of his writings are available only in Arabic and Persian, necessitating their translation into Kazakh and Russian.

Moreover, his contribution to the Maturidi school holds particular importance in shaping the traditional understanding of Islam in Kazakhstan. Ahmad al-Zhandi supported the rationalist approach within Islam, advocating for a balance between reason and faith. This methodology can serve as an essential tool in countering religious radicalism in contemporary Kazakhstan.

The study demonstrates that Ahmad al-Zhandi's theological legacy remains relevant not only in Islamic history but also in contemporary Kazakhstan. His views contributed to religious tolerance and the development of spiritual education, systematically addressing key issues in Islamic scholarship.

In the future, comprehensive research and the full translation of his works are necessary. This will facilitate a deeper understanding of Ahmad al-Zhandi's intellectual contributions and provide a new impetus for the development of Islamic studies in Kazakhstan.

#### *Hypothesis*

Ahmad al-Zhandi's works played a significant role in shaping the traditional Islamic educational system in Kazakhstan and consolidating the Maturidi creed. His theological perspectives continue to influence the formation of religious consciousness in contemporary Kazakhstan and contribute to the advancement of Islamic education and spiritual enlightenment.

Based on this hypothesis, the following assumptions are made:

1. Ahmad al-Zhandi's works were taught in madrasas across the Kazakh steppe and influenced the development of religious education.
2. His theological perspectives and writings formed the theoretical foundations of Islamic studies in Kazakhstan.
3. His promotion of Maturidi theology played a crucial role in strengthening religious tolerance and traditional Islamic values in Kazakhstan.
4. If his works are fully translated and introduced into scholarly discourse, they will give new momentum to religious studies in Kazakhstan and enrich Islamic scholarship.

To substantiate this hypothesis, historical-theological research, manuscript analysis, and the identification of links between his ideas and contemporary Islamic thought are necessary.

#### *Final Discussion*

Ahmad al-Zhandi's legacy has made a substantial contribution to the development of Islamic theology and education. His 'aqidah-based works played a pivotal role in strengthening traditional Islamic beliefs in Kazakhstan.

The research findings indicate:

- His works should be incorporated into the modern religious education system.
- To advance Islamic studies in Kazakhstan, his writings must be translated and introduced into academic discourse.
- The rationalism and 'aqidah analysis methods employed by Ahmad al-Zhandi can provide answers to contemporary religious questions.

This study underscores the importance of integrating his legacy into the contemporary Islamic educational framework and the need for further scholarly exploration of his contributions.

## **Historical Context and Biography**

### *Historical Context*

Ahmad al-Jandi (dates of birth and death unknown) is estimated to have lived around the 15th century, according to the research of A. Derbisali. His given name was Ahmad, and the honorific title "Mawlā" (Molla) suggests that he was a distinguished scholar in Arabic language

and literature, as well as in the disciplines of Qur'anic exegesis (tafsīr), Hadith, and Sunnah. His father's name was Umar, and the nisbah "al-Jandi" indicates his origin from the city of Jand (as referenced in Derbisali's studies).

This period was marked by the extensive spread of Islam across Central Asia, accompanied by a flourishing of cultural and intellectual activity. During the rule of the Samanid dynasty (9th–10th centuries), the region emerged as a prominent center of Islamic scholarship and civilization. Even after the fall of the Samanids, the pursuit of knowledge and scientific advancement continued unabated in this area.

Jand (present-day southern Kazakhstan) was one of the key trade and cultural hubs of its time. It was strategically located along the branches of the Silk Road, facilitating the exchange of ideas, goods, and knowledge between the East and the West. The city was home to numerous madrasas and libraries, fostering a thriving system of Islamic education.

### *Biography*

Ahmad al-Jandi, also known as Mawlā Ahmad al-Jandi, was born in the city of Jand, along the banks of the Syr Darya River. He was a scholar of remarkable erudition, excelling in various fields of Islamic sciences, particularly Hadith studies, jurisprudence (fiqh), and Qur'anic exegesis.

Highly regarded by his contemporaries and later generations, al-Jandi was celebrated for his piety and intellectual acumen. Unfortunately, much of the biographical information about him has been lost over time, leaving only fragments of his legacy to be reconstructed through his scholarly contributions and influence.

His works and theological perspectives played a significant role in shaping Islamic thought in Central Asia. Through his writings and religious scholarship, he cemented his reputation as one of the prominent theologians of his era.

