

## HISTORICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FOR ISA BEY TOMB IN KONÇE DURING OTTOMAN CONQUESTS

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**Abstract:** Konçe area is particularly mentioned in the early Middle Ages. The beginnings of this place is remarkable with famous monastery complex, which at the same time represents religious and administrative seat of Radovich area. The most famous monastery church in the village is St. Stephen dating before 1366. The church and monastery were made by the Serbian Duke Nichola Stajnevik, which was a part of the Army of Dusan Emperor. This church have significant place in the medieval Macedonian history and culture. Furthermore, it's worth to mention that Konçe is a regional center of Radovich area. One of the valuable places in this region is the area called "Upper Tower" which is south-east of Konçe in the north-western part of the mountain range Serta-Gradeshka mountain. This site present as narrow hill which has a height of about 120 meters above the valley of the locality Lakavica<sup>127</sup>. The old caravan routes which are stretching from Stip along Lakavica region to Strumica are merged in Konçe<sup>128</sup>. The Ottoman historical monuments in the numerous Ottoman, Austrian, British, Serbian and other sources are confirming that the place Konçe is an important trading caravan and market area in the Radovich region. The Islamic architecture of this place is especially important with the tomb which represents the tombstone or mausoleum that is typically built for an honor of the great Ottoman rulers. The earliest historical sources said that the history of the tomb and its establishing in the Islamic tradition arose primarily through the Ottomans. It was particularly present in the Sufi orders and especially with the Muslim ascetics. Decisive influence in the form of appearance of the Turks tombs have made the oldest Turkish tribes, which have made cultural trappings of the mausoleum with Persian elements. The tombs as a tombstones are often built in Macedonia and according to the historical sources were buried important religious and military personalities. The tombs were usually found in the yards of mosques or laid around the settlements of a hill to be readily apparent. Unfortunately we must mention that on territory of Macedonia, there are quite small number of preserved tombs from the main reason, because they are not recovered and kept properly. The famous Tombs in Macedonia are: Mustafa Pasha in Skopje, the mausoleum of Yigit Bey the famous Ottoman conqueror and ruler of Skopje, Mustafa Pasha, the mausoleum of Asik Çelebi in Gazi Baba, mausoleum in the courtyard of the mosque Aladja Skopje, the tomb decorated with stone in Bitola, mosque tomb of Sinan Çelebi in Ohrid, tomb in the courtyard of the Colorful Mosque in Tetovo, the mausoleum of Massey-Bay near Strumica and many others<sup>129</sup>. Evrenos Bey represents a significant military-political person in the Ottoman Empire in the early Middle Ages of XIV century. The name of Evrenos Bey is mentions in the important Ottoman and other European nations published and unpublished sources that analyzes the issues of expansion and fall of the Ottoman Empire.

**Keywords:** historical evidence, Isa Bey, tomb, Konçe, ottoman conquests

### 1. INTRODUCTION

According to the ottoman chronicles: defter, sidzhils and other important sources concerning the life and activity of the peoples which have lived in the Ottoman Empire, as the life of the great rulers, we can conclude that Evrenos Bey from the princely area known as Kares which was in the region of Minor Asia, was here for the first time mentioned during the 1340/41 year. In the historical chronicles about the son of Sultan Orhan who was called Suleiman Pasha. Several years later or more specifically in 1356 year, Suleiman Pasha was mentioned in numerous battles in the Balkan Peninsula. In these important battles taking place at the time of the expansion on the Ottoman Empire, exactly with his strong army crossed the Dardanelles and this time his military-political activity have turned to the Balkans and especially Macedonia. During the reign of Ottoman Sultan Murad I (1362-1389) year, Evrenos Bey was appointed for commander of the Balkans area on the possessory border of the Ottoman Empire. During the activities of Evrenos Bey as a area duke, he managed to conquer the most of Thrace and Macedonia, conquering even certain parts of Albania<sup>130</sup>. During the rule of Evrenos Bey in Thrace and Macedonia, he performed relocation

<sup>127</sup> <http://yenibalkan.com/tr/kultur/koncede-prangi-isa-bey-senlikleri-duzenlendi>

<sup>128</sup> Иван Микулчиќ. Средновековни градови и тврдини во Македонија, книга 5, МАНУ, Скопје, 1996, 317.

