



Hidden Cultural Heritage of Konya Necmettin Erbakan Üniversitesi (Turkey)

Touriboost Project 2018-10TR01-KA203-058344

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image gallery



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Hidden cultural heritage of **Konya**

Konya and its surrounding has been a region where civilizations were established and the firsts in the history were experienced since prehistoric times.

Konya has been geographically placed where many stories have been lived and unique works of faith, architecture and art have been revealed, maintaining its importance throughout the ages thanks to its location where the roads from east to west and from north to south intersect.

Our stories begin with a painful event in Çatalhöyük, the largest and first inhabitants city of the prehistoric age. The second story, which takes place in Pappa Tiberiopolis, is about the Heracles sarcophagus, one of the unique works of art in the region.

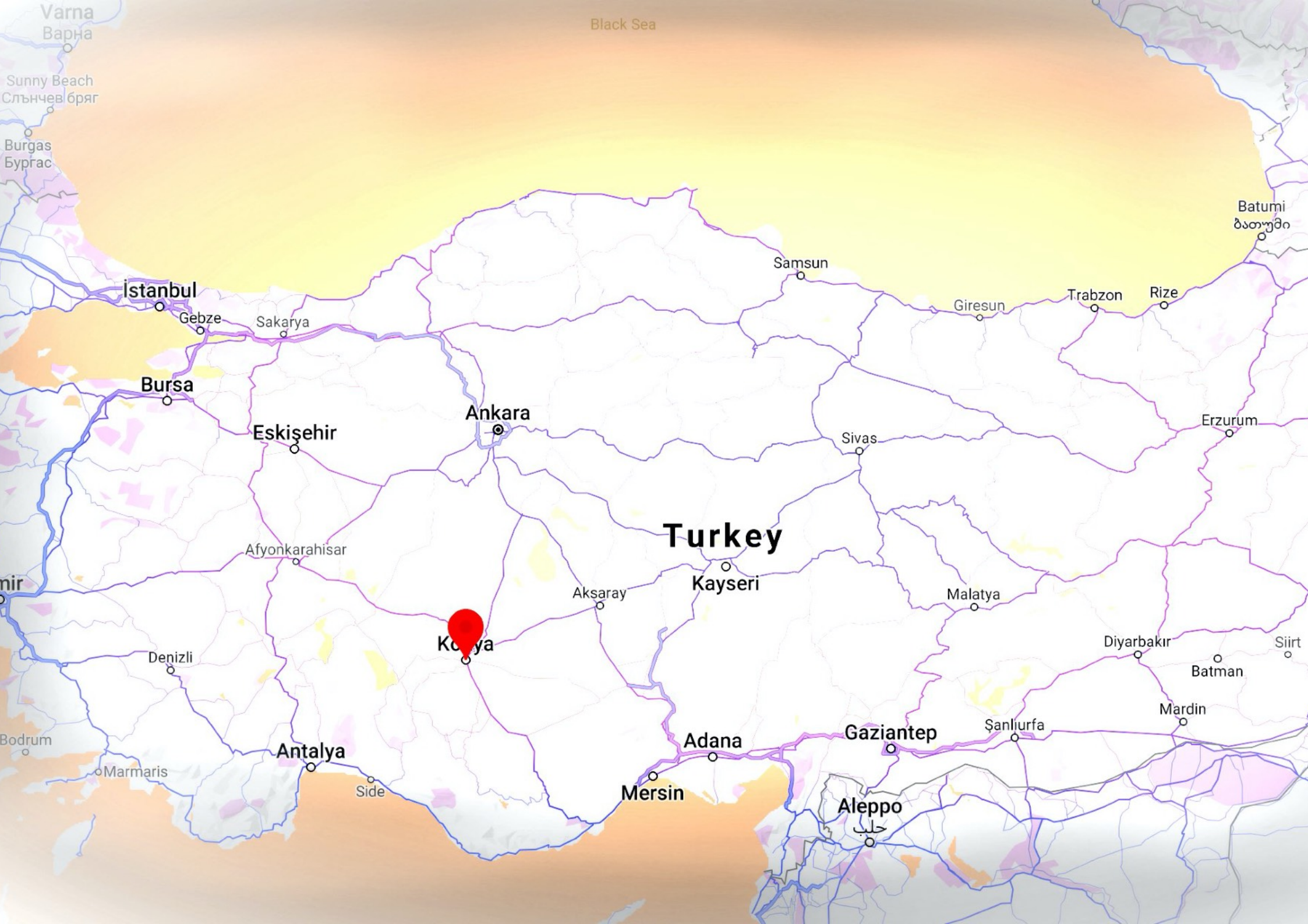
Konya, which is one of the regions where different kinds of religions lived and blend in the strongest way, is related with our third story about Mevlana's visit to St. Chariton Monastery, introducing the relations between the religions in the region.

The fourth story, which is about the curtain of Sille Hagia Eleni Church in the region where the relationship between religions and societies is blended with deep tolerance and love, also reveals the connection among the peoples lived in this geography.



The last story is about a relentless war scene in the region where great wars and struggles were took stage besides all these beauties. All these events as the proof of forgotten lived stories, awaiting your visit with the traces of their heroes.

*The content of the ibook was prepared by
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Black Sea

Varna
Варна

Sunny Beach
Слънчев бряг

Burgas
Бургас

Istanbul

Gebze

Sakarya

Bursa

Eskişehir

Ankara

Samsun

Giresun

Trabzon

Rize

Batumi
ბათუმი

Erzurum

Sivas

Turkey

Afyonkarahisar

Aksaray

Kayseri

Malatya

nir

Denizli

Konya

Diyarbakır

Batman

Siirt

Bodrum

Marmaris

Antalya

Side

Mersin

Adana

Gaziantep

Şanlıurfa

Mardin

Aleppo
حلب

1 Çatalhöyük

Founded over 9,000 years ago on the bank of a river that has since dried up, people in Çatalhöyük lived at distinctive homes , arranged back-to-back without doors or windows. They went in and out through openings in the roof. On the inside, they were drawing wall paintings and enigmatic figurines as a memory. Daily life took place both at the settlement of Çatalhöyük and away from it, in the surrounding landscape. People were living happily and continue their life hunting and gathering subsistence to increasing skill in plant and animal domestication. People running in panic from the roof of the houses. Women, children and even warriors were screaming and praying loudly to Goddess.

One morning all the people woke up to a disaster. The ground was shaking and after a while the smoke from the top of the ancient mountain spreaded to the entire sky creating a deep darkness. Durig this chaos there was a house full of pain due to a different reason which was neither the shaking of the ground nor the black smoke from the top of the ancient mountain.



The little girl, who was the only child in the house, had been sick for several days since birth. The man of the family, one of the best hunters in the city, went on hunting. The mother used all the herbal plants she had learned from her ancestors to heal her daughter alone. Unfortunately, her only child, who would continue her offspring, did not recover, and her health condition was getting worse.

She thought that the whole house would collapse. Unbearable sound of the ground shaking was the wrath of the mother Goddess. She tried to move towards her child and took her in her arms. She watched with great pain that her daughter between her hands was breathing hard.

With the ongoing loud voice, she could not stop thinking that her daughter would leave her alone. She sniffed the smell of his little daughter and hugged her tightly. For a moment she touched the jewelry on her daughter's ankle. Her husband bought this jewel from merchants from far away. She wished that he had with her. After a deep silence around,

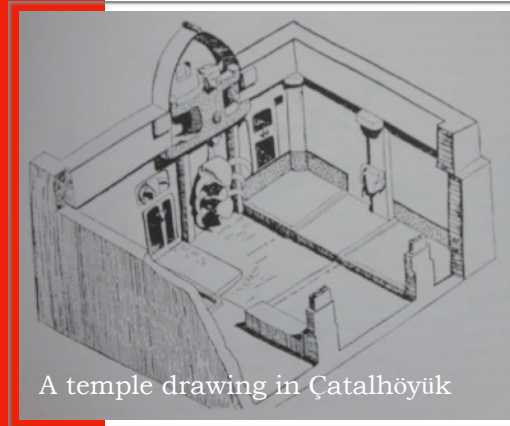
people's screams surrounded him. She took her daughter on her lap with the basket she slept with. With a last hope, she decided to take the most precious asset, her daughter in her hands to the house of the mother goddess.

She carefully climbed the stairs leading to the exit of the house and went up to the roof. There was a great panic in the city. She tried to understand what was happening at that moment. She could see the black

fumes coming from the ancient mountain in the distance spread to the sky. She passed through her holy mother. She did not care all the extraordinary events happening around her and the people in panic. Even her own life was not important except for her daughter's life.

She was trying to move forward among a crowd running around. She quickly reached one of the mother goddess' houses closest to her. At the entrance of the holy house, people were pushing each other. When they entered the holy place, they were trying to enter through

(Ref.1)



A temple drawing in Çatalhöyük



Baby girl- graveyard

the entrance hole, thinking that they would be protected and not damaged at all.

She made a move and managed to go through the entrance of the holy house. While the priests inside were trying to prevent more people from entering inside, they prayed to the angry holy goddess asking for forgiveness offering their belongings. Bull heads with pointed horns on the walls of the holy house were indicative of the power of the goddess.

