

meat, meatballs and kebab specialists had neat and nice looking tents made of fishing nets. Meat was kept in these net tents where flies could not enter. During each meal all hands, the purchaser, the Chef, his deputy, the Kebab-master, the Pastry-master would appear before the Pasha in their clean garments with magnificent daggers and double chained knives. If he disliked a particular dish the Pasha would reproach them. While traveling, as soon as he reached a palace he would dismount his horse after the official ceremony and inspect baths, the treasury the Storehouse and the servants' quarters, then would bivouac his men. Soon after this he would walk to the kitchen. If he did not like the kitchen he would promptly order carpenters and cabinet makers who would build special desks and cabinets and white domes with ornaments for each master. He would have the walls, the chimneys and the ovens whitewashed. At two or three days intervals, he would make a surprise inspection of the kitchen. If he saw an outsider, or an unauthorized person, or noticed any dirty garments or dirty fingernails, or disliked the order of the kitchen, he would reproach the Chef and have the cooks' feet caned 200 times. However, when he saw neat and cleanly workers and proper order in the kitchen he would reward the men and would grant wage increases. Ever since his childhood the Pasha was famous for his cleanliness and neatness. All court servants were clean and neat people as well.

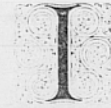
Whether in peace or in war, every morning men were served twenty plates of sweet smelling, spicy cakes and pastries. Also at sugar time, ten plates of breakfast meal were served to each of the seventeen officials such as the Treasurer, the Armourer, the Tailor, the Seal custodian. The Imam, my humble self and the Chief of the Mehter Band were also served breakfast. This all was very costly.



SOPHIA / The Dabbağoğlu Incident

(Upon uprising of the tradesfolk, Melek Ahmet Pasha is dismissed from office. After assassination of the Aghas and the Kösem Sultana, Melek Ahmet Pasha is assigned to Ozi as Governor. Evliya Çelebi accompanies him.)

(In his book entitled "Travel to the State of Ozi", he describes each town and province on the way to Sophia. Besides giving considerable details of the city at that time, he also tells about an incident he has witnessed in Sophia.)



IN INFANTRY SOLDIER by the name of Oşkorta, a bandit called Dabbağoğlu, one day gets drunk and enters a woman's house. While he is maltreating the woman her husband comes in. He rightfully loses his temper, pulls out his sword, wounds his wife and Oşkorta Dabbağoğlu, then ties their hands and shoves them outside crying "Followers of Mohammed, see, look here." and takes them to Bânâ Başı a place then frequented by lovers. There, the Janissaries start a fight over the woman. Dabbağoğlu loosens his ties and tries to take his whore from the Janissaries. But the Janissaries pull out their swords and cut Dabbağoğlu and his whore to pieces and leave them at Bânâ Başı.

A crowd of infantrymen and bachelors of the city carried the remains of Dabbağoğlu to the Pasha's palace and cried "The Janissaries have killed our Çelebi. Here are his remains". Pasha ordered "Take that carcass away and bury it". Dabbağ bandits took the corpse to Bânâ Başı. After this incident of Dabbağoğlu, the Pasha excelled all the prostitutes from the city. He had one or two prostitutes hung at corners of the city for all to see. The people of Sophia were grateful that the city was cleaned of prostitution. But the bandits and villains of the city spread rumours that there would follow a dearth, depletion and plagues.

Just then a severe plague started in the city which lasted about a month. Five hundred people died daily. Thousands escaped to other cities. Pasha himself also fell ill. His head swelled like a pumpkin, his tongue blackened and pus was flowing from his ears. He was fighting with death. The doctors had difficulty in finding the cure for him. The Pasha's men were desperate. After a long long time, the city of Sophia regained its calm and people resumed their usual pace of life. Messengers came from Istanbul to find the Pasha sick in bed. Pasha gave them fur coats and said "With God's permission we will start for Istanbul next week". He had all the letters from the Grand Vizier, Çerkes Der-viş Mehmet Pasha, the Viziers and Ministers, read out. These letters had such indications : "You will be made a second Vizier as soon as you reach Istanbul. Come here soon and regain your health". These refreshing news encouraged the Pasha and all Aghas and everyone started to prepare for the voyage to Istanbul.



Story of a Robber : Kara Haydaroğlu



CERTAIN KARA HAYDAR, who rebelled after the murder of a Kadı, undertakes attacks in various villages, kills innocent people and robs them of their money and properties. The Sultan issues a decree according to which he is to be killed.

He is caught unawares in his hiding place, the house is set on fire and he himself is killed while he attempts to run away. Thus, the roads are safe once again.

Then, however, his son Kara Haydaroğlu, who wants vengeance for his father's death, comes into the picture. Hundreds of thousands of people are bothered by him, while he always manages to escape from his persecutors...

In an inn Evliya Çelebi meets the robber without realizing his identity and even strikes up a friendship with him. The governor of Kütahya Küçük Çavuş Pasha organizes the search for the robber and his band. He himself takes the command. The men of Kara Haydaroğlu associate themselves with others, defeat the soldiers and imprison the Pasha. They bring the tightly bound Pasha to their leader.

"The Government has his dignity," said Haydaroğlu and here after threatens him :

"Don't you dare to persecute me again under the flag of this government."