<sup>129</sup> МАНУ, Архитектурата на почвата на Македонија, книга 9, Скопје, 2000, 215.

<sup>130</sup> Hakii Uzuncarşili, Evrenos Islam Ansiklopedisi, 32-33.

of the ottoman Turks from Minor Asia in these areas to strengthen the further expansion and spread of the Ottoman Empire on the territory of the European soil. During the famous battle of Kosovo in 1389, Evrenos Bey took a significant part in it. A few years before this battle, he went on pilgrimage to Mecca and during 1390 the ottomans continued their conquest wars to the region of southwestern Macedonia and Albania<sup>131</sup>.

In the period of 1391 year he took a part in Mores war and several years later or more precisely during 1396 year he participated in the famous battle of Nikopol, as a commander of special akindzis units<sup>132</sup>.

Several years later Evrenos Bey, his military conquests towards to Albania, Hungary, Corinth and Argos fortress which conquered during 1397 year. During the great dynastic wars and the disagreement during Angora battle in the period of 1402 year and in the time of tragic death of Sultan Bayezid I, his sons began fratricidal war among themselves<sup>133</sup>. During this period Evrenos Bey was standing on the side of Suleyman Celebi who was ruler on the most of Roumelia region (European part of the Ottoman Empire), and after his death during 1410, Evrenos Bey stationed in the area of Enice-Vardar and Ber, because he didn't want to join the disposal of the new master of Roumelia region, Musa Celebi. This fratricidal wars and bloodshed, Evrenos Bey was standing on the side of the third brother, Mehmet Celebi, which during his governance from Anatolia to Rumelia accompanied by other Ottoman Beys and Serbian despots much helped to Mehmet Celebi in military campaigns against Musa Celebi.

During 1413, Musa Celebi was finally defeated by his brother Mehmet Çelebi and Mehmed Celebi was appointed for a new ruler on the Ottoman throne<sup>134</sup>.

In the historical chronicles undoubtedly is noticed that Evrenos Bey lived long, that lived over a hundred years. From Ottoman sources that were available to us, we found that Evrenos Bey died during 1417 in the area of Eniçe-Vardar where he was buried. Immeasurable military-political merits of Evrenos Bey in the expansion and continuous spreading of the Ottoman Empire during his time, was awarded with large feudal estate in the South of Macedonia by the Sultan Murad I, which can be found from Ottoman screed in the period from 1386 year<sup>135</sup>.

This significant act of awarding property to Evrenos Bey during 1390 year was confirmed by the Ottoman Sultan Bayezid I. Much of his property, Evrenos Bey, gave it for charitable and religious purposes. The managers of these areas continuously were nominated by the direct descendants of Evrenos Bey. For similar area from the Ottoman legacies we will speak in our paper. The initial Ottoman document for the legacy was found from the Turkish economist, Mr. Omer Ljutvi Barkan during the 1942 year. Omer during this period has published a source inventory from the time of the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. It is assumed that in the Ottoman fountain, which unfortunately was the original text there are two possibilities: processing of archive material and their compared with original Ottoman defter occurred accidentally switching archival sheets or disruption of the normal order of the original text or a random error were made during the preparation of the final collection of the scientific papers.

So while, publishing the first extract the data from the legacy of the foregoing Evrenos Bey and the second part refers to unnamed Shrine in the region of Vranjanska area<sup>136</sup>. The numerous encyclopedic books on these data for Evrenos Bey, stated that it was located in the area of Vranjaska area. The only apparent from these data about the great Ottoman historian Ismail Hakki Uzuncharshili that uses these sources in the period 1530/31 year, where instead Vranjaska area mentioned Radovish area, which represents a real approximation to the real historical events from this period<sup>137</sup>. The original data and sources for the Evrenos-Bey were contained in a census defter of 1570 year which represents a fundamental basis for our further elaboration of the Evrenos Bey possession<sup>138</sup>. The father of Evrenos Bey which nickname was "Chains" is the famous, Isa Bey who died in the war fighting for the rise of the Ottoman Empire. The place where during the war died Isa Bey had been made tomb, which constitute the memory of the father of Evrenos Bey.