She was begging the goddess deeply by heart and praying for her daughter, the most precious asset in her life, to be saved. The light reflected by the



Typical house

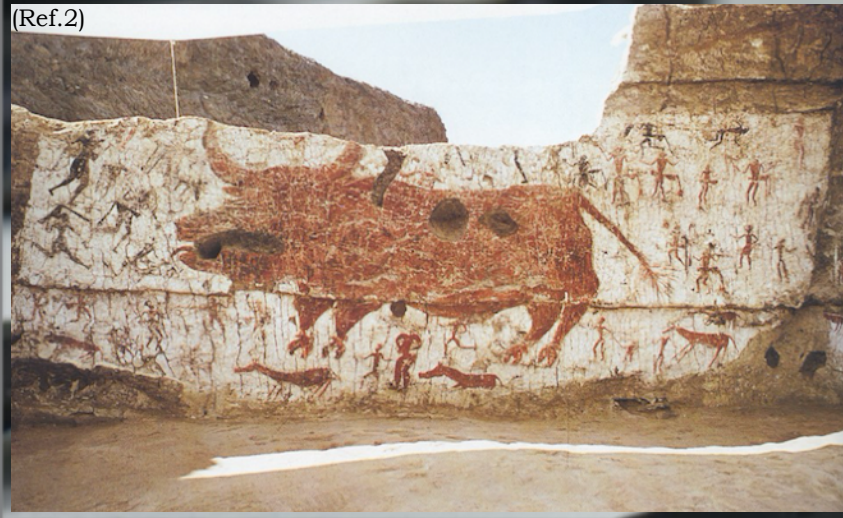


A temple in Çatalhöyük

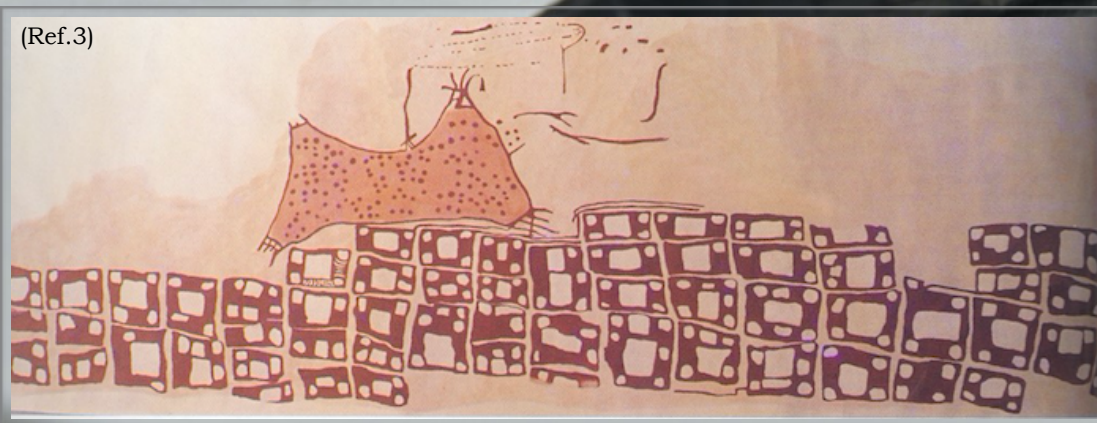


Çatalhöyük ruins

fire burning inside the room, hitting the walls, illuminates the depiction of the mother goddess; it made her seem as if she was coming back to life. The holy mother was sitting on her throne as usual. In her throne, protected with lions, she was watching herself with all her glory.



She invoked her goddess over and over again. Meanwhile, when she looked at his daughter again filled with a great grief. The goddess took her. She was not breathing anymore. She did not care anymore if the world or city was destroyed. She hugged her and snuffed her smell again and again. She decided to have a nice ceremony for her. Knowing that her daughter will always be with the holy mother relieved her. She would bury her in this sacred place where she died. The last



bracelet made of beads on her wrist came to her mind. It was what her daughter liked to play the most. She would give it to her daughter. In the holy room where many people stood, she totally collapsed with the lifeless body on her arm. Clamors, prayers and screams of the people around her disappeared in the deep silence inside her.



Çatalhöyük ruins



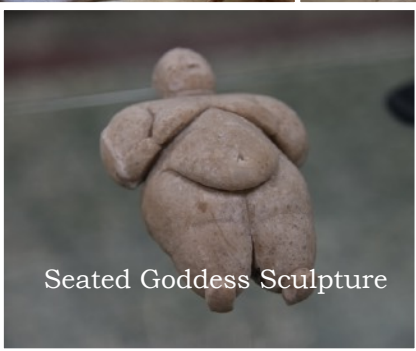
Typical house



POT resemble the seated Goddess



Raw material of Obsidian



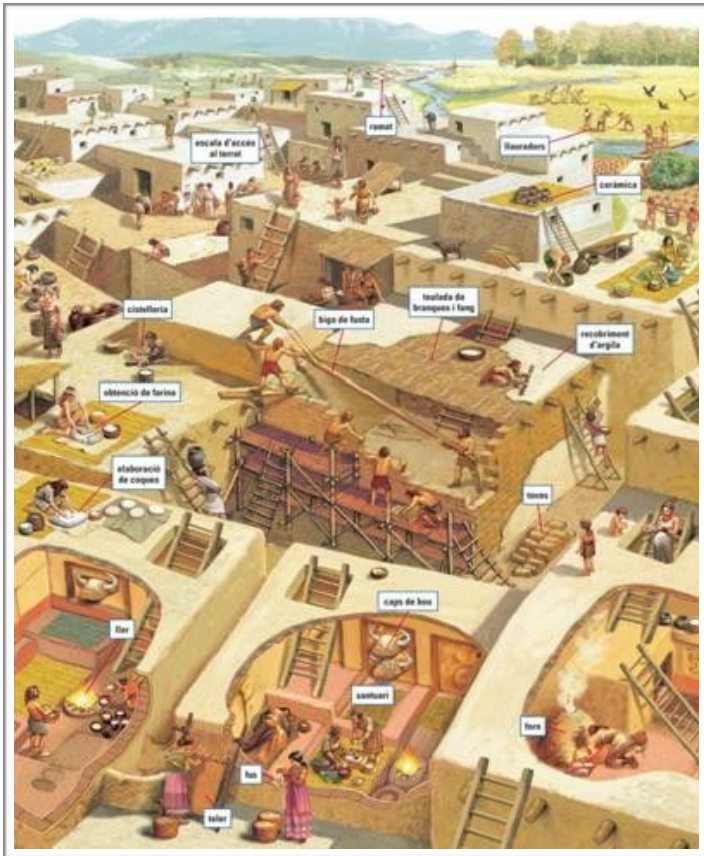
Seated Goddess Sculpture



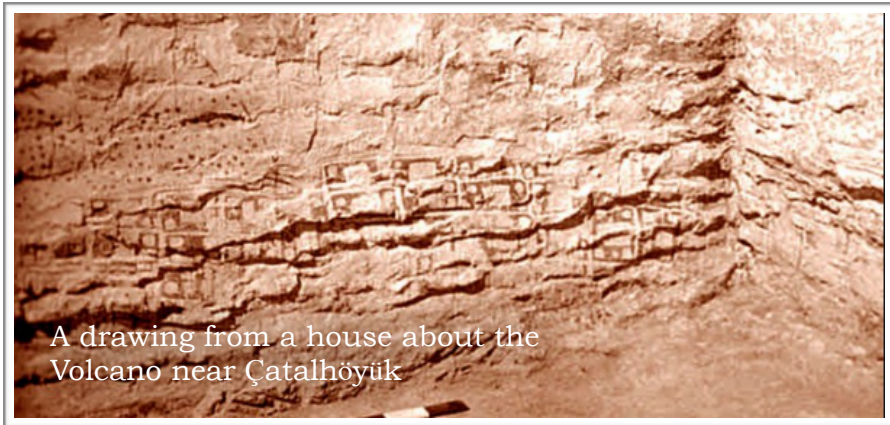
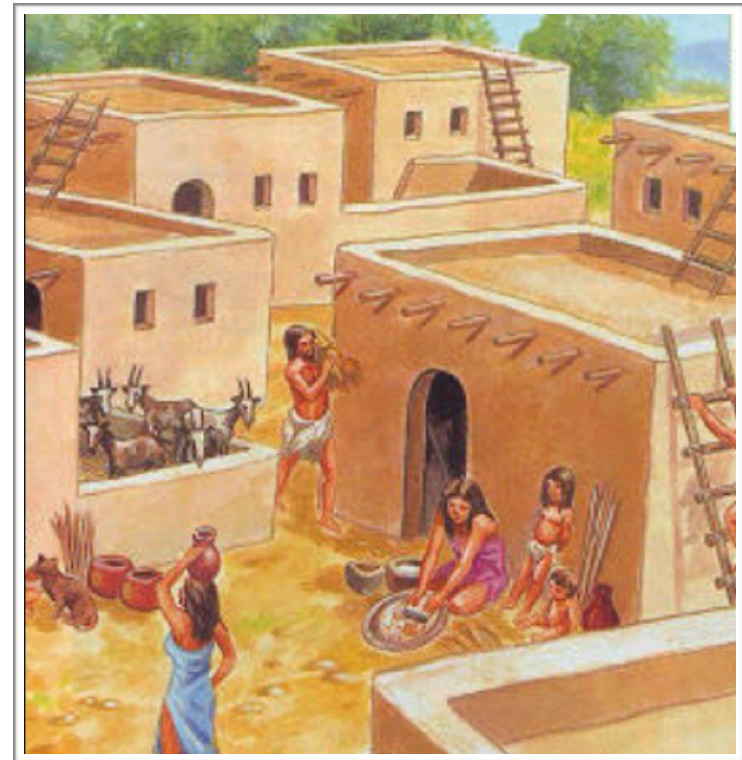
Seated Goddess