The Pasha had to swear never to come again and consequently he was given his freedom. But another person is not happy with

horses. Suddenly we found out that we were surrounded by about 50 soldiers on horseback. But thank God they did not harm us. In the following night we had a very interesting discussion. To Evliya Çelebi we gave a gun and 300 pieces of gold and we all spent a very gay evening," the robber told us and started to weep.

Deeply touched I said :

"Do not weep Haydaroğlu. When you are brought before the Sultan beg him for your life and ask him to send you to Kreta to Deli Hüseyin Pasha. Beg him to give you the opportunity to spend your life fighting against the enemies of the Belief."

"Ah, Evliya" retorted Haydaroğlu, "what is the point of all this after death has already come? Should I by any means beg for a life of nothing?"

"Of course you should," I said. "You still can take part in the conquest of Kreta and can become a sandjakkbey. If you convey this idea to the Sultan he will be pleased by it."

"Ah Evliya you talk so well but I have already done away with myself."

He freed his thigh and I saw the big, open wound. I did not believe my eyes; it was swarming with worms. Finger wide worms.. The smell made me dizzy.

"Evliya," said the robber, "you brought me solace. May Allah be pleased with you." He reached into his vest pocket and brought out a gold watch with an enamel lid. He handed it to me and said; "It is yours."

Twenty years ago when I was travelling to Damascus, his father had attacked us and Kara Haydar, the father, had stolen this watch which later came in to the possession of his son.

"The watch, once, had belonged to me my master," exclaimed I with joy.

"That is true" said Haydaroğlu. "My late father gave it to me out of your belongings. Now it is yours again. During the trip it reminded me of you every single hour and each time I said, this is the watch of Evliya Çelebi, the relative of Melek (Angel) Ahmed Pasha. Then I would tell of our journeys to the mountains... Ask Hasan Ağa."

Like this we chatted about this and that until evening and I kept on consoling him again and again.

Next morning a good doctor arrived from Üsküdar. He then proceeded to wash the wound with an eighty year old wine and removed the rotten parts of the flesh. The bone itself was broken to pieces. The doctor said that it would never heal again. The wound was bandaged and the prisoner sent to Istanbul to the Grand Vizier, accompanied by a large escort. My humble self was also included to observe the continuity of this drama.

When the robber was brought in I was standing by Süleyman Bey, the son of the Grand Vizier.

Grand Vizier Mehmet Pasha, who belonged to the Dervish class of the Mewlevis then, started the interview :

"Why were you a thief for so long? Why did you kill so many people?"

When Haydaroğlu recognized the cap of the Mewlevis on the Grand Vizier he addressed himself to him accordingly. "Dede Efendi," he said, "I am a wolf, the son of a wolf. A merchandise sells the same way as it was bought. One does what one learns from father. The judgement of the act is only God's right."

"Why should we send him to Kreta now?" retorted the Grand Vizier, who had seen to it that Hasan Ağa and 40 of his men were presented with valuable Kaftans.

Then the Grand Vizier asked : "Haydaroğlu, why have you Murdered Küçük (little) Çavuş Pasha, the Vizier from Kütahya?"

"It was wartime and this is how it is when there is war. When he was brought to me tied with ropes I thought that a great Ottoman Vizier has his pride and dignity. So I gave him back his things and let him on his way. But somewhere outside he was captured by Kalışcıoğlu and was killed. I myself know nothing about it and I am not guilty." "And what about those many others you killed and the State belongings you stole?" asked the Grand Vizier again. But without waiting for an answer he preceded :

"And your father also has been a thief for so many years. Where are the treasures that he and you stole during all this time?"

In which cities and in which ditches have you hidden these purloined goods?"

"For this my Master, the justice will be established on Judgement Day. By no means shall I betray so many people who have followed me and helped me. I will not divulge the hiding places of the purloined treasures that may be hidden at your or other peoples' places just to save by already wasted life. Every morning has its evening Grand Vizier; yesterday I was born, today I shall die. Do exactly what you have to do."

The Grand Vizier granted a look to the robber, a look in which both irritation and admonition was mingled. Then he said:

"So be it. What else can I do?"

Turning to the security officer he ordered:

"Take him away to Parmakkapı and hang him..."

The robber was lifted to a horse and the procession of doom departed. Escorted by a crowd of guards and people Haydaroğlu rode, a defeated lion, looking around with obvious mockery. I also mounted my horse and followed him from a certain distance to Parmakkapı, but not without fighting back the tears.

When destination was finally reached, a rope was put around the robber's neck and the other end of the rope tied to a tree. The horse was pulled away and Haydaroğlu breathed out his soul. His deeds of evil remained a secret between him and his God.....



The Palace of Abdal Khan - His Bath - His Feasts

WHEN MELEK (ANGEL) AHMED PASHA became the governor of Van, Evliya Çelebi also went with him.

After a short rest in Diyarbakır they arrive at Bitlis where they stay a few days as guests of Abdal Khan in his palace.

From the treasury one enters the bathroom hall where the numerous windows, adorned with bronze and iron cage work which look like carvings, open to the garden. The carved window shutters have been sent from Tabriz as a gift of the Persian Khan. The sills are covered with black amber. The window tops and all of the hall is decorated with writings by Mehmet Rıza Tabrizis, a famous calligrapher.

The writing includes a poem from Fuzuli, praising the bathroom.