<sup>131</sup> Marozzg Justin(2007), Timurlenk; Ğslamın Kılıcı, Cihan Fatihi, YKY yayınları; İstanbul.

<sup>132</sup> Peter Schreiner, Die Byzantinischen Kleinchroniken, c.I, Wien 1975, s. 244 (Eylül 1387/6896, 11. İndiksiyon).

<sup>133</sup> Kahraman Şakul. Siege Warfare in Verse and Prose: the Ottoman Conquest of Kamianets-Podilsky (Kamaniçe), 1672, The World of the Siege, 2019, 220-225.

<sup>134</sup> Ayşegül KILIÇ. Bizans ve Osmanlı Kaynaklarında Gâzi Evrenos Bey'in İmajı Hakkında Bir İnceleme, 26-30 Temmuz 2010 tarihinde Van'da düzenlenen XIX. Uluslararası Osmanlı Öncesi ve Dönemi Osmanlı Araştırmaları Sempozyumu (CIEPO)'da sunulan bildiriden genişletilerek hazırlanmıştır, s.136.

<sup>135</sup> Глиша Елезовиќ. Турски споменици, книга прва, свеќа 1, (1348-1520), Београд, 1940, 34-39.

<sup>136</sup> Ömer Lütfi Barkan. Osmanli İmparatorlugunda bir İskân ve kolonizasyon Metodu Olarak Vakiflar ve Temlikler, Vakiflar Dergisi, Sayi: II, Ankara, 1942, 341-343.

<sup>137</sup> Ismail Hakki Uzuncharşili. Osmanli Tarihi, I, Cild, 3, baski, Ankara, 1972, 562-563.

<sup>138</sup> Александар Стојановски, Македонија под турска власт, ИНИ, Скопје, 2006, 22-23.

## 2. ISA BEY TOMB IN KONÇE

The nickname "Chains", Isa Bey received from the village Krcheva which in the most Ottoman defter, records and sources was named under the pseudonym "Chains". This village belonged to Konçe area, which is a part form the Strumica region. According to the alphabetical inventory for the Strumica the: families, singles, unmarried and overall income from the village together with revenues from the surrounding villages: Konçe, upper and lower Lipovik, Rades, Vrashtiva and Rakitec were predominantly agricultural areas.

While if we more analyzing the original ottoman documents and documents from the Balkan historical archives, we can conclude that the locality Crvec is exactly the place where was situated the village Krcheva. Decades later the local population that lived beside the road caravan or more commonly known as the "Way of Gazi (The way of the winners)" retreated to the interior of the place and had settled near the tomb of the deceased called "Chains" though about Isa Bey. In the mentioned sources, documents and defter, the local population mostly lived from agricultural activities because the land was good for agricultural things. From all we said before, we can conclude that the Evrenos Bey area which is in southeastern part of Macedonia is very important because in this area is the tomb (mausoleum) which was made in honor of his father Isa Bey. Evrenos-Bey mausoleum in honor of his father raised exactly at the place where for the "holy war for the religion" was killed his father, Isa Bey<sup>139</sup>. Isa Bey presents the founder of the family Evrenosovs in the contemporary modern ottoman history more commonly known under the name Evrenos-ogullari. The father of the Evrenos Bey, Isa-Bey in the modern world and modern encyclopedias and ottoman sources, defter and literature is known under the nickname: Prangi, Pirangi, Franki, Pranko etc<sup>140</sup>. Many modern ottoman historians and researchers says that the nickname of Isa Bey is from the name of the village where the numerous military raids have lost their lives. But on the other hand, it is obvious that just before the great Ottoman conquest in this period and in this region, this famous village had Slovenian name (Krchovo, Krcheva) and the name Prangi as a name for this village was given later<sup>141</sup>.