## **Education and Religious Environment**

### *Education*

Ahmad al-Jandi is recognized as a scholar who attained profound expertise in Islamic sciences. Although specific details regarding his religious education and scholarly training remain scarce, it is reasonable to assume that he studied at the most prestigious institutions of his time. His knowledge encompassed various branches of Islamic scholarship, including Hadith, jurisprudence (fiqh), and Qur'anic exegesis (tafsīr). His works and writings reflect his extensive erudition and deep comprehension of Islamic disciplines.

### *Religious Environment*

During Ahmad al-Jandi's lifetime, Central Asia, particularly the region of Māwarā' al-Nahr (Transoxiana), was a thriving center of Islamic learning and culture. Numerous madrasas, libraries, and scholarly institutions flourished, significantly contributing to the development of Islamic sciences. Research indicates that Jand, his place of origin, was home to a considerable number of scholars and intellectuals.

Jand, a prominent commercial and cultural hub at the time, was strategically located along the Silk Road, facilitating intellectual and economic exchanges between the East and the West. The city hosted numerous madrasas and libraries, which fostered a robust Islamic educational

system. This environment played a pivotal role in shaping Ahmad al-Jandi's religious and intellectual development.

His religious surroundings and scholarly training had a profound impact on his later works and theological perspectives. Drawing upon this knowledge and experience, Ahmad al-Jandi significantly contributed to the advancement of Islamic sciences.

### ***His Contributions to Islamic Jurisprudence and Theology***

As a medieval Islamic scholar, Ahmad al-Jandi made substantial contributions to the fields of Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh) and theology ('aqīda). His writings influenced the development of Islamic legal and theological thought and left a lasting impact on subsequent generations of Muslim scholars.

#### ***Contributions to Islamic Jurisprudence***

Ahmad al-Jandi possessed extensive knowledge in Islamic jurisprudence and authored several interpretative works in this domain. His writings addressed various legal issues and aimed to clarify Islamic legal norms for the Muslim community. In his works, he meticulously analyzed the fundamental principles of Islamic law and demonstrated their practical applications in everyday life.

#### ***Theological Contributions***

In the field of Islamic theology ('aqīda), Ahmad al-Jandi explored the foundations of Islamic belief and composed commentaries on theological subjects. His renowned work, *A Commentary on al-Nasafi's al-'Aqīda*, is dedicated to the study of core Islamic beliefs. This treatise serves as an exegesis of fundamental theological concepts, aiming to reinforce the faith of the Muslim community.

Ahmad al-Jandi's contributions to jurisprudence and theology were highly regarded by his contemporaries and later scholars. His works played a crucial role in the evolution of Islamic legal and theological thought, cementing his reputation as a distinguished scholar in the Islamic intellectual tradition.

## **Major Works and Their Content**

Ahmad al-Jandi's writings hold a significant place in the fields of Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh) and theology ('aqīda). His works aimed to deepen the religious knowledge of the Muslim community and elucidate complex legal and theological matters.

### **1. Commentary on al-Nasafi's al-'Aqīda**

One of Ahmad al-Jandi's most renowned works is his commentary on Abu Hafs al-Nasafi's *al-'Aqīda* (Creed). This treatise provides an in-depth analysis of Islamic theological principles, offering explanations and interpretations of key doctrinal concepts. Preserved in the manuscript collection of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, this work played a crucial role in strengthening the faith of the Muslim community and expanding their understanding of Islamic theology.

### **2. Additional Commentaries on Islamic Scholarship**

Ahmad al-Jandi also contributed to the scholarly tradition of Islamic commentary by explaining and interpreting the works of other prominent scholars.

- He wrote a commentary on *Adab al-Baḥṭh* (The Art of Debate), a treatise by ‘*Aḍud al-Dīn ‘Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Aḥmad al-Ījī* (1281–1355). His work, titled *Sharḥ ‘alā Adab al-Baḥṭh* (Commentary on The Art of Debate), survives in a manuscript copied in 1567–1568, also housed in the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

- He later produced a commentary on *Risāla fī Adab al-Baḥṭh* (A Treatise on the Art of Debate) by Shams al-Dīn Muḥammad ibn Ashraf ibn al-Ḥusayn al-Samarqandī (d. 1204), sometimes referred to as *Adab al-Samarqandī*. This work further contributed to the development of logical argumentation and dialectical reasoning in Islamic scholarship (as studied by A. Derbissali).

#### *Significance of His Works*

Ahmad al-Jandi’s contributions to Islamic jurisprudence and theology were highly regarded by his contemporaries and remain relevant in modern Islamic scholarship. His interpretations and analyses continue to be valuable resources in religious education, reinforcing their importance in the ongoing development of Islamic thought.