In the middle of the hall there was a water basin from which 300 fountains were spurting water to the ceilings. The servants, all Circassian and Georgian slaves, were dressed and adorned with jewels. In the richly decorated belts, they had stuck precious daggers and knives. As footwear they wore wooden shoes with mother of pearl decorations. They looked like peacocks from paradise. Respectfully they were handing shoulder covers and mother of pearl decorated wooden shoes to the bathing guests.

The hall led to a lukewarm room covered with an immense dome. The walls are covered with tiles. The dome is ornated with innumerable chandeliers. The middle of this room represents the actual bathroom. One that enters it feels as if he is floating in

lights. This is because the dome is not held by the walls but almost only by columns between which are panels made of rare chrystals and transparent, gleaming glasses. Sunrays that reflect from these glass walls, turn the bath to a fascinatingly shimmering sea of lights.

Yonder the panels the room resembles a garden of Eden in which thousands of nightingales are singing while on the roof various kinds of other singing birds can be observed. In the middle of the bathroom decorated with semi-precious stones like jades, turquoises, garnets, ambers etc.; is placed a large waterbasin which resembles birds'eyes. The basin is coated with tiles; many faucets are made of gold and silver.

Adorable slaves, covered either by white or red clothes, help washing by providing soft towels and perfumed soaps, so that one loses his senses from sheer happiness. The fragrance of musk which is being burnt in all kinds of vapour containers is filling the room. All along the forty years of traveling my humble self had never seen the likes of this. Only God knows how much it had cost.

When Sultan Murat the conqueror of Bagdad took a bath here, the cold water was mixed with rosewater and the hot with incense. In a bathing booth he was attended by five black masseurs and five unusually lovely slaves who resembled houries or angels. It is said that the Sultan, overwhelmed with joy, sighed contently and said: "Oh, I wish I had this bath in my residence," And truly it was something to long for.

After we and the Pasha departed from the bathroom and headed for the table that according to the prevailing etiquette and the habits of the Khan had been laid in honour of the Pasha. Exactly 200 silver plates all filled with delicious foods were brought in. Most of the meals were rice dishes prepared in different ways and soups. Slaves, dressed in gold - yellow, and richly adorned, with gold and silver woven clothes clad around their hips stood respectfully and attentively in a row to serve the Pasha. I simply can not find the right word to describe adequately the napkins, the spoons with jewel covered handles, the sherbet bowls and all the other table ware. Therefore I am not going to dwell on that subject any longer. The Khan and the Pasha sat down with the sons of the Khan lined up on their left and right, and they began to eat.

The quantity they ate and the orgies they went through is unmatchable. On the other side of the table the Ağas of the Pasha and the Khan were seated.

After the meal, golden bowls were carried in, our hands were washed with fragrant soaps. Then a pile of napkins was brought in to be distributed on the laps of the guests, who were sitting on the carpet.

Compot spoons made from cocowood, boxwood, mother of pearls walnut wood, iron etc., each single one priceless by itself were placed on the table.

Fifty other slaves carried in fifty bowls which I am not in a position to describe.

Later Mocca, Salebi, tea, sherbet jelly, and milk was served in jewel covered little cups.

For breakfast there was sweet meals, jellies pastries etc., every day. Lunch was always as pictured above. So was dinner. Thus, ten days and ten nights did the Khan honour his guest the Pasha. He also extended his hospitality to Pasha's escort 3060 men, his soldiers and servants.

After the meal the Khan said to the Pasha:

"We also have a couple of acrobats at our service. If you wish to come to the lower garden you may see their performance." The Pasha went to the garden and was seated on a raised place where from he could observe everything very nicely.

First came the famous acrobat Zenguzar. Cladded in a black leather dress, he faced the Pasha, kissed the floor and recited a short prayer.

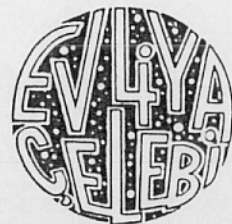
Then he started to run around the courtyard with such a speed that race horses could not have been able to pace with him. When the circuit ended he was in front of the Pasha. Giving out a loud "Ya Allah", he made a triple summersault in the air and again landed safely on both his legs. That was followed by another summersault of four turns in the air. After that, the acrobat performed a whole series of neckbreaking tricks that were beyond the endurance of a normal human being. Head, arms and legs rolled together as he moved around the courtyard like a paper windmill.

As his next feat of daring, he put three bottles one on the other, took a run, made a summersault and winded up standing on the bottles. Then he jumped down. He placed three more bottles on them and made two towers of six bottles each. The bottles were so thin that the wind could shake them, back and forth. Six bottles one on the other, were taller than a man's height. He backed up 40 or 50 meters, jumped up once and shot up like an arrow from a stretched bow. When he reached the bottles he screamed "Aia Hi", jumped up very high and landed on the two rows of bottles. From there he saluted the Pasha, jumped down, kissed the ground and stepped aside.

After him came the turns of the other acrobats. Hammers made in Bitlis are matchless. The tailors there are so agile that dresses sewed by them look as if they had no stitches.

The dyes of Bitlis as well as the arrows and bows are also famous.