From this we can conclude that the conqueror of this village, Isa-Bey gave the new name of this village in his honor because, his nickname was Prangi. If we analyze the nickname that Isa Bey had, Prangi (Chains), we will conclude that this nickname is a Turkish nickname from Islamized Christian family.

But for us on this occasion, it is important to determine the father of the famous general and Turkish commandant Evrenos Bey, who died and was buried near the Macedonian village Krcheva located in the area of Konçe<sup>142</sup>. Exactly in this area, regardless of the weather conditions or troubles which persisted from the memory of the great Ottoman conqueror and ruler Isa Bey and his mausoleum which in topographic maps is marked with the name Gazi Evrenos area. This is very important event and excellent opportunity to expose the truth about the mausoleum which was made in honor of Isa Bey, for unforgettable moments of its history and for transmitting from generation to generation the history of Isa Bey tomb.

If the local population has faded the memory of the famous Ottoman conqueror Isa-Bey, then more than certain is that the name of his son Evrenos Bey in the modern world history, represents a great conqueror under which it is known the whole family of Evrenosovs. Evrenos Bey as a general and military commander served in the time of the sultans: Süleyman Pasha, Murad I, Bayezid I, Süleyman Çelebi and Mehmed I<sup>143</sup>. Gazi Evrenos Bey was a father of seven sons (Khidr-shah, Isa, Suleyman, Ali, Yakub, Barak, Begdje) and several daughters<sup>144</sup>. Why this day 6-st of april is a chosen day for a giving the significant honor and a scientific symposium for the life and work of this famous Ottoman family. Exactly on this day despite this mausoleum were held traditional annual fair, which was followed by pelivan fights and was a market day. Exactly on this place passed numerous trade caravans and some of them made inns and hammams<sup>145</sup>. Before the construction of the mausoleum this village belong in the area of the village Crvec, but later passed despite the "Ghazi Road" in the near location of the present mausoleum. This means that the mausoleum is located right on the main public road that was passed from the Ottoman army, known as trade caravans and other famous travelers and passengers. With high probability we can determine that the old main road Strumica-Stip in the immediate geographical place where it was located this mausoleum was situated the less important road which through the Radovish area and the village Konçe came out near the river Vardar. The name of

<sup>139</sup> Machiel Kiel, "The Oldest Monuments of Ottoman-Turkish Architecture in the Balkans: The Imaret and the Mosque of Ghazi Evrenos Bey in Gümülcine (Komotini) and the Evrenos Bey Khan in the Village of Ilca/Loutra in Greek Thrace" *Sanat Tarihi Yıllığı, Kunsthistorische Forschungen* 12 (Istanbul, 1983), 127-134.

<sup>140</sup> Peter Schreiner, *Die Byzantinischen Kleinchroniken*, Wien 1975, c. I, s. 563. (No. 72a/17).

<sup>141</sup> Aygüç Kiliç, *Evrenos Bey'ın kökeng Hakkında Tartışmalar ve Yeng bgr Degerlendirme*, Ankara Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Doktora Tezi, Ankara, 201, 762.

<sup>142</sup> Александар Стојановски. Македонија под турска власт, ИНИ, Скопје, 2006, 22-24.

<sup>143</sup> Reinert, Steven W. (1991). "Evrenos", *Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*, Hamid Vehbi, Meşâhir-i İslam, c. II, İstanbul 1301, s. 801; I. Melikoff, "Evrenos", *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*, Edit. Alexander P. Kazhdan, Volume II, Oxford 1991, s.765.

<sup>144</sup> Melikoff, I. (1991). "Evrenos Oghullari". *Encyclopaedia of Islam* II (2nd ed.). Leiden: E. J. Brill, 720.

<sup>145</sup> Original sources according to history professor D-r Galaba Palikruseva.

the village Krchevo or in the other Ottoman and Austrian sources known as Krcheva or Krchova and also known under the name Krch'k by famous Ottoman historian and traveler Uzuncharshili, which mentioned in the Ottoman documents and defter from 1530/31 year. This village later was noticed that doesn't exist.