Sharp objects made by Obsidian stone



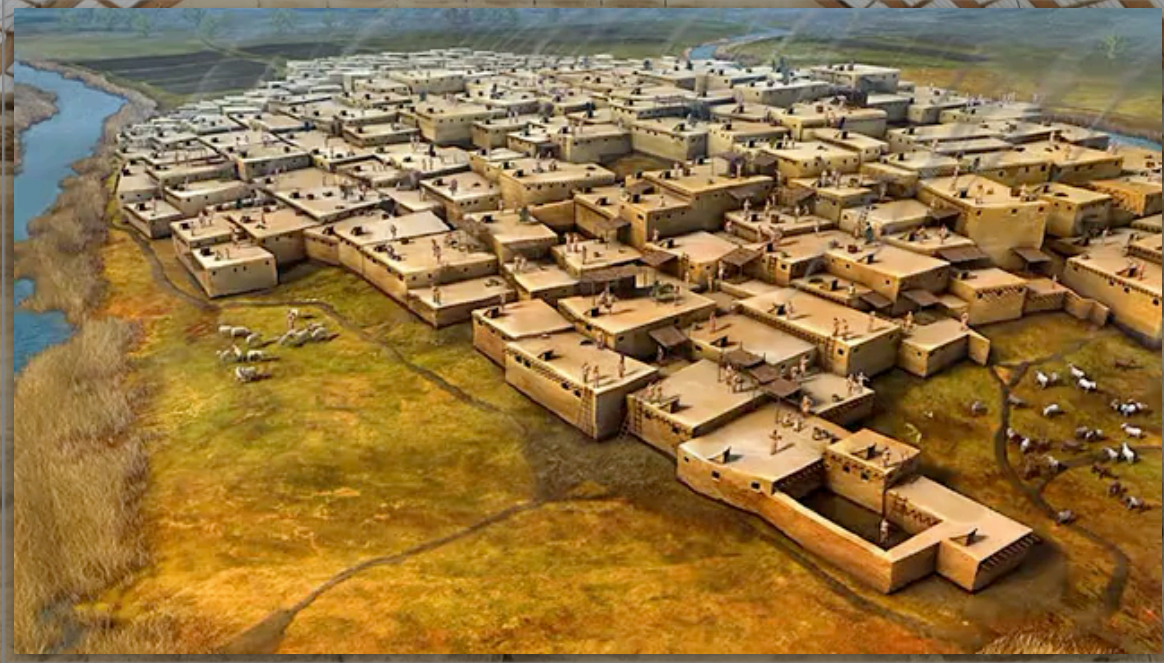
Daily life of the people in Çatalhöyük



A drawing from a house about the Volcano near Çatalhöyük



Painting from a house in Çatalhöyük



(Ref.4)

Çatalhöyük



Watch in full screen



(Ref.5)

2 Sille Hagia
Eleni Church

The capital city was Konia in November 1227 AD

The old woman was going towards the palace in the desolate streets of Konia with great fear. Although she could hardly take step forward, Seljuk guards on both sides forced her to move almost dragging her. Malinda was the name of this woman who could not make sense of what happened to her. Being a very gentle and kind person as the meaning of her name, the woman did not know why she was arrested by the soldiers. Everything was started with a hard knock on her door in the evening. While setting up table for dinner, Malinda realized that the person knocking the door didn't come with good news.

As soon as she opened the door, two Seljuk soldiers stood in front of her; "Are you Malinda, Lady?" they started questioning. Frustrated with fear she said "Yes, Sir. My name is Malinda". The soldiers continued, "We need to be hurry. Our master Sultan Alaeddin Keykubat wants to see you".

The only question in her mind, why the Great Sultan wanted to see her. When she raised

her head, she realized that she arrived in front of the palace in the city center. She even didn't remember how and when she prepared with this great shock and panick. She entered into palace for the first time. Normally she passed in front of it time by time. If it was a normal time, Malinda, would amaze the beauties of the palace. However now with a great fear she was climbing the stairs of the palace because of the unknown situation.

She had reached the throne hall without knowing how many rooms, how many soldiers she had passed through. Servants in the hall were running from one place to another. There was a really beautifully decorated cradle in one corner of the hall and a group of servant women standing around it.

When the old woman looked at this group of servants more carefully, she noticed that one of them was not a servant; she was wearing very fancy clothes. At that moment, the



Alaeddin Keykubat

Sultan was appeared in the hall with a group soldiers.

The old woman trembled with fear and bowed to the ground, saluting the sultan. She began to wait, full of fear even to raise her head.

One of the guards who brought the old woman declared: "We have brought Malinda from Sille, according to your command, My Great Sultan."

Sultan spoke with a louder tone saying: "Stand up lady" Malinda timidly lifted her head and saw the Great Sultan that close for the first time. Sultan Alaeddin Keykubat was standing in really elegant clothes in front of her. Sultan continued: "I heard that you were healing people, right?"

The old woman said, "Yes, my Sultan, I can cure some diseases with herbs but if God wishes".

At that moment, the beautiful woman in the corner of the hall walked towards Malinda and said, "Hatun, you are our last hope. My daughter is very sick and neither the doctors of the palace nor the best doctors of the neighboring countries have found a cure to this illness". She couldn't even continue to her speech and she broke into tears holding Malinda's hands tightly as if she is begging her.

The Servants in the hall said, "Our Sultan, please! You will get sick as well. "Old woman understood that the person holding her hands was the Sultan's wife Mahperi Huand Hatun.

She felt the sadness deeply of this strong woman. While approaching closer to the baby who was seen so sick and pale in the crib, old woman answered, "Do not worry, my Sultan, I will do my best to save your daughter".

The face of the baby girl, wrapped with a silk cover, beading with sweats. When she touched her forehead with hand, she realized the baby had a high temperature. She said: "I need some healing herbs and ingredients a soon as possible" turning immediately to those in the hall.

In a few hours, all she required was brought in a huge amount. Without wasting time, she moved to the kitchen section to prepare the healing mixture she had learned from her grandmother and started to boil it by putting the necessary



Wooden emroideries



Wooden emroideries



Sille Hagia Eleni Church ciborium

ingredients into a cauldron. She wondered if this mixture, which healed many patients, would work. For this little baby. She was afraid of what would happen to her if she failed or the princess got worse.

After the medicinal mixture was prepared and cooled, it was given to the princess and it was given to the baby periodically for about two days. After two days the baby started to feel better and her fever was not that high anymore and sweated less. Malinda understood that the medicine worked, and feeled so happy both for the princess and for herself. While resting in the room reserved for her, a guard knocked on the door.

He said “Our Sultan wants to see you” and Malinda prepared quickly and went to meet with the Sultan. The Sultan was sitting on the throne placed in the center of the room. There were guards and some Emeers around him. For the first time, she was a little surprised that seeing how beautifully colored tiles on the walls of the throne room looked so beautiful with the light.

She thought she could see them now probably because she had no longer fear of punishment.

When the Sultan started her speech saying “You healed my only daughter. You did what the doctors in my palace and even the best doctors from neighboring lands could not do. It turns out that my cure was just here in my land. I have been thinking what I can do for you and I have decided to fulfill your three wishes”.

Malinda was pretty surprised. Yes, she was expecting some support from Sultan, but for three wishes, she was not prepared for this.

She was not interested in money or status after this age.

She had no children. She knew exactly how to answer to the Sultan.

“My Sultan, the greatest happiness for me was to serve you and the health of our princess, which was the greatest gift for me. I do not care about money or any position. God gave me the honor to serve you, this is enough for me. ”

