



Ebu'l-Fazl Abdullah

died 1156 [1743]

Behcet ül-Fetava

Collection of Fatwas

Manuscript in Ottoman Turkish

Copied by El Hac Mustafa bin İsmail, 1169 [1755/56]
268 leaves, 29 x 17.5 cm.

The fatwas of Ebu'l-Fazl Abdullah, also called Abdullah Efendi, was Seyh ul-Islam of Sultan Mahmud I, are important in that they made possible the reformist developments of the time.

Among his fatwas, special mention should be made of his approval of the establishment of the first printing press of İbrahim Müteferrika. This fatwa can be found on sheet 229b of the manuscript.

The word Fatwa carries in it the meaning of consultation. Specifically it refers to an Islamic legal opinion issued by an expert scholar (Mufti) in response to a question by a lay person.

Hilmar Krüger has examined the fatwas of Ebu'l-Fazl Abdullah in detail his book *Fetwa und Siyar*.

- Hilmar Krüger, *Fetwa und Siyar. Zur internationalrechtlichen Gutachtenpraxis der osmanischen Seyh ul-Islam vom 17. bis 19. Jahrhundert unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des „Behcet ül-Fetava“*. (Schriften der Max-Freiherr-von-Oppenheim-Stiftung).

- The fatwas of Ebu'l-Fazl Abdullah have been printed in two editions, under the title "Behcetü'l-fetava maan-Nükul 1266 and 1289 [1849 / 1872]" by Matbaa-i Âmire in İstanbul, ÖZEĞE 1777.

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