*Picture 1: The tomb of Isa Bey today (personal photo from 06.04.2015 year)*

What is important for the exact location of the tomb of the Ottoman conqueror Isa Bey, we can conclude that the pursuant Ottoman sources and topographical names of the places in this area of Konçe, the tomb of Isa Bey is marked under the name Gazi Evrenos, so the south-east from the mausoleum on the halfway between the villages Rakitec and Lower Lipovik, there is a locality with unusual name called Greek, which is also observed in the ancient Ottoman sources<sup>146</sup>.

We as authors of this paper, this region is from our origin. I noticed that this place called "Grka", which is located 1.5 km from the village Dolni Lipovik and 2-2.5 km from the village Rakitec, has gotten his name from the "flowing water", which in macedonian language when the water is strongly flowing we say "grgori (flowing strongly)". This place in the past and today is known as a place where there are numerous sources of water and on this place there is a river also. So everything that we mentioned above about the inability to locate the place of the already vanished village Krcheva or Krchka, with a comparison of the Ottoman sources and topographical names of the places in Radovish area, we noticed that the place called "Grka" is the name of the already vanished village Krcheva or Grčeva which actually is the name of the locality called Greek, but in the historical sources is noticed as Krcheva. In the Ottoman defter from the XV-XVI centuries, many translators and authors differently readied the places in Radovish area. In order to accurately determine the name of a place despite the use of ottomans and other sources, it is necessary to dispose with suitable topographic maps and to be able to accurately determine the name of this place mention above. Unclear until now is the question why this village disappeared. One of the real assumptions is that exactly the Greek village, located halfway from the mentioned villages Rakitec and Lower Lipovik, has made natural displacement of its people from the Greece village in these two villages. Otherwise, according to the Ottoman census defter of 1570 in this village there were: 59 families, 50 singles and 2 widow families. The village counted more than 300 people. According to their religion, the people in this village were all Christians. This village brought a total annual income of over 6800 coins for the needs of the Isa Bey tomb<sup>147</sup>. Most of this amount was used for the continuous maintenance of the mausoleum and imarets in Konçe area<sup>148</sup>. Around the financial plan for spending the funds that were intended for the tomb, we can see them in the Evrenos Bey notes,

<sup>146</sup> Belma Alik and Nevnihal Erdogan. Historic Environment and Cultural Sensitivity: Ottoman Neighborhood in Macedonia Journal of Civil Engineering and Architecture 10 (2016), doi: 10.17265/1934-7359/2016.02.003, 152-154.

<sup>147</sup> Ayşegül Kılıç. Evrenos Bey'in babası Pranko Lazarat'ın (Pranko İsa) Vakfı ve Türbesi, Gamer, I, (2012), Ankara Üniversitesi, s. 94-96.

<sup>148</sup> Machiel Kiel. Yenice-i Vardar, A forgotten Turkish cultural centre in Macedonia in the 15th and 16th century, Studia Buzantina et Neohellenica Neerlandica, III, Leiden, 1971, 301-328.



where clearly is points out that the responsible person in his legacy in the region of Eniçe Vardar was directly tied to the person and work of Evrenos Bey and his successors<sup>149</sup>.

### 3. CONCLUSION

All this, which I mentioned above mostly indicate that the place of the death on one of the famous Ottoman conqueror Isa Bey known under the nickname "Chains", the father of most world famous general and ottoman commandant Evrenos Bey, which represents a father of the family Evrenos, persists near the Konçe area which in the period of the Ottoman conquest of Macedonia constitute the center of the eponymous area which was a part from Strumica region.

