



TRANSFER OF INNOVATION,  
MULTILATERAL PROJECTS, LEONARDO DAVINCI

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**IPAZIA**

ImProving lifelong learning devices and didActical modules  
Zooming Into gender guidance Approaches to students choices

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## **THE TEACHING MODULES DESIGNED BY THE IPAZIA PROJECT PARTNERS**

**TURKEY**

ITALY

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PORTUGAL

SPAIN

TURKEY



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# The teaching modules design by the Ipazia project partners TURKEY



### THREE WOMEN for ONE CITY

#### MELEK PEYKER SULTAN OUT IN KONYA

Mongol invasion constitutes one of history's most violent actions. With Köseadağ defeat in 1243, Seljuk State of Turkey's statute shattered, Anatolia had entered under the control of the Mongols<sup>1</sup>. The Mongols robbed and pillaged of all the places. Brutally killed the ones belonging to Seljuk Dynasty.

Melek Peyker Sultan, Naime Gevher Sultan and Asiye Sultan, three daughters of Alaeddin Keykubat, III, lay their heads together and decided to give their lives to save. Because one day they would probably be killed if they stayed in Konya anymore. When their father had been forced to sit in Isfahan in Iran there were nobody left to protect them.

Melek Peyker Sultan began to look for remedies to escape after consulting with Omer Agha. Finally they decided to escape to Karahisar-ı Sahib (Afyonkarahisar). But everywhere, especially Konya was under strict control of entry and exit. They had to be careful to do this. Finally, they began preparations to get out of Konya with peasant costumes. They carried the most necessary things to Ömer Agha's house confidentially. They cut their interest with the palace. They settled in Ömer Agha's house after leaving the palace on the occasion of going to a visitor.

The agreed day finally came. Naime Gevher Sultan would leave Konya as the first one. An ox cart had been prepared after the market where the villagers brought vegetables, fruits, animals and food stuff in a specific day of the week. Naime Gevher Sultan wore peasant women's clothes. Some of the items loaded in the cart. A small amount of jewelry and money put in one of the animal's bags filled with hay. The cart under Ömer Agha's assistants' administration did not have any difficulty to leave the city wall's gate with the other peasant carts. The cart came to a close village where a preparation had been done in a house by Ömer Agha. It was Asiye Sultan's turn. She also left Konya the same way after a week. She was carrying precious jewelry and money with her. She was also brought to the village where Naime Gevher Sultan had stayed.

Finally, it was Melek Peyker Sultan's turn to escape. But the Mongols increased the controls, they even started to invade houses. Therefore, it was decided to take action as soon as possible. Together with a group of peasants taking advantage of the

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<sup>1</sup> Osman Turan Turkey at Seljuk period İstanbul-1983

Mongolian soldiers' intoxication, they left the gate quickly by cars. This way, they completed the first part of their escape plan.

#### THE ARRIVAL OF MELEK PEYKER SULTAN TO AFYONKARAHİSAR

Sisters were going to Afyon with a flock of 4-5 cars and ten or so cavalry.

The flock continued to walk at night and hide out in forests, away from towns and villages, as the sun rose. They were careful not to burn fire. They walked away from villages and towns, did not spoke to any shepherds that they met.

This journey took so many days. It took so long as they could move only at nights and could not move fast.

Finally one day the watchman of the flock gave the good news that Lake Akşehir was appeared in the horizon. They moved all night long. They rested on the slopes of the Mount Sultan for one day. Now, fearful days had passed. The next day they camped at night in the hot waters zone where the Heybeli Hot Spring now are. Then they moved to the center of the state of Sons of Sahipata, Karahisar-ı Sahib (Afyonkarahisar). Karahisar-ı Sahib (Afyonkarahisar) was a town around the castle where its border ends around today's Yukarı Pazar Mosque. They became the guest of Sahipata Beg. Then they settled there, finding a suitable home.<sup>2</sup>

#### BRINGING KADINANA WATER SPRING TO AFYON

The three Sultan ladies accustomed to live in Afyon in a short period of time. Soon they understood the daily needs of the public.<sup>3</sup>

At that time Afyon was deeply suffering from lack of water supply. The open flowing waterways were out of order consistently. There was not enough water supply. People had to drink well water. For this reason, epidemics were seen from time to time. This water brought from the vicinity of Kışlacık village did not meet the demand. It was flowing blur because it was open-top.

The Sultan ladies saw the people suffering, they were worrying, but could not find any remedy. They went to visit the gardens of Kışlacık village on a hot day of July. They stayed in a country house for a month in a place called Şirin Pınar. One day they went to the source of water flowing thru Afyon with the guidance of the villagers together with Ömer Aga. They examined the waterways toured the neighbourhood. The water in the spring was abundant. But with a simple and open-top waterway it was polluted and more than half was wasted as it went on its way.