Nine days and nights did Melek (Angel) Ahmet Pasha stay as a guest of the Khan of Bitlis. On the tenth day he accepted the valuable gifts of the Khan, his host, and left for Van. Before leaving, the Khan requested from the Pasha that my humble self should stay on a few more days. Thus I spent three more glorious and exciting days as a guest of the Khan. At the end of the three days he wished me a good journey and I, loaded with precious gifts, followed the Pasha to Van...



The People of Trabzon and their Occupation Trabzon's Food and Beverages



IN THE YEAR OF 1640, Evliya Çelebi, after his stays in Bursa and Izmit, goes to Trabzon with Ketenci Ömer Pasha. After a detailed description of Trabzon, its big and small mosques, its medreses, inns, baths etc. he writes:

"Because of its pleasant climate, its panoramic beauties the majority of the people in Trabzon are specially fond of amusements. They are inclined to drinking and making love. However, they hold work in the same level of importance as their pleasure and amusement. Carefree and airy, they are tender lovers and faithful friends. The women are Abhasian, Georgian and Circassian beauties, each one a beauty queen in her own right.

The population is divided into seven groups. There are the State employees and other high ranking Beys who walk around wrapped in ermine coats. The second group are the scholars, the people of knowledge, who wear their own costumes of definite distinction.

The third group are the merchants who go on business trips to Asow, Kazak, Meril, Abhaza, Circassianland and Crimea. They wear woolen dresses, Ferace, (coats with large sleeves) Kontuş (furskirt) Dolama, (wrap) and yelek (waistcoat.)

The fourth group includes the industrialists. These gentlemen dress in buğans and "feraces".

The fifth group are sailors whose attire includes a waistcoat, a baggy trouser and a long wrap. Around their hips they wind an "Astar". They trade on the high seas and thus earn their living.

The sixth group are the vineyard keepers and the gardeners. In Göztepe only, there are approximately more than thirty thousand vineyards and gardens.

Finally there is the seventh group that includes the fishermen. In Trabzon people are very fond of fish.

Goldsmiths of Trabzon are the best in the world. Various kinds of incense containers, rosewater pitchers, swords, daggers and kitchen knives that are hand made here are unique and not to be found anywhere else. The famous «Gurguroğlu» knives and also the axes known as «Trabzon Axes» are manufactured here. Fascinating handwork concerning mother of pearl is also very widely known.

Trabzon's cherries, pears and grapes have the loveliest taste. A special kind of fig called "Aubergine" fig, grows in this area. Also famous are Trabzon lemons, citrus, granadines and olives. They have seven different qualities of olives here. Dates are dried in the ovens and sent to all of the Provinces. These dates just taste divine. There are many kinds of flowers in Trabzon. There is a kind of carnation that resembles a pinkish red rose. Without its stem it weighs 5 or 6 dirhems.

Of the fish, Levrek (seabass) and Kefal (mullet) taste exquisite. Apart from the Tekir, a fish with a red head and about a head long, and the Uskumru (mackerel) there are innumerable others. The best liked of all is the Hamsi (anchovy) for which the men of Trabzon quarrel and even fight with each other while making transactions.

"Give me a Makrama (towel) full of Hamsi," they say and after they wrap the fish in the gold and silver embroidered Makrama they happily head for home. Sometimes on their way it happens that the water dirzzles down. Then the pranksters and the jokesters call after them :

"Don't let the good water be wasted. You could cook yourself a rice dish with it."

The fish has many advantages. It requires only seven days of consumption for one to realize the unbelievable and unusual strength the muscles have developed. Because it does not have an unpleasant odour, those who relish eating it have no indigestion. Bodily pains disappear right after having eaten the fish.

Serpents and poisonous centipedes flee from their hiding place in the house, when these spots are vapoured with Hamsi heads. Hamsi has numerous uses in the kitchen. The people of Trabzon cook about forty different kinds of meals with Hamsi. Hamsisoups, hamsiroasts, hamsistew, hamsipies, and even hamsi baklava (sweet pastry) are served in Trabzon. A meal cooked in a frying pan and called "pilâki" is equally favoured.

First the fish is cleaned, sliced to ten pieces and put on small skewers. Parsley, onions, celery and bay leaves are finally shred, seasoned with cinnamon and salt and all ingredients mixed well.

The Hamsi on skewers are put in the pan and covered with one layer of the mixture. Olive oil and water is added. After one hour it is removed from the fire. It really is a very delicious meal.

On the mountains there are pine trees, and in the vineyards cypresses and walnut trees.

Outside the Zağnos gates there is an oak tree. On holidays the Pashas go there with their soldiers and play Cirit which is a horseman's game played with spears. The place is very large. In the center three shipmasts are tied together and topped with a golden ball. The horsemen stop their horses and aim at the ball. Those who reach the target are rewarded accordingly.



The House of the Wrestler

YOUNGMEN FROM RUMELİ gather here every Friday. 70 or 80 pairs of stalwarts, all rubbed down with grease, meet to wrestle with each other. After the hug and the hand kiss they catch each other around the neck and thus the fight starts. Through yells of encouragement they are provoked to wrestle. With bare legs and naked chests they often fight for hours, using all kinds of tricks, but not being able to have the referees and the spectators draw up a decision.

Finally one or the other manages to detect the weak point of his opponent and to revenge himself by trapping him. Strength of the muscles means manhood for the wrestlers. But trapping is more important. According to a proverb manhood at a fight means "ten", of which nine parts are tricks. In reality this is the truth.

