



EVKAF

Newspaper of Goodness and Culture

"Be tolerant so that you may be tolerated."

December 2024 - Issue: 133



Glad we have Evkaf!

The Cyprus Evkaf Administration showed the best examples of cooperation and solidarity with the works it has carried out this year as it does every year, by reaching out to everyone from the young to the elderly, especially in the fields of education, health and environment.

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Evkaf Goodness Volunteers continued to put a smile on our citizens' faces with the visits they made in December.

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Evkaf Kindness Volunteers Visited Güneşköy Rehabilitation Centre

Evkaf Goodness Volunteers affiliated to the Cyprus Evkaf Administration, visited the Rehabilitation Centre for Over-18s located in Güneşköy within the scope of its social solidarity and

charity activities. During the visit, which was held in order to give morale to the residents of the rehabilitation centre and to spend a pleasant time with them, various entertainment organizations were

performed. Having spent a day full of conversations and activities, the young volunteers formed a warm bond with the residents of the centre, making them feel supported.



Young Volunteers Continue to Make Our Little Ones Happy

Evkaf Goodness Volunteers made children smile with happiness with the visits they paid to local schools recently. The aim of the young volunteers was to elevate the happiness and joy of

the little ones by carrying out various activities together with the children. As part of the activities, fun games were played with the children and small gifts were given to them at the same time.



All Hearts Banded Together on International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Evkaf Goodness Volunteers, who always support individuals with special needs, participated in the awareness walk held in Lefke region in order to improve their living conditions.

Young volunteers gave important messages to the society with the banners they prepared by drawing attention to the rights of the disabled. This meaningful event aimed to increase the sensitivity towards people with disabilities in society and to emphasize the importance of being supportive towards them.

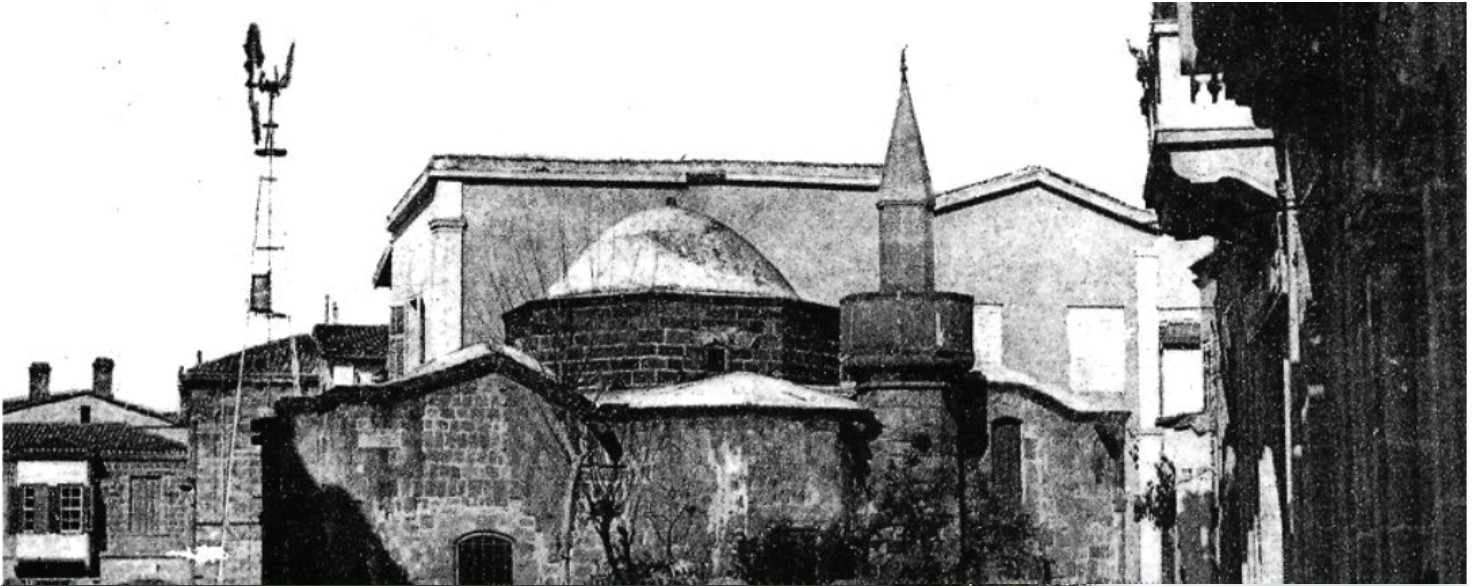


$$e=mc^2$$

SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Please do support us in contributing to the education of our children, who are the guarantees of our future!