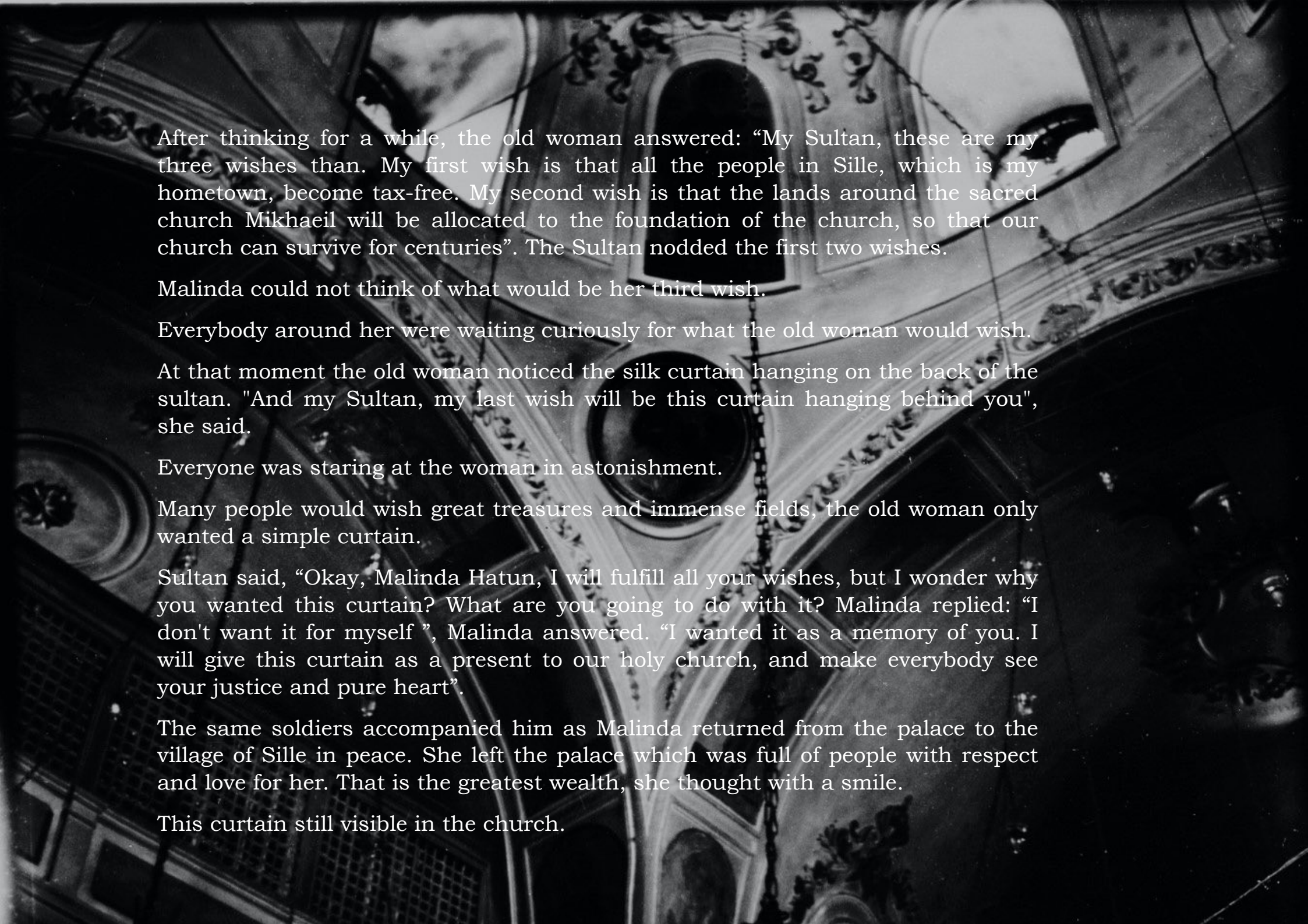
The Sultan and others looked at the old woman with appreciation and respect.

Sultan “No, Malinda Hatun, I can not leave unrewarded this purity of your heart so tell me your three wishes, please”.

(Ref.7)



Impress Helene Emperor Constantine



After thinking for a while, the old woman answered: "My Sultan, these are my three wishes than. My first wish is that all the people in Sille, which is my hometown, become tax-free. My second wish is that the lands around the sacred church Mikhaeil will be allocated to the foundation of the church, so that our church can survive for centuries". The Sultan nodded the first two wishes.

Malinda could not think of what would be her third wish.

Everybody around her were waiting curiously for what the old woman would wish.

At that moment the old woman noticed the silk curtain hanging on the back of the sultan. "And my Sultan, my last wish will be this curtain hanging behind you", she said.

Everyone was staring at the woman in astonishment.

Many people would wish great treasures and immense fields, the old woman only wanted a simple curtain.

Sultan said, "Okay, Malinda Hatun, I will fulfill all your wishes, but I wonder why you wanted this curtain? What are you going to do with it? Malinda replied: "I don't want it for myself ", Malinda answered. "I wanted it as a memory of you. I will give this curtain as a present to our holy church, and make everybody see your justice and pure heart".

The same soldiers accompanied him as Malinda returned from the palace to the village of Sille in peace. She left the palace which was full of people with respect and love for her. That is the greatest wealth, she thought with a smile.

This curtain still visible in the church.



Sille Hagia Eleni Church General View

Aya Elenia Kilisesi ikonostasisi'nin ana giriş bölümü ve hediye olarak verilen perde



Depiction of Cross on Naos Door



Hagios Mikhael-Aya Eleni Church
(May 1905 -G. Bell)



Dome of Sille Hagia Eleni Church



Sille Hagia Eleni Church



[Watch in full screen](#)

13

Gevale
Castle



Black Sea

Byzantine Empire

Constantinople

Nicomedia

Nicaea

Kastamonu

Gangra

Halys

Mersivan

Niksar

Asmaya

Sivas

Danishmend

Seljuk Sultanate of Rûm

Ancyra

Konya

Heraclea

Tarsus

Sis

Principality of Armenian Cilicia

Aleppo

Antioch

Mediterranean Sea

miles 100
kilometres

(Ref.9)

Konia Palace in May 1190

Sultan Kılıçarslan II and his son Kutbeddin were not too worried when they first heard about the army approaching their country. They thought that it must have been one of the previous expeditions from the Eastern Roman state to their territory.

When the first reports on the quality and size of the army come to Sultan, he understood that he was facing an extraordinary situation. Sultan's son Kutbeddin was a good commander as well as a successful emeer. Kutbeddin, who was constantly raided with the excitement of his youth, defended a raid attack on the upcoming army.

When he first read the report, the Sultan thought there must be something wrong. It should not be true the number of the enemy army was a hundred thousand. It was impossible for neither Eastern Rome nor its allies to assemble such an army. Intelligence reports, which began to arrive in the following days confirm this information, clearly revealed the seriousness of the situation. It was as if all Christian countries were united and set sail eastward.

There was a big fuss in Konia palace, the center of Payitaht. Important Emeers and commanders, especially Emeer Kutbeddin, were called to the palace in order to talk about the precautions and steps that would be taken regarding this serious situation.

Sultan II Kılıçarslan and Emeer Kutbeddin were sitting on the throne at the meeting held in the palace. The Sultan was watching his men and his son in the hall with great care.

The meeting started with prayers. Kılıçarslan II said “My son, my Emeers and Commanders. You know the reason why we have gathered. An enormous army are approaching our land from the west. We learned that The Holy Roman German Emperor Frederick Barbarossa was at the head of the army of one hundred thousand people. With the help of Allah, as we had defeated other enemies, we will get rid off this misfortune and we will win the battle, Insallah”.

Everyone in the hall approved the sultan by saying “Insallah”. The eyes of the Sultan's son, Kutbeddin, were shining brightly and he began his speech: “According to the latest information of the Sultan’s agents, the enemy is moving quickly towards us. They will have reached Apamea in a few days. The army does not consist of heavily armoured cavalry and infantry. The smartest move we can do is to surprise them unexpectedly before they arrive here and defeat them with the permission of Allah”.

Those who listened to the speech of the Sultan’s son knew that the situation was not good at all and gave this hopefully positive assumption to prince’s excitement as a youth. Kılıçarslan II said, “First of all, the number of enemy prevents us from entering such battle However, it would be appropriate to attack the leading forces as much as the land allows with the support of our Turkmen troops. Maybe we will slow the enemy down a bit”.

The Sultan continued his speech after taking a deep breath. “If we consider the progress of the enemy, they will arrive here in a few weeks. Even if our city is surrounded by walls, we cannot protect our capital against such a huge enemy. It would be wiser to withdraw to more sheltered areas for the future of our ummah. I will go to the Gevale as it is called eagle's nest, where it will be easier to check the situation”. Emeer Kutbeddin was not at all satisfied with this decision, although many Emeers and commanders approved the sultan with their heads.

Kutbeddin said, “My Sultan, escaping from the enemy is offensive for us. I trust my soldiers. With the help of Allah, we can fight with them till the end of our last drop of blood”, he said excitedly. Sultan said, "No, son. I understand the excitement of your age very well. But this is the best decision for all of us”. The Emeers and commanders in the hall knew that the Sultan had



Secret passage through Gevale Castle Cistern

Gevale Castle



made a difficult and wise decision, while following the dispute between Kılıçarslan II and his son Kutbeddin. A good manager had to know when to fight and when to withdraw..

Preparations for the evacuation of the city began quickly. For a week, the people of the city took all their valuable goods and animals; they sheltered in high villages and some in the castles. The army took the necessary precautions and carried the state treasure to Gevale Castle, which is the most protected castle; food and water stocks were prepared to withstand the long siege.

The Sultan and his son left the palace with their guards and soldiers. Normally the country's most populous city had now become a deserted place. Sultan wanted to be last person to leave the city. With the heritage of his ancestors and the sadness of leaving his tombs behind, he walked on empty streets. In fact, this was not a complete withdrawal. In fact he could watch the situation in the castle right next to the city and intervene if necessary.

Leaving the city gate; they passed by the fields and farms. When they arrived at the high mountain, which looked like an eagle's nest in the evening, they looked at the castle on the hill. The castle, the guardian of the city, would now become a home to shelter against a huge enemy. Kutbeddin wanted to



Seljuk Army

settle in another castle opposite Gevale, therefore he left his father there.

The Sultan and his entourage slowly climbed from the path leading to the door of the castle. In fact, Gevale was one of the Sultan's favorite places. Sultan occasionally comes to the little kiosk at the summit and loved watching the lights of the capital all night long. Sometimes he comes here when important decisions need to be taken; he tries to take the right decision alone after a deep thinking isolated there. He never guessed that this place would be his temporary home one day?