The wrestling house, although not strongly constructed, is in good condition. It has many partitions, a kitchen and a garden. In the yard are hanging the belongings of the former wrestlers: iron bows, truncheons, unusual bows and arrows, and also greasy trousers made of Buffalo hide and each weighing 40 or 50 okkas. (Okka = 1282 grams.)



Melek (Angel) Ahmet Pasha becomes Grand Vizier

(Between the periods of 1650 to 1662, Evliya Çelebi held the post of head-muezzin and accountant for Melek Ahmet Pasha. Together with the Pasha they reside at the province of Özi and Rumeli. Many events connected with the Pasha and which are narrated as personal experiences. Below is described how the Pasha, after having been governor in many provinces becomes Grand Vizier. The steps he took and the decision he made are related along with his dismissal in the end.)

IN AUGUST 1ST 1650, Sultan Murad IV held a great State meeting in his little palace Çimensofa in which participated many religious leaders and Viziers. Since the governor of Bagdad, Nogayoğlu Arslan Pasha had died, it was to be determined who was to be elected as his successor. Grand Vizier Murad Pasha took the lead:

"My Lord and Master, your Lala, Melek Ahmet Pasha has just arrived from Bagdad. He knows well about the situation there and also got along with the Persians so famously. Therefore may you honour him with this task?"

Upon this the Sultan turned to Melek Ahmet Pasha and said: "Melek, my Lala. I donate you again the Province of Bagdad."

"I accept it my Lord and Master", said the Pasha, "only the terror and tyranny imposed on the folk by the Yanizaris has gone beyond the limits of endurance. The Yanizari Ağa and the Vizier of Bagdad do as they please. Give out a decree for the removal of ten of these tyrants."

Consequently he received three packs of gold as travelling fare, 50 guns, 50 harnesses, 50 camels, 50 mules, a new attractive tent and a decree on his appointment as head commander.

The Pasha got up, kissed the hand of the Sultan and bid farewell to the Viziers and other high Comissioners. From the palace Sinan Pasha, at Sarayburnu, he took the boats with his escort and went to Üsküdar wherefrom he was to head for Bagdad. There he stayed a couple of days in his palace.

His wife Kaya Sulta nalso prepared for the journey. To see Bagdad, my humbleself who was serving the Pasha as head mu-ezzin and accountant, also proceeded in preparations.

On August 7, 1650, Hasan Ağa, chief of the Imperial Chancellery together with the commander of the Palace garden arrived by boat and told the Pasha that his Majesty the Sultan wanted to see him.

"I hope its good news;" said the Pasha with a worried expression.

"It is good news for which I have deserved a recompense" answered Hasan Ağa

The Pasha took a boat. While we were still on our way we were met by another boat coming from the direction of the Sinan Pasha Palace. When it got closer we recognized the Chief of the Palace eunuche.

"Blessed winds good news;" he called to us.

At Sarayburnu, the Pasha was met by the Commander of the Palace Guard and other high officials who were all decorated with medals. Then he was taken to the Çimensofa, the Imperial Garden. Many high officials of the Divan (High Court) Viziers, the Sheich-u-Islam; the Kazaskers and other important personages were gathered. Only I could not see the Grand Vizier Kara Murad Pasha.

The Sultan came in and after the greetings seated himself on the throne. He immadiately turned to Melek Ahmet Pasha and said :

"Melek, my Lala, your trip did not last long. You do not need to go to Bagdad any longer. I have entrusted you with the Honourable Seal."

He took the Seal taken away from Murad Pasha and handed it personally to Melek Pasha. Melek Pasha received it, kissed the floor and said :

"My Master, I accept the Seal, but may nobody from either inside or outside the Palace cause me any hinderance in my work. Nobody should ask for something and thus interfere with matters connected with the Moslems."

He paused for a while and continued :

«Do lend me a thousand bags of Gold from the treasury so that I may form a big fleet, go to Kreta with the Seal, conquer Kandia and take revenge from the Genuas. I hope that thus and by, praying for the prosperity of the Sultan we shall render valuable services to our religion.»

When Melek Ahmet Pasha ended his sentence the Sultan said :

"Lala Murad Pasha has the hundred bags of gold you need. Take it from him and use it to form your fleet."

"My master," retorted Melek Pasha, "I like to provide the one thousand bags of golds myself. To your Lala Murad Pasha, give the Province of Budin."

His request was granted. Murad Pasha received Budin and felt like a newborn babe. After that many people swarmed the palace of the Pasha. Many highranking officials and tradesmen came. The crowd that kept on coming for seven days and nights were so big that we could hardly move. During this period money was spent like water. Our hands got tired from collecting money to be used at various services.

On the day Melek Ahmet Pasha received the Seal, the Kızlar-ğa (head of the eunuchs) came to see him and brought him the following message from the Sultan :

"May your new job be blessed. May the mighty Allah aid and abet you in everything and may He lead you in the path of righteousness. Show Yourself.."

He brought the Pasha a Kaftan like the ones that the Sultans wear and a fur. When the Pasha put it on the underofficers of the Divan wished him that the Kaftan may bring him luck and that he may live long.

"May God grant a long life to the Sultan," they shouted. To the chief of the eunuchs the Pasha gave a bag of gold and a fur. Princess Kaya also was very happy and distributed twenty bags

of gold among the ağas. My humble self also received 300 kuruş. Everybody young and old, rich and poor rejoiced the event.

