

**Ali Durmuş, "An Akhisar Scholar in the Ottoman Empire: Ahmed-i Rûmî and The Treatise of Creed", İksad Publishing, Ankara: 2022, pp. 128.**

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Makale Geliş Tarihi: 02.05.2024

Makale Kabul Tarihi: 25.05.2024

Sayfa: 7-10

"The work titled 'An Akhisari Ottoman Scholar Ahmed-i Rûmî and The Creed Treatise' is a study by Dr. Ali Durmuş that emerges from dissolution research and result analysis. Published by İksad Publishing in 2022, this book sheds light on the characteristics of the 17th-century Ottoman Empire. Ahmed-i Rûmî is recognized as one of the widespread religious and scholarly personalities of the Ottoman era. He is one of the prominent figures of the Kadızadelis movement, which holds an unconsidered value in Ottoman history for religious revitalization and reform efforts.

The focus of the work is a detailed examination of Ahmed-i Rûmî's life, scholarly works, and especially The Creed Treatise. The Creed Treatise offers a comprehensive study on the religious beliefs and scholarly policies of the period. In this treatise, Ahmed-i Rûmî elaborately addresses the foundations of Islam creed, namely the reinforcement of his scholarship and the essence of the Sunni belief. The book reveals how religious and scholarly discussions, as well as socio-political developments in the Ottoman Empire, were shaped through the works and efforts of Ahmed-i Rûmî.

With this study, Ali Durmuş analyzes the role of the Kadızadelis movement and Ahmed-i Rûmî in Ottoman scholarly and religious performance. The book provides a significant perspective on how religious awakening and reform were realized in Ottoman history. This work is an indispensable source for studies on Ottoman religious and scholarly history. The edition is of great importance for researchers, historians, and documentarians seeking detailed information on religious movements, scholarly discussions, and social movements of the Ottoman period.

It should be noted that the work is a concise guide to learn about the Kadızadelis movement as well as Ahmed-i Rûmî's The Creed Treatise and the contributions of this work to the Ottoman religious foundations. The analyses and evaluations presented in the book offer a new

perspective on the religious and scholarly issues of the period. Furthermore, the detailed examination of The Creed Treatise, which holds a special place among the works of Ahmed-i Rûmî, allows for a better understanding of the religious currents and theological discussions in the Ottoman Empire.

Ali Durmuş thoroughly addresses Ahmed-i Rûmî's life, education, scholarly personality, and the Kadızadelis movement. With this approach, the place of Ahmed-i Rûmî in the Ottoman scholarly tradition and his emergence on the basis of religious thought becomes apparent. The way in which the Kadızadelis movement shaped efforts to reinterpret and cleanse religion in the Ottoman period is thus examined. The discussions conducted by the movement on religious sources, doctrinal politics, and religious practices are detailed through the works of Ahmed-i Rûmî.

The analysis of The Creed Treatise uncovers the expansion of the work in Ottoman religious literature and its contributions to the period's doctrinal politics. Durmuş analyzes in detail the color of the treatise, the language and style used, the approach to doctrinal treatment, and its relationship with other scholarly works of the period. These analyses emphasize the intensity of The Creed Treatise in the effort to defend and spread the Sunni creed. It also highlights the critical perspective the treatise provides on how religious beliefs and practices were shaped within the Ottoman society.

Durmuş examines Ahmed-i Rûmî's approach to religious and scholarly policies through The Creed Treatise, how contributions were made to the period's theological and social discussions. The book extensively deals with Rûmî's interactions with religious texts and Islamic scholars, how these scholars' parts were handled, and how his interpretations were developed. In this context, Rûmî's contributions, strengthening the foundations of Islamic creed, and his efforts to reach a wide audience of scholars and believers are utilized.

The academic value of the work is not limited to the distribution of Ahmed-i Rûmî and The Creed Treatise; It also includes how religious and scholarly discussions evolved in the Ottoman Empire, how these discussions were shaped by social and political conditions, and how religious movements like the Kadızadelis were socio-politically driven. The book thus serves as a valuable source for academics, researchers, and scholars working on Ottoman history, Islamic ideas, and religious reform movements.

In conclusion, the work titled 'An Akhisari Ottoman Scholar Ahmed-i Rûmî and The Creed Treatise' presents a comprehensive study of the religious and scholarly sections of the Ottoman period. Ali Durmuş's work, through the life, interest, and works of Ahmed-i Rûmî, offers a new perspective on religious and scholarly issues in the Ottoman Empire. This study will also contribute to a better understanding of Ottoman religion and the Kadızadelis movement. The book remains a valuable resource for anyone interested in exploring various aspects of Ottoman history and Islamic thought."