When Sultan entered through the gate of the castle, many guards on the walls were watching him. For the first time, the castle was so crowded and sparkling. Many cisterns in the castle were used to meet the water need in long sieges.

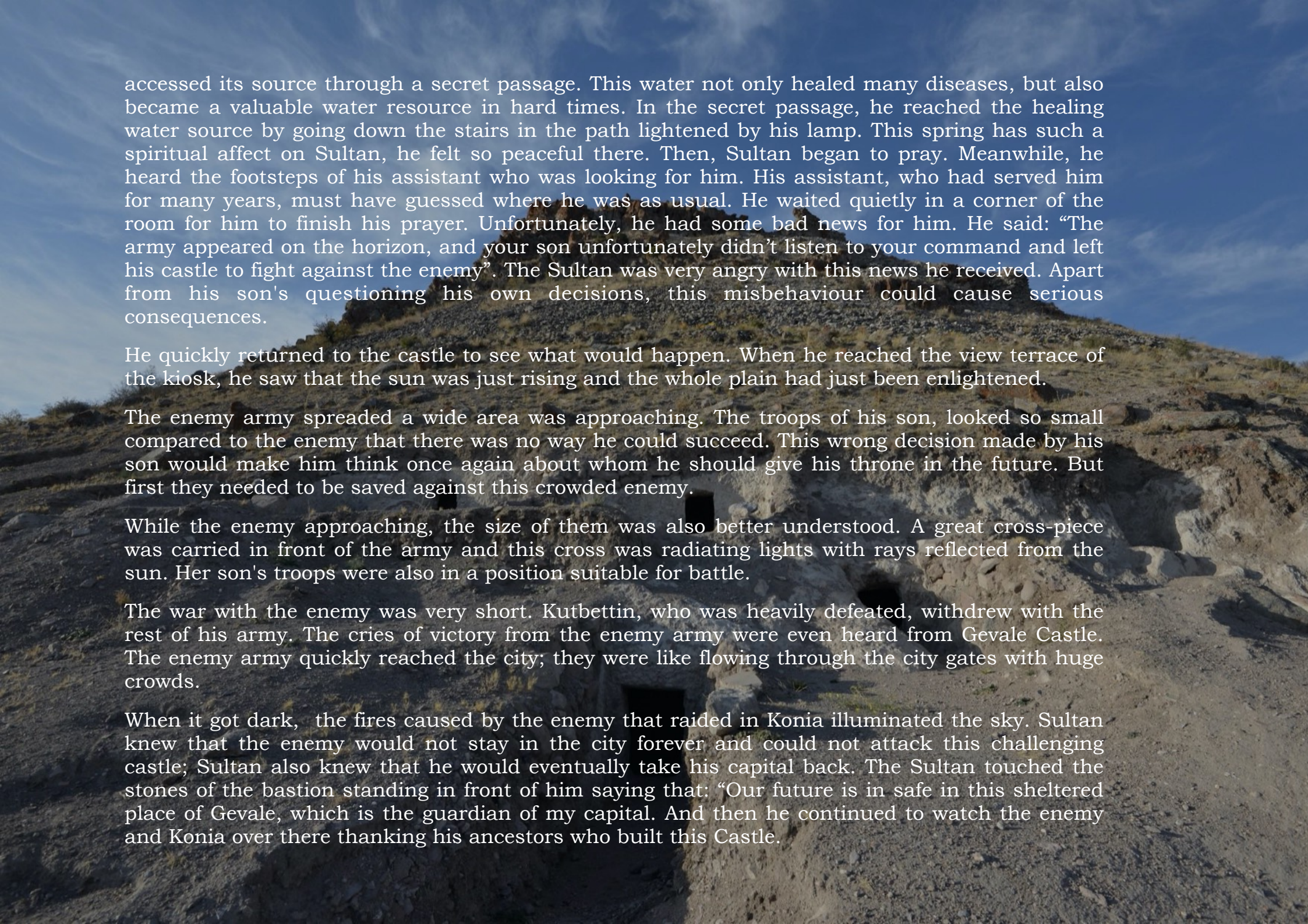
The sultan and his entourage passed through the barracks and stables where the soldiers accommodated and walked towards the mansion. When they came to the kiosk, the small kiosk had become quite crowded with the entourage. The Sultan would like to rest in his room for a while.

Sultan wake up very early on that day. He couldn't sleep whole night. He was so anxious what the new day would bring to them. Before starting that difficult day, he decided to pray by performing ablution from the healing water source of the castle.

This spring coming through the rocks at the foot of the castle was known as a healing water. It was



Miniatur of Konya and Gevale Castle by Matrakçı Nasuh (Beyan-ı Menazil-i Sefer-i Irakeyn-1533-36)



accessed its source through a secret passage. This water not only healed many diseases, but also became a valuable water resource in hard times. In the secret passage, he reached the healing water source by going down the stairs in the path lightened by his lamp. This spring has such a spiritual affect on Sultan, he felt so peaceful there. Then, Sultan began to pray. Meanwhile, he heard the footsteps of his assistant who was looking for him. His assistant, who had served him for many years, must have guessed where he was as usual. He waited quietly in a corner of the room for him to finish his prayer. Unfortunately, he had some bad news for him. He said: “The army appeared on the horizon, and your son unfortunately didn’t listen to your command and left his castle to fight against the enemy”. The Sultan was very angry with this news he received. Apart from his son's questioning his own decisions, this misbehaviour could cause serious consequences.

He quickly returned to the castle to see what would happen. When he reached the view terrace of the kiosk, he saw that the sun was just rising and the whole plain had just been enlightened.

The enemy army spreaded a wide area was approaching. The troops of his son, looked so small compared to the enemy that there was no way he could succeed. This wrong decision made by his son would make him think once again about whom he should give his throne in the future. But first they needed to be saved against this crowded enemy.

While the enemy approaching, the size of them was also better understood. A great cross-piece was carried in front of the army and this cross was radiating lights with rays reflected from the sun. Her son's troops were also in a position suitable for battle.

The war with the enemy was very short. Kutbettin, who was heavily defeated, withdrew with the rest of his army. The cries of victory from the enemy army were even heard from Gevale Castle. The enemy army quickly reached the city; they were like flowing through the city gates with huge crowds.

When it got dark, the fires caused by the enemy that raided in Konia illuminated the sky. Sultan knew that the enemy would not stay in the city forever and could not attack this challenging castle; Sultan also knew that he would eventually take his capital back. The Sultan touched the stones of the bastion standing in front of him saying that: “Our future is in safe in this sheltered place of Gevale, which is the guardian of my capital. And then he continued to watch the enemy and Konia over there thanking his ancestors who built this Castle.



Gevale Castle south edge



Secret passage



Underground Rock Graves



Gevale Castle general view



Roses found in the excavations



Gevale Castle underground Rock Graves



Gevale Castle temple ruins



Gevale Castle



[Watch in full screen](#)

4

Ak Monastery

A valley near Konia in April 1268 AD

An unusual movement had begun on the dervish lodge in Konia early in the morning. The reason for this unexpected movement before the sun rose was the fact that Mevlânâ Celâleddîn-i Rûmî, the head of the dervish lodge, prepared to start a journey such an early time in a way he had never done before. The followers of Mevlânâ couldn't dare asking a question to their master and watched him carefully. The only question in their mind was where and why their master wanted to go without sharing anyone. Mevlânâ neither mentioned that journey to anyone nor asked someone to accompany him.

Even though their masters did not ask for them, they decided to be ready for his service incase it is needed. Mevlânâ wore clothes he used to wear most of the time with his imamah and green ferace.

Mevlânâ in the front, a few dervishes behind, went out of the lodge and made their way in the direction of Sille. The fact that this intellectual person did not go through the city center increased the curiosity of those who followed him. They were whispering silently thinking he was probably going to Sille.

Mevlânâ reached a crossroad, leaving behind several country houses and many gardens. It was almost noon. Surprisingly, he turned to the Felekabad side, not towards the road leading to Sille. They were following him as quietly as possible in order not to disturb Mevlânâ. After Mevlânâ moved a little further, he turned to the pathway that continued towards the rocks on the right.

One of the followers in the back excitedly declared, "Our master most probably is going to the Deyri Eflatun Monastery. This road does not go elsewhere. "I hope it is something good".

The structures carved into the rock of the monastery could be seen from a distance. It was even very clear from here that priests wearing black robes were engaged in various works in the monastery courtyard. It was understood from the priests' manners that their master's visit was a big surprise to them. One of them rushed through the door. A few moments later he came out with a very old

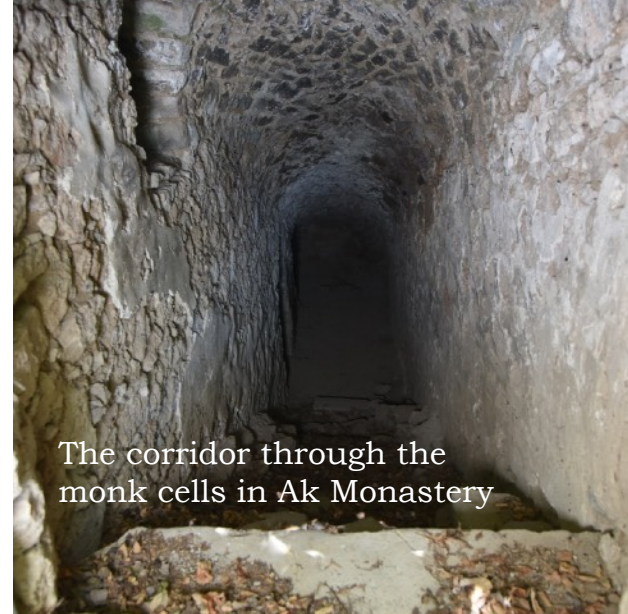
priest. He must have been the archpriest of the monastery. The two of them set out towards them to meet their masters.