The exact date of the construction of the mausoleum in memory of Isa Bey there are more dilemmas. However later it was elevated to the year between the conquest of Konçe area which was no longer then 1385/86 year to time of the death of his son Evrenos Bey who died during 1417 year. According to the travel writings of Evliya Çelebi one of the first Macedonian city which was conquered shortly after the battle of Marica in 1371, was the town of Samokov, which was conquered during 1372 year<sup>150</sup>. The supreme commander at the time of Sultan Murad I (1362-1389) year, was Rumeli ruler Lala Sahin Pasha who continued powerful conquests. Firstly he received the task to conquer the following cities in Macedonia: Stip in 1380, Prilep monastery and the surrounding area until 1382 year. He conquered the Ser on 19.09.1383 year and besides Ser, he conquered Bitola and Ohrid until 1385 year. With these conquests, the sultan Murad I made a significant base for further conquests in the central part of Macedonia<sup>151</sup>. According to the professor Imber Colin, the military units headed by Hajredin Chandarli came to Macedonia during 1383, where he confirmed that the town Ser was conquered during the 19.09.1383 year, but for Bitola, Prilep and Ohrid he sad that they were conquered over 1385/86 year during the military campaign of the military commandant Timurtash Pasha<sup>152</sup>. During 1387 year almost all of southern Macedonia's were conquered by the Ottoman military units. In the same period from 1383 to 1387 year, eastern and central Macedonia fell under Ottoman rule<sup>153</sup>. After the Kosovo battle, the Ottoman army in Skopje made a strong base for its further progress towards Serbia and Bosnia. Skopje during his conquest were defended itself, so there were losses on the both sides. The confirmation of this story is the paper of the ottoman historian Ibn Kemal and the oldest Ottoman monument in Skopje the tombstone of the Sheikh Medah Bey. From the inscriptions of the plaque we can learn that this Sheikh was one of the conquerors of Skopje. Medah was buried in the madras that bears his name. Conqueror of Skopje, the great Yigit Bey, had later stationed here and formed his own area. In the period of conquering the Skopje, he also had resistance problems and great losses from the population which defended his fireplace. The conquest of Skopje is between 01.09.1391 year until 01.06.1392 year. The most accurate data which we took into account from the previous historical analysis of the unpublished and published sources. One important source is the historical papers from the monk Stephen, which was completed during the year 06.01.1392 year and the conquest of Skopje probably was happened in the month of October 1391 year<sup>154</sup>. According to the order of his majesty Sultan Murad I in the period from 03.17.1382 until 05.03.1383 year Tumurtash pasha as a head on a part of the Ottoman military units from Rumeli region arrived in Prilep and surrounded the fortress<sup>155</sup>. With respect of Macedonian citizens, precisely their courage, determination and strength, however the ottomans succeeded to surrendered the Prilep fortress. After the fall of Prilep the Ottoman army immediately went and surrounded the Bitola fortress. In Bitola the ottoman armies were maintained for some time and they had many battles with a local population. During these battles battlefield turned into a hall of desolation and misery. At the end were showed the beauty of the victory and conquest. The sharp swords of the Ottoman soldiers caused Bitola fortress to become the habitat for many Muslims family. Then the ottoman military forces went to Thessaloniki and they conquered northern Greece, surrounded the Thessaloniki fortress, but when they seen that the winning of Thessaloniki will not be easy, they occupied the border areas. According to what we have seen from the Ottoman chronicles the conquest of Macedonia and all other regions of the Balkan Peninsula, we find that the fortresses of Ksanti and Marula were conquered in the period from 02.02.1386 until 21.01.1387 year and these fortresses they have found many golden vessels which dated from the period of late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages. These sources also said that the Ottoman soldiers these gold vessels had put them on their heads, because they believed that they can served them as a turban. The conquest of the fortress of Drama were happened in the period of 1386 until 1387 year. Besides the fortress in Drama the

<sup>149</sup> I.H. Uzuncarsili, Evrenos, 415-417.

<sup>150</sup> Евлия Челеби. Пътепис. превод од Страшимир Димитров, София, 1972, 30-31.

<sup>151</sup> Osmanli Arsivi Daire Baskanligi. Makedonya' daki osmanli evraki, Ankara, 1996, 7-8.

<sup>152</sup> Имбер Колин. Османлиската империја (1300-1481), Скопје, 2002, 39-40.

<sup>153</sup> A.E.Kacalopoulos, History of Macedonia (1354-1833), Institut for Balkan studies, Solun, 1973, 40-41.