"The book consists of two main sections, excluding the introduction and conclusion sections.

### **First Section: The Life of Ahmed-i Rûmî and the Kadızadelis Movement**

This section focuses on the personal life of Ahmed-i Rûmî, his education, teaching, and his impact on the religious and scholarly spheres of the Ottoman Empire. Ahmed-i Rûmî's life provides a backdrop for understanding the social and religious fabric of the 17th-century Ottoman society. This perspective deeply explores Rûmî's education from his youth, his teachers, and the religious and scholarly circles he interacted with.

The definition of the Kadızadelis movement, its historical development, and Ahmed-i Rûmî's position within this movement are discussed alongside the role the movement played in shaping the Ottoman Empire's religious and social behaviors. The movement's advanced and reformist approach to religious practices is debated through its relations with other scholars of the period and Sufi groups. Ahmed-i Rûmî's leadership role within the Kadızadelis movement and his contributions to the movement are examined through the reflections in his works.

### **Second Section: A Detailed Examination of The Creed Treatise**

The significance of The Creed Treatise, and its place within Ottoman religious thought, is analyzed in detail to determine the work's contributions to the religious discussions and scholarly policies of the period. The authorship of the treatise, whether it was indeed written by Ahmed-i Rûmî, and the historical context of the work provide information on how the treatise played a role in religious and scholarly debates.

The style of the treatise, including the use of language, the structure of the content, and the presentation of arguments, is analyzed in comparison with other religious and scholarly texts of the period. The main topics addressed in the treatise are detailed: the importance of knowledge, the names and attributes of Allah, angels, books, prophets, and views on faith. This section examines Ahmed-i Rûmî's interpretations of Islamic creed and how these interpretations were involved in the theological debates of the era.

The copies of The Creed Treatise, the different manuscripts of the text, and the variations between these copies are examined to show the historical evolution and interpretation of the text. The variations between different manuscripts are important for understanding how the work was perceived and valued historically.

This detailed examination highlights the place and expansion of Ahmed-i Rûmî and The Creed Treatise in the Ottoman religious thought and scholarly tradition. The work becomes a valuable resource for anyone conducting research on Ottoman history, Islamic theology, and religious reform movements.

Ali Durmuş's comprehensive study on 'An Akhisari Ottoman Scholar Ahmed-i Rûmî and The Creed Treatise' offers an in-depth look at the religious and scholarly discussions, the Kadızadelis movement, and particularly the central role of Ahmed-i Rûmî within this movement during the Ottoman period. This work makes a significant academic contribution

by providing a better understanding of Ottoman religious thought, scholarly tradition, as well as the socio-political structure and religious movements of the era.

The detailed examination of Ahmed-i Rûmî's life, works, and especially *The Creed Treatise* illuminates the religious and scholarly structure of the 17th-century Ottoman society, documenting the thoughts and impacts of one of the era's significant religious figures. The book contributes significantly to the literature on Ottoman scholarly and thought history, becoming an indispensable resource for historians, theologians, sociologists, and researchers interested in Ottoman history in general.

This work not only serves as an important reference point for studies on the religious sciences and thoughts of the Ottoman period but also offers a new perspective on the religious and scholarly issues of the era. Moreover, the thoughts of Ahmed-i Rûmî and *The Creed Treatise*'s reflections on contemporary religious and scholarly debates and their potential to shape these discussions prove its value. The book plays a crucial role in understanding Ottoman religious thought, the religious debates of the period, and the effects of these debates on modern Islamic thought.

Durmuş's study detailedly showcasing the influence of Ahmed-i Rûmî and *The Creed Treatise* on religious thoughts during and after the Ottoman period demonstrates how religious and scholarly issues evolved within a historical context. This work establishes itself as a fundamental reference for anyone seeking to delve deeper into religious reform movements, doctrinal issues, and the Ottoman scholarly tradition.

In conclusion, 'An Akhisari Ottoman Scholar Ahmed-i Rûmî and *The Creed Treatise*' is a significant academic work that illuminates the religious and scholarly landscape of the Ottoman period, thoroughly examining the social and religious movements of the era, and offering historians, theologians, and academics a deep understanding of the period. This study remains a valuable resource for anyone interested in exploring the various aspects of Ottoman history and Islamic thought."