The old priest said, “Welcome, it is a great pleasure to see you. You honored this sacred place with your presence. You've come from a long way. Please let's rest here and take a breath”. He greeted Mevlânâ with his head. Mevlana greeted him back and he moved towards the holy water spring at the entrance of the monastery instead of the place the archpriest showed him and after a while he disappeared.

Everybody around in a great surprise would like to follow Mevlânâ but the arch priest stopped the others and he went down to the holy spring, known as the sacred water source, alone. When he came out a little later, he told people who surrounded him, especially the dervishes, that Mevlânâ cloistered himself into solitude and he would like to stay alone there.

The people of the monasteries, especially the dervishes, did not know how long Mevlânâ would remain in seclusion. In the evening, several priests went down to holy spring and brought something to Mevlânâ, but Mevlânâ did not accept any food; they just reported that he only drank from holy water.

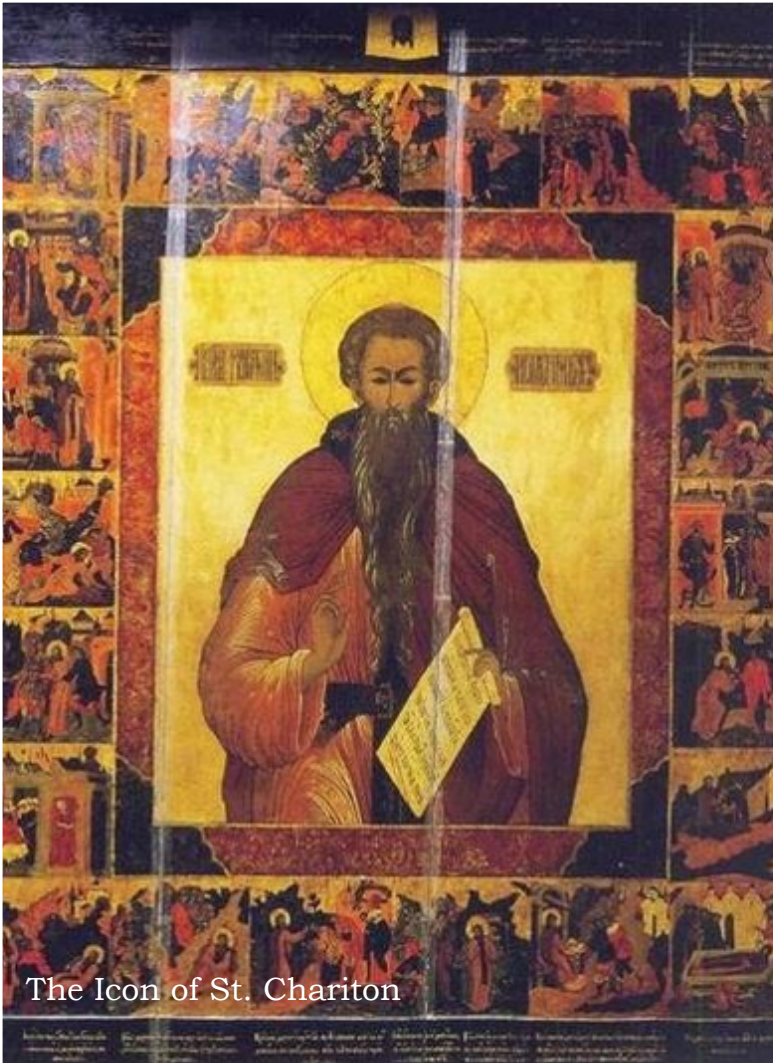
Because it was midnight, everyone understood that the seclusion would not be short. The dervishes stayed in the monastery at night because they did not want to leave their masters there alone. Only one of them returned to the lodge at night and reported the situation there.



The corridor through the monk cells in Ak Monastery

Mevlana-celaleddin-i-rumi





The Icon of St. Chariton



Entrance of the church

The next day, all the people of Konia learned that Mevlânâ had been cloistered in the holy spring of Deyri Eflatun Monastery. For this reason, a crowded Mevlevi dervish group and the people of the city came to the monastery in the early hours and started to wait.

The days passed one by one, and in the morning of the seventh day, Mevlânâ came out from holy spring unexpectedly. Although he seemed a little pale since he hadn't eaten anything during the cloister, he was very vigorous. On the seventh day, the number of people waiting for this blessed person had increased considerably.

The archpriest of the monastery was the first person to meet Mevlânâ in front of the door, as if he had known the moment when Mevlânâ would leave the holy spring. He greeted Mevlana and then he said to Mevlânâ, " in holy Qur'an, it is written that :We know better those who will go to Hell. If all of them will go to the Hell , then what makes the religion of Islam over other religions and how will this be?" he asked.

While the old priest waited for an answer from this blessed person, Mevlana did not say anything. He started walking towards Konia just by pointing towards the city with his head. Everyone who watched this event with great excitement, especially the old priest, started to walk towards the city with him.

Moving towards the city, the crowd surrounded him when Mevlânâ stood in front of a bakery. The bakery, located near the city's Sille door, smelled of freshly baked bread. The smoke from the chimney of the bakery spread to the whole place.

Mevlânâ asked the old priest to give his black cloak. The old man took out the dress and gave it to Mevlânâ without any hesitation. At

the same time, Mevlana took out his green cape and threw these two pieces of clothes into the burning oven. Everyone in the bakery and there watched that with great curiosity.

Mevlânâ, sat down to a corner of the bakery in a deep silence, began wait. The clothes inside the oven started to ignite; a darker smoke than usual was beginning to come out of the bakery.

Mevlânâ said, "Look". The old priest looked at the dark smoke pointed by Mevlana. Although the smoke coming out of partially prevented to see inside, it was realized that Mevlana's clothes was not burning.

After Mevlana ordered the baker to take his ferace out of the oven, the baker inserted his long shovel into the oven and took out the clothing that was not affected by the flames. Wearing the cape again with the help of the baker, Mevlânâ said under the bewildered gaze of the people, "We believe if you live in a good will as written in our holly book we will be saved . However if you ignore these rules, then eternal fire is waiting for you."

The old man could not easily get out of this shock. Although his own garment burned off, Mevlânâ's garment did not.

Seeing this miracle old priest accepted Mevlânâ as he gained the grace of God. The crowd around watched this great surprise. Witnessing such a miracle all people around was thankful to Mevlana and Allah and they lived in peace together for long years.



Sarcophagus number 99 found in Ak Monastery Inventory



Cross dragging on the wall of the church



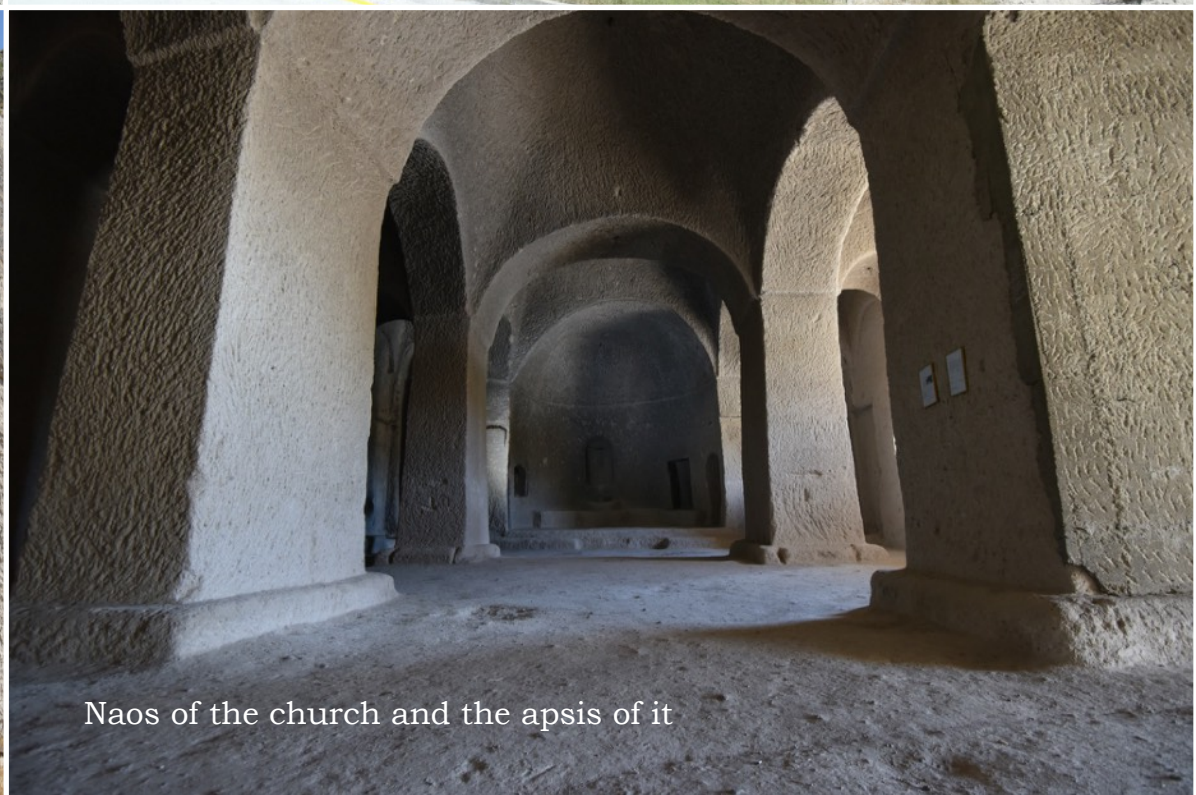
Ak Monastery general view



Ak Monastery general view



The masjid (chapel)