On the 14th day of the Ramazan, the month of fasting, the new Grand Vizier, followed by a great procession led by the Molla of Istanbul and including the representative of the State and the Ağa of the city, went to his executive quarters at Unkapı, by the provision room where once Sultan Mehmet the conqueror also had a seat.

At his first official dealing he brought together many ship captains from Black Sea, bakers, millers and cargo owners. He asked how much corn costed at the Black Sea Ports. Since a 300 dirhem weighing white bread was priced one Akce, he accordingly set a maximum price. For meat he set a price of 7 akce. Later he went to the Fatih vegetable market and there he also set maximum prices for rice, beans, greenpeas, lentils, henna, sugar, coffee etc... From there he returned to the Palace.

Our nights turned into holynights and our days into holydays...



A Revolution



EVLIYA ÇELEBI related to us in detail all the steps undertaken by the Pasha during his assignment. Suddenly though, the situation changed.

The Turkmen Ağa Abaza Kara Hasan Pasha rebels and soldiers are sent against him. After long and tiresome fights the revolutionaries are suppressed and imprisoned. The goods are loaded and they march in the direction of Istanbul. In Üsküdar, the commander of the returning troops is faced with an order from Melek Ahmet Pasha which calls for an execution of many of the prisoners. The leaders however do not agree with this.. Finally many are aided in their escape and the Ağa Hanifi and Dasnih Emirze murdered. The order calling for execution arouses a mistrust against Melek Ahmet Pasha among the troops.

Since Melek Pasha was to be blamed for Hanifi's and Dasnih Emirze's unfair deaths, the people of the Metropole estranged themselves more and more from him and his people and also from the Yanizari leader. Thus a disaster befalls him.

When the Kosaks of Moscow surrounded the citadelle Azak (Asow), Mehmet Giray was the first to escape the invasion. Messengers sent from there brought the following news to Istanbul .

"Provisions and munitions are completely exhausted. Money, we have not seen over a year. If money does not arrive we shall leave the citadelle as it is and go on our way."

At the Divan the decision reached was that Ibrahim Pasha the District Leader of Kefe (Theodosia) be made responsible to

provide provisions and munitions. 70.000 kurus were to be taken out from the State treasury, distributed to the craftsmen and in return the same to be collected in gold to be sent to Azak.

The money was taken from the treasury, but traitors exchanged the coins with less valuable ones. The superintendent who was from Diyarbakır had planned to give 770 camel loads of red material from Diyarbakır and Kayseri and also alum, to the craftsman who were to pay triple price for these. Through the changed coins they had planned to get the gold that was traded for 180 akçes, for 120 akçes.

The craftsmen rebelled and came to the Pasha with their complaints.

"Sir," they said, "this is an outrageous injustice against us poor craftsmen. Not less than the wrong done to Haccac Yusuf."

"Sir you shall prevent it," they said and insisted. So the Pasha adressed himself to the accountant and superintendent.

"Why did you impose red material and alum on these people?" he asked.

"In the Hodca Inn a cloth seller died. There was enough merchandise allotted to the treasury anyway. So we distributed the cloth. What does it matter? What if you help the soldiers of Azak a little?"

The Pasha believed both of the men and said to the spokesmen :

"You can both go." "It does not matter wether you help the population or the defenders. Let us extend some assistance to Azak."

Those who were present got very excited and they all yelled : "Why this injustice against us Moslems?" Some elders with snow white beards stood up and said :

Grand Vizier turn this wrong away from us."

The Pasha got very mad. He snatched the stick away from the hands of the head doorman and started beating around so that some of them fell and some ran away with broken bones.

"Be witness you people," shouted the Ağas.

"He called us Jews, he assaulted us with a stick and crippled us. He did not straighten out the wrong done to you. Hence he is not entitled to be the Grand Vizier of the Sovereign."

They immediately went to see Nakıbyl Eşraf Efendi (representative of the Sheriff of Mekka in İstanbul) and the Sheichulislam Aziz Efendi and gained their esteem. They expressed their distrust toward the Pasha. His dismissal they had decided to take up the next day.



Among the Rebels with Hüseyin Ağa

(First all the shops were closed, the mosques locked and the craftsmen armed. On the 14th day of the Ramazan the people gathered at the Atmeydan and from there started walking towards the palace. The Sultan asked what they requested. Noisily they demanded that the Grand Vizier and 70 others be handed over. The mob wanted the Grand Vizier to resign and the others to be killed. The turmoil lasted exactly three hours. The superintendent advises Melek Ahmet Pasha to set up a barricade of soldiers against the plunderers. One of the Pasha's men drags himself out of the rear door.)



HE PASHA HAD ASKED :

"Who would be able to inform us in detail on the terrible uproar of the Folk?" But there was nobody willing to undertake this task. Then Hasan Ağa rose and said :

"My Lord, our soldiers are brave and experienced whereas these others, without an exception have no brains. If about a thousand of our soldiers would walk towards the palace from the gate behind the Harem and order them to stop, and if meanwhile the Ağas of the Harem would start shooting on the mob from the palace windows then no one will be able to escape."

"Your name Melek (Angel) is not fitting you Grand Vizier. The whole folk damns you instead of praising you and wishing you well. Allow me to side my life for you and go to the place of the pillage to see and hear and also say something if you permit it. Do not forget to pray for me."