<sup>154</sup> Museum of the Skopje City, Proceedings II-III, Skopje, 1965/6, 8-14.

<sup>155</sup> Halil Inalcik. Studies in Ottoman Social and Economic History, london, 1985, 77-78.

Ottoman sources indicate that the aforementioned period were conquered the fortresses in Bitola, Kavala and Ber. Period between 20.12.1389 until to 08.12.1390 year the ottoman military forces conquest the Kratovo area and in the same period they conquest Skopje fortress by one of the most famous Ottoman generals and commanders Evrenos Bey the son of Isa Bey. The first siege of Thessaloniki was unsuccessful and occurred in the period between 11.06.1393 until 26.10.1394 year and in this time were conquest of the Larissa area<sup>156</sup>.

In the Ottoman chronicles of Solak Zade concerning to the conquest of Macedonia more of the Macedonian western part was conquered in the period from 03.17.1382 until 03.06.1383 year. The ottoman commander general Timurtash Pasha with numerous ottoman military forces conquered Prilep, Bitola, Karly and Stip. After the ottoman conquered on Skopje between 1391/92 year, the ottoman commander general Timurtash Pasha has been entrusted with the Yigit Bey and meanwhile he attacked vilayet of the Serbian King Lazar and conquered the town of Kratovo. According to the ottoman historian, Dr. Mehmet Maksudoglu, Kara Halil Pasha and Hajredin Pasha conquered the following areas: Kavala, Drama, Serres and Zihne. Immediately after the battle of Marica 25/26.09.1371 year, the first city which was conquered were Samokov at the end of the 1371 year, Stip during the 1380 year and Ohrid in 1385 year<sup>157</sup>. If we make a comparative analysis of the above, we would come to the following conclusion: Samokov represents the first Macedonian city which was conquered by the Ottomans in 1372 year. This is confirmed by many Ottoman authors and views of Macedonian and Ottoman historians, such as Professor Mehmet Maksudoglu and travel writings of the famous Ottoman traveler Evliya Çelebi<sup>158</sup>. During 1380 year Stip is conquered from the ottomans military forces according to a lot of Turkish and Macedonian historians as: professor Mehmet Maksudoglu, travel writings of Evliya Çelebi, professor Imber Colin and others<sup>159</sup>. Quite logical is that Prilep was conquered immediately after Stip, which means that his conquest was happened during 1384 year and Bitola during the 1384/85 year and Ohrid during 1385 year. The conquest of the Prilep and Bitola which happened during the 1384/85 year were confirmed from all professors. For the conquest of Skopje most of the available published and unpublished documents say that this was happened in the period from 01.09.1391 until 06.01.1392 year. According to the eminent Macedonian ottoman historians: professor Dragi Georgiev, Ibn Kemal, Academician Alexander Matkovski, professor Alexander Pavlov and many others as well as on the basis of unpublished archival documents that were available to me we can derive the following conclusion about the Ottoman conquest of the Macedonian towns: Samokov was conquered in early 1372, Stip during 1380, Ser in 19.09.1383 year, Prilep during 1384, Bitola and Ohrid during 1385 year<sup>160</sup>. The death of Isa Bey takes place between the battle of Marica in Macedonia 25/26.09.1371 year until the period of the Battle of Rovinj from 1395 year. Considering that most of Macedonia was conquered by the Ottomans until 06.01.1392 year, when was Skopje conquered by the armies of Yigit Bey, on the other hand, the eastern and western parts of the territory of Macedonia were conquered in the period from 1380 to 1385 year. We can conclude that the surrounding area of Konçe which is in the south-east of Strumica was conquered not later than 1385 year by invading armies under the command of Isa Bey. This give us the meaning that exactly in this place is the one of the oldest and most famous monuments and landmarks of Islamic culture and civilization in Macedonia from the first years of the Ottoman conquest of Macedonia. Taking this fact as a relevant, we need in future to lead a serious concern for the restoration and maintenance of the mausoleum made in honor of Isa Bey<sup>161</sup>.

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