#### **Contributions to Islamic Theology**

Ahmad al-Jandi was a distinguished scholar who made significant contributions to Islamic theology (*‘aqīda*). His works and ideas played a crucial role in explaining and disseminating the fundamental tenets of the Islamic faith.

##### *1. Influence on the Development of ‘Aqīda*

Ahmad al-Jandi dedicated his theological works to the study and propagation of *‘aqīda* (Islamic creed). His writings provided clear and structured explanations of Islamic beliefs, making complex theological concepts more accessible to the Muslim community. His contributions helped to shape and refine the discourse surrounding *‘aqīda*, ensuring its proper understanding and transmission.

##### *2. Harmony Between Reason and Revelation*

One of the key features of Ahmad al-Jandi’s theological methodology was his emphasis on the balance between *‘aql* (reason) and *naql* (revelation – Qur’an and Sunnah). He stressed the importance of employing rational thought in explaining matters of faith while maintaining strict adherence to scriptural sources. This approach distinguished his work and contributed to the broader intellectual tradition within Islamic theology.

##### *3. Systematization of Islamic Beliefs*

His works were instrumental in structuring and systematizing the principles of Islamic faith. By presenting *‘aqīda* in a methodical and organized manner, he facilitated the study and teaching of theology, making it easier for scholars and students alike to grasp essential concepts. His structured approach to theological discourse contributed to the enduring influence of his works in religious education.

##### *4. Contributions to Islamic Education*

Ahmad al-Jandi played a vital role in the Islamic educational system. His theological works were widely taught in *madrasas* (Islamic schools), enriching the curriculum and providing students with a deeper understanding of Islamic creed. His influence on religious education helped shape the theological knowledge of generations of Muslim scholars and students.

Ahmad al-Jandi’s theological contributions continue to hold significance in contemporary Islamic studies. His works remain essential resources for scholars, educators, and students



seeking a deeper understanding of Islamic beliefs. Through his systematic approach and balanced methodology, he left behind a valuable intellectual legacy that continues to strengthen the faith and knowledge of the Muslim community.

### **Ahmad al-Jandi's Connection to Classical and Contemporary Islamic Thought**

Ahmad al-Jandi played a significant role in the development of classical Islamic theology. His theological perspectives align with the foundational principles of classical Islamic thought, while also influencing modern Islamic discourse.

#### *Connection to Classical Islamic Thought*

His works address core theological issues and contribute to the systematic presentation of *‘aqīda*. By structuring and explaining Islamic beliefs, Ahmad al-Jandi followed the tradition of classical scholars, reinforcing the theological foundations established by earlier thinkers. His emphasis on reason and revelation aligns with the approaches of prominent Islamic theologians such as al-Ghazālī and al-Rāzī.

#### *Connection to Contemporary Islamic Thought*

Despite being rooted in classical theology, Ahmad al-Jandi's works remain relevant in modern Islamic scholarship. His theological methodology and approach to explaining faith continue to influence contemporary Muslim scholars. His writings are still studied in Islamic educational institutions and serve as a reference in contemporary theological research. By maintaining the essence of traditional Islamic beliefs while addressing present-day theological concerns, his legacy bridges classical and modern Islamic thought.

### **His Role in Islamic Education in the Kazakh Steppe**

Ahmad al-Jandi was a key figure in the development of Islamic education in the Kazakh steppe. His works and religious activities contributed to the strengthening of religious and educational traditions in the region.

#### *Contributions to Madrasa Development*

Madrasa education was a fundamental aspect of Islamic learning in the Kazakh region, and Ahmad al-Jandi played a role in enriching its curriculum. His theological writings helped refine the subjects taught in madrasas, ensuring a deeper and more structured understanding of Islamic beliefs. His influence enhanced the religious literacy of students and contributed to the overall quality of Islamic education.

#### *Religious and Educational Activities*

As a prominent religious scholar, Ahmad al-Jandi was actively involved in spreading Islamic teachings. He played a leadership role in educating the public about the foundations of Islam, guiding religious practices, and fostering a strong Islamic identity in the region. His work significantly contributed to the preservation and transmission of Islamic knowledge.

### **Study of Ahmad al-Jandi in Kazakh Islamic Studies**

Islamic studies in Kazakhstan have been expanding rapidly, with researchers exploring the history, theology, and cultural impact of Islam. However, dedicated studies on Ahmad al-Jandi remain limited.