When he quieted down the Pasha said :

"How nice. May Allah save us. But Hüseyin Ağa you talk differently. You speak so well whereas they are nothing but a heap

of good-for-nothings. Go pass them by, walk directly to the Sheihulislam and tell him that according to his request the collecting of gold has been postponed."

After many recommendations he said :

"Let yourself be seen again." And then as usual the Fatiha (first sure of the Koran) was recited. Then he addressed himself to me :

"Evliya, my son you also go. Always take advice from Hüseyin Ağa and do not leave his side. Never fear those people because no evil can befall you. Go. May Allah facilitate your task." Again he recited the Fatiha and blew upon me (a religious proceeding.)

I exchanged the turban with the cap of a knight, put on a large fabric trouser, clad myself in a wrap of a slave, stuck a sword in my girdle and went with Hasan Ağa through the door. Nobody was to be seen. Obviously they were afraid to come directly under the windows of the Palace. When we mixed among the soldiers who were armed up to their teeth, the smell of gunpowder made breathing almost impossible.

I was completely dazzled.

Hüseyin Ağa was dressed in a cloth trimmed with gorgeous ermine and a turban. He was followed by twelve richly dressed slaves and made his way to the water faucets in front of the Palace of the Sultan and meanwhile he kept on greeting to his right and left. When he pushed some of the soldiers to clear his path one of them shouted :

"Back Ağa. Where do you go."

His answer was :

"I go to that insolent leader of yours." I was terrorized.

They retorted :

"The leaders you want see are us. If you have something to say speak up."

"I only speak with men who do not blabber and who prove that they are men with their speech." So spoke Hasan Ağa and was about to leave when one of them letting out a curse asked :

"Do you not like us? You are talking nonsense."

My humbleself became aware of the danger of the situation and hurried to interfere :

"Warriors, this is not a matter of likes or dislikes. The Ağa is on his way to see the Müftü, the supporter of our religion. The Vizier sends you his greetings. He has done away with the gold collecting order."

When I said that exclamations were heard here and there :

"May Allah praised with the Vizier."

Others said, "Clear the way for the Ağa."

Straightforward Hüseyin Ağa made his way through the crowd.

"Why have you schemed this calamity you people? Has his eminency the *Kadızađe* not often enough preached against this at the Aya Sophia, and did he not have the coffee rooms closed to prevent this? What are you waiting for disperse and head for your homes. Otherwise they will shoot at you from the windows of the Palace with canons. When the soldiers catch you from both sides you will mercilessly be handed over to the Vizier."

While he was uttering these words my humbleself was staying a little in the background. One of the rebels with the end of his gun pushed the turban off the head of Hüseyin Ağa. Upon this hideous act Hasan Ağa cursed in his *Láz* dialect and blew his fist upon the face of the rebel. I saw that the mob was getting wilder. I mingled with the crowd and remained unnoticed. I watched the way they were working on Hüseyin Ağa with fits and with their feet, and how they chased with swords in their hands down to the Harem. There they took away his fur coat and pulled him now to the arc where the water faucets were.

At the entrance of the Harem they left him unconscious. One took away his purse, his watch and his dagger and then ran away. Then Hüseyin Ağa fought with himself; though in vain, to lift himself up.

I jumped down the slope and ran as fast as my legs carried me to the gates of our palace :

"Open the gate quickly, It is I Evliya Çelebi," I shouted. Finally after overcoming many difficulties, the gates opened and I was let in. I went straight to the Pasha and related the whole story. I also told him that Hasan Ağa was lying under the windows of the Harem.

"Did I not say that he was uncautious. Let us hope that he remains alive," the Pasha remarked. Then turning to the ones who were present he asked :

"Is there not anybody among you who would dare to bring him in? I shall pay hundred pieces of Gold for him."

The people departed. I climbed up the window to see how Hüseyin Ağa was coming along. Ana lo and behold what did I see. A man carrying a stone was approaching him.

"You damned tyrant." The man screamed full of hatred :

"Were you not the one who, after the death of Sarı Ginar Efendi deprived me of my post as the artillery commander? Now, this is your punishment."

He threw the stone on Hüseyin Ağa's chest and ran away. As if revived anew Hasan Ağa sat up but slid back to the floor immediately.

Then suddenly a slave appeared, took him on his back like a bag, brought him to the gate which was opened with great difficulty and pain and they were both taken in.

The heavily wounded sores were quickly bandaged and he was buried in horsemanure until the arrival of the doctor. Meanwhile many trustworthy soldiers were ordered to face the highly armed folk. The Gate Was torn open;.....



