

THE KOZLUÖREN VILLAGE

The village is Kozluören is dependent on Soma which is in the west of part of Turkey. It has 18 km distance to the centre. Geographically it is one of the settlements in the northeast point of Aegean Sea. It is administrated by a mukhtar, the elected head of the village and has the population around 300.

There is a primary school, a mosque and a cemevi (assembly house for Alevi worship). People in this village are Tahtaci-Turkoman Alevi (religious, sub-ethnic and cultural community)

When we have a look at the history of this village, we come across the fact that once there lived Greek society. Because it has been found many graves and graves' stones in excavating sites.



It has 150-160 years history. The first founders are Ambarcı Dede, Aşır Dede, Vuat Dede and Kibir Dede.

Because the village has many forests it had been a good opportunity for them to continue their jobs as a carpenter. But today, it doesn't exist any more. Instead, they do the works of mining, farms and buying and selling of animals.

After 1960s, the migration especially has been started to Germany. Today for instance, 60 families from Kozluören which makes 200 people live in Germany. After so many migrations of even young people leaving the village, it has been almost empty. But now it has completely changed. After the families in Germany got retired, they started to make investments in the village and that made it much more crowded than ever as people moved there.



THE TRADITIONS IN THE VILLAGE

Altı Aylık Kınası (The henna of the six months)

That is for daughters during circumcision ceremony. The daughters don't need to be six months old for that it is only symbol. It can be done until four years old. In the ceremony, someone put henna on the girl's hand in front of the guests with some music playing on. Some presents are given and sometimes money and gold also.

THE CIRCUMSITION CEREMONY

The circumcision feast usually takes place on sundays on thursdays. The circumcision is celebrated in two ways. First as 'mevlüt' and as a 'circumcision feast'. The guests pray for the boy and they have fun with the music. Some traditional foot is given. After all this ceremony the boy is taken to a room and he is circumcised. Finally, people give their best wishes to the boy and his family.

GOING TO THE ONE'S MILITARY SERVICE

The males at the age of 20 are enlisted into the army. In the last one or two weeks they are invited for a dinner by their relatives. Before the date on which they will go, they prepare a feast for them. They dance, they sing, they have fun. And lastly they accompany him to go to the station to get on the bus. For example, they help him any way. This event very holy for Turkish people.

MARRIAGE

The villagers usually get marry with the men and the women from the same village. After the couples decide to marry,they inform their parents about it and the wedding ceremony takes place.

The family of the man goes to the house of the girl's family.Usually the father speaks and he wants the girl from her family for his son by the name of God and the name of prophet's deeds.When they all agree, they decide the date of the wedding.But before ,they make small ceremony ;they eat Turkish delight which is brought by the boy's family.

Engagement: A few weeks later,they prepare an engagement ceremony.They cook meal to be served.After the couple comes and they are worn a ring by the assistance of a person who is the oldest in the family.

Wedding Ceremony :Before the marriage ceremony,formal and religious weddings are held.Formal Wedding Ceremony is obviously obligatory.And Religious Wedding Ceremony is rarely held.

Marriage ceremony: In these ceremonies ,there is orchestra and traditional food as usual.It takes two days.The first one is the henna night which is put on the hands and on the feet of the bride.On the second day the meal is served and the traditional dances are shown.People give some presents to the couple.In the afternoon, groom's family visit the bride's family with the flags in their hands.Then the bride and her family say farewell to each other.After that she rides a horse and taken away to their new home.

DEATH

People always pray for the dead person in the funerals.The Imam,the prayer leader,washes the dead body.After that The dead body is shrouded.Then all the people perform the namaz(Usually all muslims pray five times a day ,one of these religious ritual is called as namaz).Later on,the corpse is shrouded .Then all the people perform the namaz.Later on ,the corpse is put into the coffin.People carry it on the shoulders to take it away to the graveyard.It is put into the grave with the prays.After the funeral,during three days,neighbours give meals to that person's family.And also, seven and forty days later and also every year it is given meals to the other people who live in the village.

BURCU KARA

ORADEA OF UNIVERSTY (Romania)