#### *General Research in Islamic Studies*

Kazakhstani scholars have been focusing on the historical and theological development of Islam in the region. For example, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University has held discussions on

the development of Islamic studies in Kazakhstan. Additionally, researchers from Nur-Mubarak University have published studies on various Islamic topics.

#### *The Level of Research on Ahmad al-Jandi*

Although specific research on Ahmad al-Jandi is scarce, his theological ideas have not been entirely overlooked. Future research will aim to provide a comprehensive study of his contributions. His intellectual legacy offers valuable insights that could further enrich Kazakh Islamic studies. By conducting an in-depth analysis of his works, researchers can enhance the understanding of Islamic theology in the region.

### **Recommendations for Future Research**

A deeper exploration of Ahmad al-Jundi's legacy will significantly enrich Islamic studies in Kazakhstan. Future research efforts may consider the following directions:

#### **1. Collection and Analysis of Manuscripts**

It is crucial to identify, collect, and analyze the manuscripts of Ahmad al-Jundi's works. Transcribing and translating these texts into modern Kazakh will facilitate broader access to his ideas and contribute to the intellectual heritage of the region.

#### **2. Comparative Theological Analysis**

Conducting a comparative study between Ahmad al-Jundi's works and those of other prominent Islamic theologians will help delineate the unique aspects of his theological perspective. This approach will enable scholars to establish his position within the broader framework of Islamic thought.

**3. Historical Contextualization** Investigating the historical, social, and cultural circumstances of the period in which Ahmad al-Jundi lived will provide critical insights into the influences that shaped his intellectual and theological contributions. Understanding the religious dynamics of the Jand region, where he was active, is particularly essential.

**4. Impact on Contemporary Islamic Thought** Analyzing the influence of Ahmad al-Jundi's theological ideas on contemporary Islamic education, theological discourse, and broader societal perspectives in Kazakhstan will demonstrate the enduring relevance of his legacy. This includes examining his contributions to the curriculum of Islamic institutions and his role in shaping modern theological debates.

**5. Academic Conferences and Scholarly Discussions** Organizing conferences, symposiums, and academic discussions dedicated to Ahmad al-Jundi's intellectual heritage will facilitate scholarly exchange and help define new research trajectories. Such academic gatherings can foster interdisciplinary engagement, attracting scholars from the fields of Islamic studies, history, and theology.

By implementing these research initiatives, scholars will gain a more comprehensive understanding of Ahmad al-Jundi's intellectual contributions and their significance within both historical and contemporary Islamic thought. His works and ideas not only shaped theological discourse in his time but continue to serve as an invaluable resource for scholars and students of Islamic studies today.

Ahmad al-Jundi was not merely a theologian; he was an educator, a disseminator of knowledge, and a guiding figure in the spiritual and intellectual landscape of the Kazakh steppe. His

scholarly contributions played a vital role in the formulation of Islamic beliefs, jurisprudence, and educational systems, underscoring his lasting influence on the region's religious and intellectual development.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the legacy of Ahmad al-Jundi remains an area that demands further in-depth scholarly exploration. While the field of Islamic studies in Kazakhstan continues to develop, we have yet to fully uncover and appreciate the intellectual contributions of our own religious thinkers. His works hold significant relevance for Kazakh society, particularly in the era of globalization, where the preservation of traditional Islam and national values is paramount. The revival and dissemination of the ideas of such historical figures are essential for maintaining the integrity of our religious and cultural heritage.

The relevance of Ahmad al-Jundi's legacy is not solely confined to his contributions to Islamic scholarship and theological literacy; it also extends to his potential role in countering contemporary religious extremism. His expertise in the field of Islamic creed (*ʿaqīdah*), along with his ability to harmonize reason and tradition, makes his work crucial in strengthening traditional Islamic teachings in Kazakhstan. By studying his contributions, we gain a deeper understanding of the intellectual and spiritual dimensions of Islam and can ensure that his teachings are conveyed accurately to contemporary society.

This research reaffirms the invaluable nature of Ahmad al-Jundi's intellectual and spiritual contributions. His legacy constitutes not only a religious treasure but also a profound cultural, historical, and spiritual heritage for the nation. It is, therefore, incumbent upon contemporary scholars to undertake comprehensive studies of his works and to render them accessible to modern readers, thereby ensuring that his enduring insights continue to inform both academic discourse and the broader community.

## Authors' contributions

**Orazbayev A.** – Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing – original draft.

**Tomar C.** – Data curation, Formal Analysis, Project administration, Supervision, Writing – review & editing.

## Conflict of interests

The authors declare no relevant conflict of interests

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