Naos of the church and the apsis of it



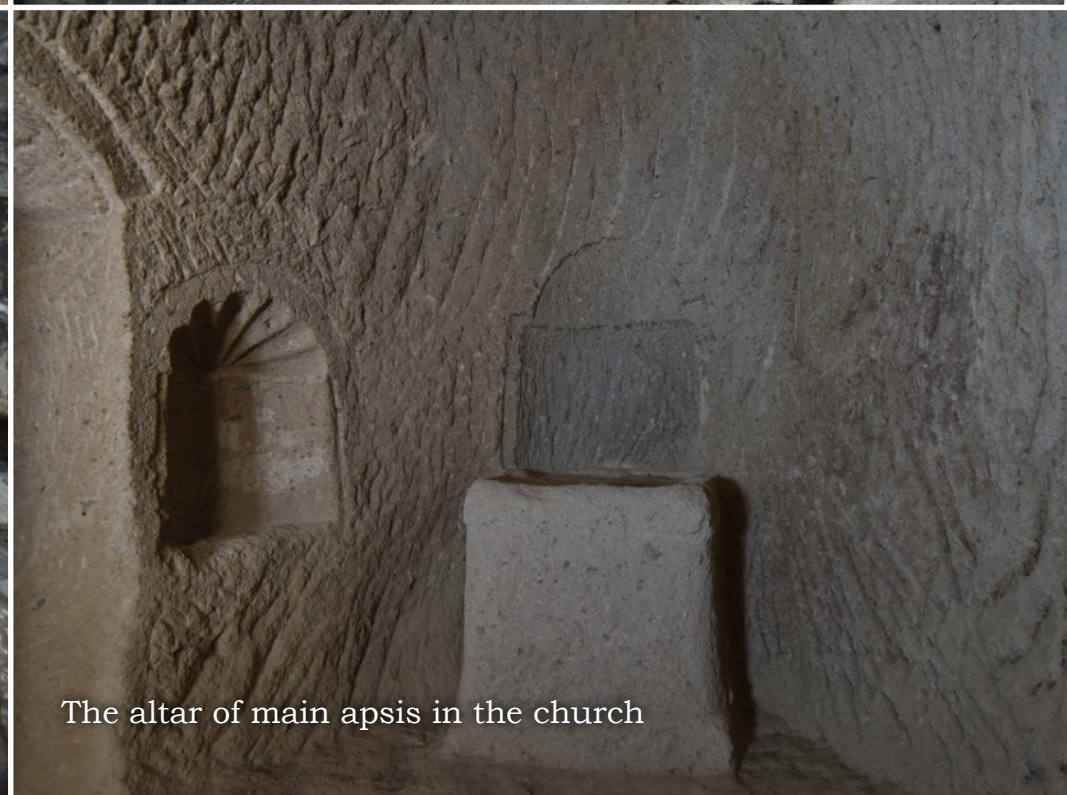
The naos of funerary chapel



The holly room Mevlana stay for seclusion



The holly room Mevlana stay for seclusion



The altar of main apsis in the church



Ak Monastery

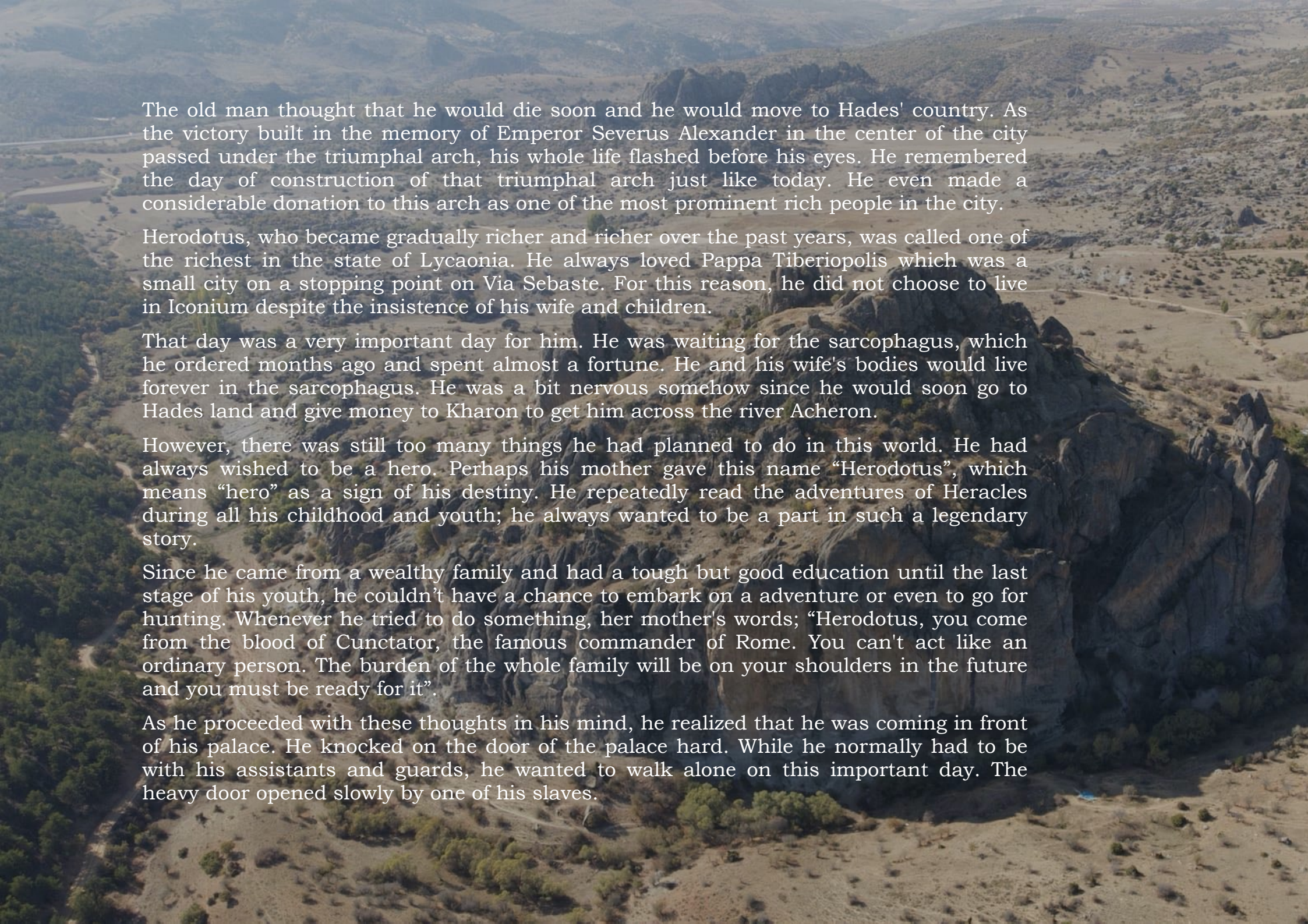


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15

Pappa

Tiberiapolis

The background of the text is an aerial photograph of a rugged, hilly landscape. The terrain is rocky and sparsely vegetated with small green shrubs and trees. A winding road or path is visible on the left side, leading through the hills. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

The old man thought that he would die soon and he would move to Hades' country. As the victory built in the memory of Emperor Severus Alexander in the center of the city passed under the triumphal arch, his whole life flashed before his eyes. He remembered the day of construction of that triumphal arch just like today. He even made a considerable donation to this arch as one of the most prominent rich people in the city.

Herodotus, who became gradually richer and richer over the past years, was called one of the richest in the state of Lycaonia. He always loved Pappa Tiberiopolis which was a small city on a stopping point on Via Sebaste. For this reason, he did not choose to live in Iconium despite the insistence of his wife and children.

That day was a very important day for him. He was waiting for the sarcophagus, which he ordered months ago and spent almost a fortune. He and his wife's bodies would live forever in the sarcophagus. He was a bit nervous somehow since he would soon go to Hades land and give money to Kharon to get him across the river Acheron.

However, there was still too many things he had planned to do in this world. He had always wished to be a hero. Perhaps his mother gave this name "Herodotus", which means "hero" as a sign of his destiny. He repeatedly read the adventures of Heracles during all his childhood and youth; he always wanted to be a part in such a legendary story.

Since he came from a wealthy family and had a tough but good education until the last stage of his youth, he couldn't have a chance to embark on a adventure or even to go for hunting. Whenever he tried to do something, her mother's words; "Herodotus, you come from the blood of Cunctator, the famous commander of Rome. You can't act like an ordinary person. The burden of the whole family will be on your shoulders in the future and you must be ready for it".