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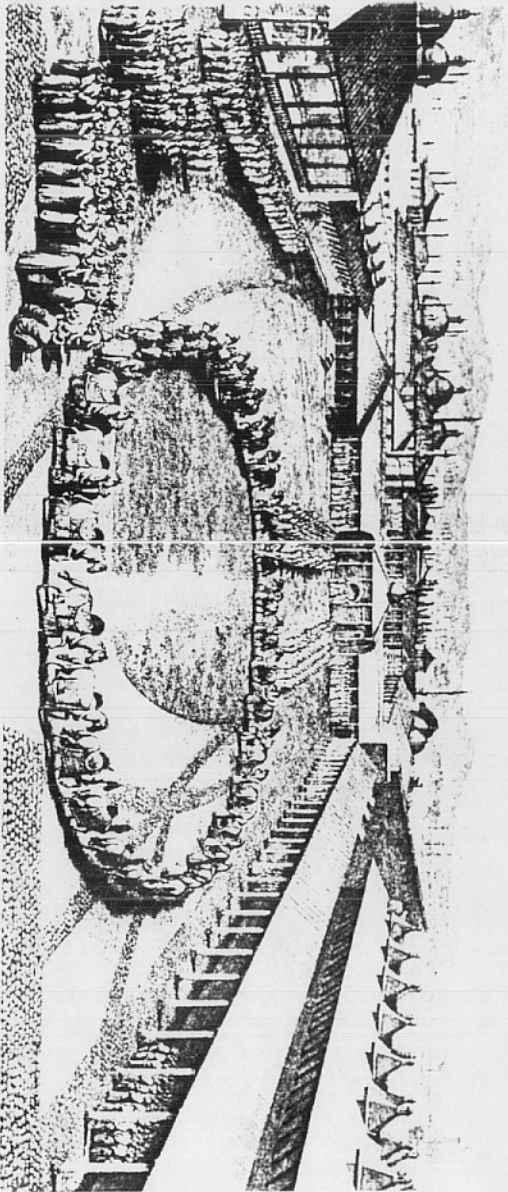
EVLIYA ÇELEBİ *Reşat Ekrem Koçu*

SEYAHATNAME *Mustafa Nihat Özön*

EVLIYA ÇELEBİ SEYAHATNAMESİ *Kemal Hulusi*

EVLIYA ÇELEBİ'NİN HAYATI *Leman Nusret*

EVLIYA ÇELEBİ SEYAHATNAMESİ *Nimet Kiper*



The Ceremony made in front of the Sultan in the Second
Courtyard of the Palace on the Day before the Feast

Kara Haydaroğlu's decision. He locates the Pasha, kills him and robs him of his richness.

After this event the robbers between Kırşehir and Alaşehir get themselves thousands of new followers, inflict many damages by robbing houses and killing people.

One day, after the enthronement of Sultan Mehmet, Abaza Kara Hasan is assigned by the Sultan to capture the robber. "I want Kara Haydar's head or yours." said the Sultan. After three successive fights, Kara Haydar is wounded but manages to escape. The soldiers of course are feeling very low. Next day a man comes and tells them where the robber is hiding. An ambush is planned and the robber finally is caught.

The robber was wounded from the proximity of his thigh. He takes an iron pipe, fills it with gun powder, puts it on the wound and lights it. Thus the flesh of the whole thigh is completely torn.

The day on which the robber was brought to the presence of the Grand Vizier, we were in Üsküdar on our way to Damascus. There were about a hundred thousand soldiers. When the army passed by our headquarters, I saw that Hasan Ağa was heading towards the Dervish Monastery where he was going to stay. The Monastery lay right across from my tent.

Kara Haydaroğlu was sitting in a cart pulled by two horses: he had a yellow silk scarf around his head and a fur on his back. He was very weak and obviously very light in weight. He was greeting both sides.

They took him to a room of the Monastery. The Turkmen commander immediately informed the Grand Vizier :

"The traitor Kara Haydaroğlu has been caught with the help of your excellency. How should he be brought to your excellency's presence and how should we see the Sultan?"

Right after that he came and conversed with our master, Murteza Pasha who greeted him with these words :

"May your Lord be praised. You have proved great mastery with your sword. When the Sultan honoured me by giving the ruling of Syria he had told me to catch Kara Haydaroğlu so that

the road to Mecca would be safe for the people; but Allah wanted you to be the one."

Kara Hasan Ağa told the Pasha about the numerous fights with the robbers in such a way that the people present became very impressed by the courage and the bravery of the robbers Kara Haydaroğlu, Katircioğlu, and Akyakıoğlu.

Later my humble self met Kara Hasan Ağa, the leader of the warriors. I said :

"Praise to God that you finally caught this man Kara Haydaroğlu." He seemed to be very happy about it and thanked God. Then he said :

"Evliya, if you are friend of Haydaroğlu, come let us go to him. You shall console him a little. Tell him that he is not to be executed but that he will be sent to the tower of Kreta, to Deli (Crazy) Hüseyin Pasha and thus be saved." He also gave me some other instructions and we went to Kara Haydaroğlu.

I greeted him with these words :

"Selam Aleikum my Master. Be welcome."

"You also be wellcome Evliya Çelebi, you saviour of the pain. I am not well as you reckon, I have been brought to the political battleground.

Both of us, Hasan Ağa and my humble self, sat down by Kara Haydaroğlu, consoled him and gave him advice.

"Do you still remember Evliya, on that certain winterday when you caught us unaware and we had the hardest time to save our lives?"

"We were incautious like women folk. We were sitting by the fire. At that time we were able to escape from you but today Evliya Çelebi it looks like we are going to be hanged because of this Hasan Ağa." said Haydaroğlu.

"What my Master?. Do you know Evliya Çelebi?" exclaimed Hasan Ağa with amazement.

Haydaroğlu continued with the same tone of voice :

"One day we were sitting around the fire, in a village of the province on Engürü «Ankara». We were twelve men all with