When they went back to bond's house, after dinner, the eldest sister Melek Peyker Sultan came up with an idea:

— As we all know this world is temporary. It comes and goes. As mortals, one day, we are going to leave this world. Therefore, we work to be useful as we have opportunity. Let's at least do good to Afyon. In this way, she said, we will be remembered good in doomsday.

Other sisters agreed to her idea. The three sisters agreed on doing something to solve Afyon's drinkable water supply problem. They would buy the water spring in Kışlacık, they would make the dispenser more efficient, they would make covered water channels built. They decided to spend their gold, etc., brought from Konya, for this purpose. Here, Melek Peyker Sultan asserted this idea:

— Three of us have the right on the money that we brought from Konya. Let's divide

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2 Dr. Mehmet Saadetin Aygen The Kadınana Türkelı Printing House in Afyon

3 Ahmet Tunca Afyon and Kadınanalar at Seljuks Government Period

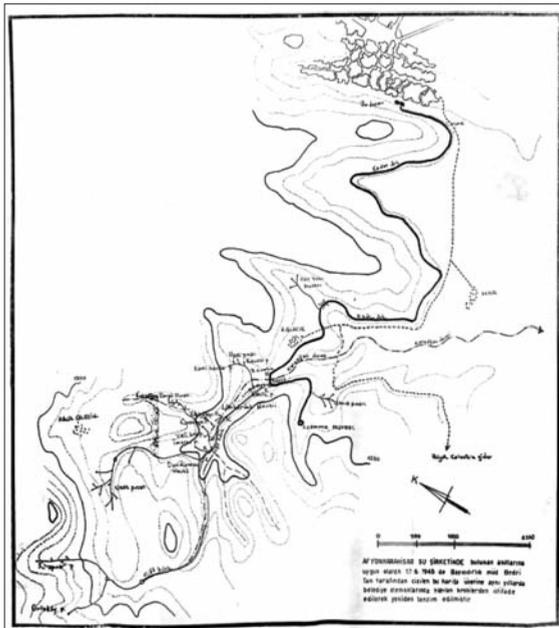
it into three. Everyone makes a charity in her name with her own share. In this way, the three of us have done things separately, also, she said, the country would be better served.

— Her two sisters welcomed this idea happily. They told their elder sister to do the water business in her own name and decide what to do with their own share in the future.

They returned Afyon the next day and started the work necessary..

Their first task in Afyon was to find the owner of water source. Ömer Aga found the owner one day later.<sup>4</sup> To obtain the spring's owner's consent near Kışlacık village vicinity he paid 1000 scale of gold and then he washed the scale with the spring's water. Therefore this spring was also started to be called as scale of water.<sup>5</sup> Craftesmen and deeds were obtained for the water spring after the purchase. Melek Peyker Sultan was supervising the work herself.<sup>6</sup>

At the end of two years of work to regulate the waterway and to solve the city's water problem she spent all of her assets and that way the top of the waterway which was previously open was closed with Stone and the inside of it was built of Khorassan masonry plastered with mortar.<sup>7</sup>



*Kadınana  
waterway map*

4 Dr. Mehmet Saadetin Aygen The Kadınana Türkeli Printing House in Afyon

5 Ömer Fevzi Atabek Brief Historical account of Afyon-1987

6 Dr. Mehmet Saadetin Aygen The Kadınana Türkeli Printing House in Afyon

7 Afyon Kocatepe University Works art in Afyon-2005



*The beginning  
of Kadınana  
water*

The water brought delivered to a waterhouse in Hıdırlık. Street fountains were established among neighborhoods. This way Afyon for the first time received a regular and clean drinking water service.

People's feelings of gratitude for the service of Melek Peyker Sultan as an expression of this water source was called Kadınana water.<sup>8</sup>

With Asiye Sultan's share of money construction of a modern, big and covered cemetery was started.

With her own share, Naime Gevher Sultan had an improvement of the stream coming from Olucak and Taşpınar ridges which were seriously threatening people's health, causing illnesses and damaging property and lives from time to time with floods. That stream made harmless by bridge constructions in some places.<sup>9</sup>

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMAN AMONG TURKS

Historians' researchs shows that Turks give tremendous value to women, they uplift their women and they mention the great praise throughout their history. Information about Turks is known to extend backward to four thousand years BC. This is important information that were revealed in the Turkish women's characteristics, motherhood, kindness, beauty, warrior spirit and heroism has been mentioned.