As he proceeded with these thoughts in his mind, he realized that he was coming in front of his palace. He knocked on the door of the palace hard. While he normally had to be with his assistants and guards, he wanted to walk alone on this important day. The heavy door opened slowly by one of his slaves.

"I'm going to the hall, call my wife to meet me there as soon as possible" said the old man. Then he walked through the palace and passed quickly from the inner courtyard to the hall. There was a very large room in the hall, which was furnished with luxurious furniture from Ephesus and curtains from Rome, and then he passed to the dining room. Despite all the expensive and luxurious furniture in this room, the thing he liked the most was the floor mosaic which was decorated according to his own will.

A gladiator figure who fought with a lion was located in the center of floor. He always depicts himself with that gladiator. His wife Lucilia, who was quite younger than him entered the room. Lucillia in expensive silk clothes said "I was finally able to see your face. Why you came out alone and without telling anyone. I was very worried that something terrible might happen to you". Her jewelry, made of large pearls around her ears and neck, complemented her rich outfit. He said; "Okay, okay, Lucillia, don't bother me with your unnecessary assumptions and fears. You know, today is an important day for me". The woman nodded him slowly and said, "I also heard that the sarcophagus you spent almost a small fortune would be ready today. You never listened to me. It was unnecessary to spend so much. I am sure there is not such an expensive sarcophagus even in the Metropol Iconium". Conversation cut by the servant slave who entered the hall.



Herakles Sarcophagus (detailed photo)



The ground bricks belong to Byzantinian period in Roman Palace

“What you expected had just arrived, my master. The whole city was talking about your sarcophagus. Now it had reached to the ruined castle near the city. Curious city people went out to witness this ”.

With full excitement Herodotus quickly went out of his place and rush towards the city entrance to meet his expensive order. When he reached the city gate, a crowd greeted him. When the car pulled by eight oxen from afar appeared, curious voices began to be heard louder. Children run around the car; they were slowly accompanying the car. When the other car carrying stonemasons and guards next to the carriage appeared, it was about to arrive.

When the group reached the city gate and saw the sarcophagus first, a huge disappointment substituted the curiosity of the people. The sarcophagus, which had been discussed and wondered for a long time, was covered with thick cotton and fabrics. According to rumors, it was said that there was no such a beautiful and expensive sarcophagus even in the city of Iconium. The real wonder everybody was so curious about was what was painted on the sarcophagus according to the wish of Herodotus.

Herodotus approached the car and welcomed the group, saying, "I am Herodotus Cunctator, you finally come". One of the officers in the car said, “Sir, perhaps we may be a little late, but thank God Zeus we were able to bring this valuable piece to you with out any problem.”

The same curiosity was observed inside the palace as well. When the cars and Herodotus reached the big courtyard of the palace, all the court residents and slaves gathered in the courtyard. Even Lucillia, who was opposed to this order from

the beginning, was looking at the big package in excitement and curiosity. Upon the order of Herodotus, the cotton and cloths surrounding the sarcophagus were removed.

There was a deep silence in the courtyard. No one there had ever seen such a beautiful and monumental sarcophagus in their lives. Although the figures on the sarcophagus were roughly cultivated as they could be damaged during travel, they were so detailed and beautiful. It looked as if the figures on the surface would come to the life at any moment.

Herodotus took a deep insight saying: “Here is my dear Lucillia, this is our eternal home. The masters will make it even much more beautiful and everyone who sees it will remember our names and power even if we are in Hades land”. Herodotus approached the sarcophagus and touched the surface. The sarcophagus was made from Dokimeion, the most expensive marble. That's why he spent that much money on the transportation of the sarcophagus as much as he paid its construction. But it was worth it. The marble was so white and smooth that as if it was made of elephant teeth, not stone.

The subject depicted on the sarcophagus was as great as the stone quality. He had wanted to carved the duties of the Heracles, whom he wanted to be like throughout his life. He thought although he could not have an adventurous life in his first life, he would embark on many adventures in the other world, Hades and he would see Kerberos closely. Herodotus was contented what he had now because he would have a living memory for many years. He felt a glow of eternal peace more than ever before.



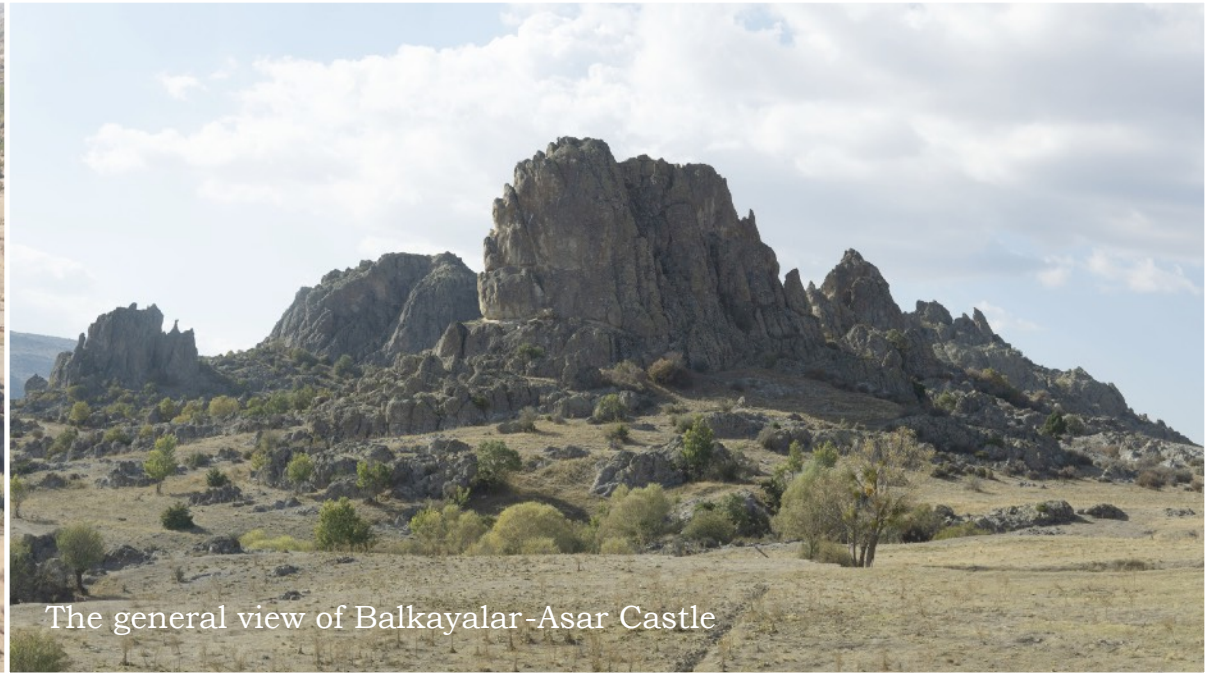
Roman Palace in Pappa Tiberiopolis



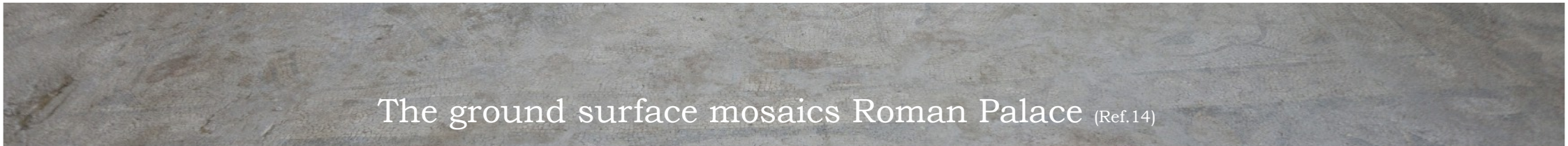
Roman Palace in Pappa Tiberiopolis



The general view of Balkayalar-Asar Castle



The general view of Balkayalar-Asar Castle



The ground surface mosaics Roman Palace (Ref.14)

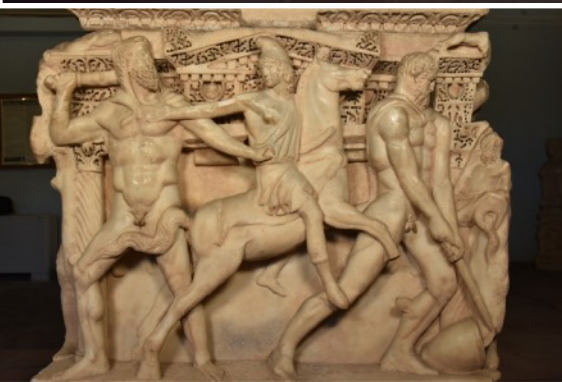




Herakles sarcophagus



The secret passage in Balkayalar-Asar Castle



Cult area in Balkayalar-Asar Castle



Pappa Tiberiapolis Ancient City



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- (Ref.1)
 - <https://www.pinterest.at/pin/513480795009728220/>
- (Ref.2)
 - <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.ankaragezginleri.com/catalhoyuk-neolitik-kenti/&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwjhzO2CrbjAhXxt3EKHfWpDKc4rAIQqoUBMAI6BAgKEAE&usg=AOvVaw0mA3iOoa95sCYon8AT7IkZ>
- (Ref.3)
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