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The Mosque with the Shortest Minaret in Cyprus: The Araplar Mosque



The Araplar Mosque is a small medieval building built with smooth cut stones, located in the north-east of the Faneromeni Church of Nicosia. Dating back between the end of the 16th and the beginning of the 17th century A.D; this building was originally built as a church with the name “Stavros of Missiriku” (Egyptian Cross) and was converted into a mosque during the Ottoman period.

Brief History:

The Araplar Mosque is an important building that has been referred to by different names at different periods throughout its history. First, it was built for Egyptian Coptic Christians in 16th century. During the Ottoman period, it was used as a place of worship by

Egyptian Araplar slaves who were brought to Cyprus and received the name “Araplar Mosque”. During the British colonial period, the building was also known by the names such as “Mehmed Said Mosque” and “Yahya Pasha Mosque”.

Architectural Features:

The Araplar Mosque is a building that is rich in architectural aspects and contains various historical elements. It attracts attention with its dome, which sits on an octagonal hoop with a cruciform plan. The building reflects elements of Byzantine, Gothic, Italian Renaissance and Ottoman architecture. It has a small, miniature-style minaret located in the northeast corner. In addition, the stonework is skillfully rendered in the Renaissance and Gothic style. These features increase both the aesthetic and historical value of the mosque.

Foundation Information:

The Araplar Mosque has undergone significant foundational and structural changes throughout its history. In 1898, a foundation was established under

the name of “Araplar Cami-i Sharif Foundation” and Kufizade Asaf Bey was appointed as its trustee.

Restoration Periods:

The Araplar Mosque has undergone various repair works over time. In 1910, the cracked columns in the dome were repaired with iron clamps, increasing the durability of the structure. In 1927, the garden wall was built of stone material and iron gratings were added. In 1985, the stones were renovated with restoration works and the structure was made waterproof.

The Current Situation:

The northern and southern doors of the mosque were closed, and a wooden pulpit was added to the western wall of the building. Today, it has no perimeter wall and the mosque is located in a square.

The Araplar Mosque has one of the smallest and most aesthetic minarets in Cyprus. This unique building, not only brings together architectural elements belonging to different periods, but also has a great importance from a historical and cultural point of view.





Mevlevism in the Ottoman Period

Mevlevism:

Mevlevism held an important place during the Ottoman Period and spread with the support of many sultans of the time. The supports of the sultans such as Fatih Sultan Mehmet II, Bayezid, Yavuz Sultan Selim and Kanuni Sultan Süleyman played a major role in its spreading. Galata, Besiktas and Yenikapi mevlevi houses in Istanbul have become the centers of Mevlevi culture wherein religious and cultural activities occur frequently. Mevlevism, is a religious sect which was founded by Mevlâna Celaleddin-i Rumi (d. 672/1273) based solely on divine love and philanthropy. This sect looks at the human soul as a divine reflection with the principle of “We scatter what we receive from the truth of God to the public” and adopts a humanistic approach.

Mevlevi Houses:

Mevlevi houses have played an important role not only as religious centers, but also as places where cultural, literary and artistic activities are concentrated. These places have also become an important centre of solidarity with the services they provide for the poor, passengers and those in need.

Mevlevi Tekkes:

While Mevlevi tekkes symbolize the return to God and spiritual maturity with the firmament which is the most prominent ritual of Mevlevism, they also attract attention with their cultural effects. Music and literature occupy an important place in Mevlevism, and the teaching of the Masnavi forms the basic educational element of the sect.

Masnavi:

Masnavi is a Persian work containing the sufi doctrines of Mevlâna, consisting of six volumes and about 25,700 couplets. While this work tells about the journey of Sharia, sect and truth, it deals with the stages on the way to becoming a pure human being. In addition, it offers a spiritual guidance to the reader by addressing deep topics such as existence, love, knowledge, exquisite decency and disciplining the soul.

The writing process of Masnavi was completed in 1268; Mevlâna recited the work, and Hüsameddin Çelebi transcribed these words. The narrative style conveys deep Sufi truths through stories and symbols and offers a rich spiritual experience to the reader.



Nicosia Mevlevi House and Mevlevism in Cyprus

Nicosia Mevlevi Tekke was built by Ferhat Pasha in 1593/94 in accordance with the Arabahmed Pasha Foundation. Haydarpaşazade Emine Hanım, on the other hand, donated 1200 acres of land in the Mevlevi village along with the revenues related to this land to the tekke and ensured that charitable services have continued to this day. Inside the tekke, the semahane, the mausoleum and some other rooms have been preserved and they contain important details about the rituals of Mevlevism. This building is of great significance both from a historical and cultural point of view.



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