

**The Influence of the Endowment Organization on the Stability of
the Qajar Era Hosseiniyehs of Birjand City
Case Study: Bibi Arous Hosseiniyeh¹**

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Abstract

One of the traditions and good characteristics of people throughout Islamic periods to attain God's satisfaction as well as perfection, has been the tradition of endowment. Endowment system in the history of Muslim communities shows an example of sustainable planning in a thousand-year-old tradition. By studying these communities, a number of buildings can be found which have lasted longer than other buildings due to the good tradition of endowment; that is, part of the endowments was spent for holding mourning ceremonies and performing religious rites, and the other part was spent on maintaining, refurbishment and finally, stability of the building. This research which has been conducted based on a descriptive/analytic study and library and field data collection, seeks to explain the significance of this issue and its impact on the formation and stability of Qajar period Hosseiniyehs of Birjand city. In this article, by studying the endowment document of Bibi Arous Hosseiniyeh and analyzing its architectural space, the

1. This article has been extracted from the M.A. thesis of marziyeh faryabi entitled (A research of the Role of Endowment in Formation of the Physical Appearance of birjand City (with a Focus on Qajar Period Hussainiyas)) supervised by dr. Hassan Hashemi Zarjabad and Dr. mofid shateri

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impacts of endowment on formation of the Hosseiniyeh and finally its effects as an important factor in the stability of the Hosseiniyeh are explained. Research findings indicate that Bibi Arous Hosseiniyeh has been studied as one of the endowed Hosseiniyehs and is considered one of the main and most important elements in the historical context of Birjand. By referring to its endowment documents, it can be found out that maintenance, stability and lasting of this building has been one of the main intentions of the endower. In fact, the framework of the building has met the multiple requirements of the building (religious affairs and maintenance of the building). Finally, the intention of the endower for performing religious ceremonies and the need for a place for fulfilling this intention, has been the main reason for the stability of the structure of this Hosseiniyeh in the city.

Key words: Endowment, Bibi Arous Hosseiniyeh, Qajar, Birjand