When we examine the later written works about Turkish Woman, we see that "Motherhood and Heroism" are the main characteristics as well as bravery, horseback riding, use of weapons, combat powers and having the power and ability to fight. Turks. Mentioning with praise and showing great respect to Turkish women in \*Orkhon Incriptions, Turks show how much importance they gave them in their history. At that

8 Afyon Kocatepe University Works art in Afyon-2005

9 Dr. Mehmet Saadettin Aygen The Kadınana Türkeli Printing House in Afyon

time, the woman in the war, political arena and social life all the time with her husband; the Turks have seen that equality between men and women in state administration. Khan cannot give orders or edict on his own or rather is not considered valid. On given orders, if the orders starts as Khan and his wife ordered that, then it is only being accepted as a valid order.

In addition, in the former Turk history, a Khan cannot accept an envoy alone, instead, he can only accept an envoy while he is sitting on the right and his wife is on the left shows the importance of women in Turkish communities. Researchs show that khan and his wife definitely should have been together on holidays, banquets, conference meetings, ceremonies, religious exercises, war and peace situations. Here we clearly understand that in the past among Turks, in the management of the state, the sovereignty of man alone does not mean anything without woman and men and women were considered to be equal in the society.

In the Turkish community women are protected legally in the past. For any kind of crime against woman there is a penalty; if any damage or humiliation occurs in the society against any woman, there would be a punishment of the perpetrator, so therefore, woman could easily get into any society and was inside the social life. On any negative case women could claim her rights is also an indication of how much Turks care their women.

After accepting Islam after the arrival of the Seljuks in Anatolia Turkish woman shows her presence in all areas. She did all of her tasks, like man, in the market. She never stayed at home. For three hundred years of domination by the Seljuks, man and woman did not separate from each other. As art and cultural activities people built in behalf of women madrasa, hospitals and libraries.

*Here's one of the women is Melek Peyker Sultan. Contrary to stereotypical judgments, Melek Peyker Sultan is an example to prove Turkish woman in the history is not only a mother and wife at home, but also is interested in science, economics, trade and alike. Melek Peyker Sultan used the big heritage left to her for the public's benefit to meet the drinking water demand. Not only she provided financial assistance to the construction, she closely followed the work and investigated the work place where the water brought from. She placed herself inside the team starting from planning till installation. If we examine in terms of women and science, Melek Peyker Sultan did not work in today's standards of theoretical scientific theories. However it is a fact that both in financial management and engineering issues she was application-oriented. With the conditions of those days, if the past studies related to vocational education of girls were similar to the studies of present days, the number of Turkish women that achieved success in the scientific sense could have been more. This finding shows the importance of gender-oriented vocational training guidance that still be felt insufficient in today's conditions. Occupations that man and woman can do in terms of stereotypical judgments that the society accepts varies from culture to culture and from one country to another. With the current community conditions it is expected that these judgements have minimal impact to people's choice of profession. In XIII. Century, under the leadership of Melek Peyker Sultan thanks to arrangements made to this water channels in time, Afyonkarahisar community still drinks the Kadınana Spring Water.*

*As an expression of feelings of gratitude for the services of Melek Peyker Sultan, public gave her the title of Kadınana which is Female-parent in English.*

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- (5) Ömer Fevzi Atabek The History of Afyon Province Afyon -1987
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- (9) Dr. Mehmet Saadettin Aygen Kadınana in Afyon Türkeli Printing House Afyon -1986
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## FAQs ON THE SUBJECT

### 1- What are the names of the Female-parents in Afyonkarahisar?

Daughters of Anatolian Seljuk Sultan Alâeddin Keykubat: Melek Peyker Sultan, Naime Gevher Sultan and Asiye Sultan.

### 2- What is the importance of Melek Peyker Sultan for Afyonkarahisar?

At that time Afyon was suffering a great water supply problem. The running open waterways were out of order all time. Sufficient water was not flowing to the city. People had to drink well water. For this reason, epidemics were seen from time to time. The water brought from the vicinity of Kışlacık Village did not meet the water needs. It was flowing fuzzy since it was open top.

At the end of two years of work to regulate the waterway and to solve the city's water problem she spent all of her assets and that way the top of the waterway which was previously open was closed with Stone and the inside of it was built of Khorassan masonry plastered with mortar. This way Afyon for the first time received a regular and clean drinking water service.

### 3- What was Melek Peyker Sultan's role in bringing Kadınana Water to Afyonkarahisar?

She bought the Spring near Kışlacık village vicinity from its owner for 1000 scale of gold. Craftsmen and deeds were obtained after the purchase of water fountain. Melek Peyker Sultan presided over the work herself.

### 4- Why Kadınana (Female-parent) name was given to Melek Peyker Sultan?

Since Melek Peyker Sultan brought the water from the vicinity of Kışlacık village, in return public gave her the name of Kadınana to her as an expression of gratitude and the spring was also called Kadınana Water.

### 5- What was Asiye Sultan's service?

With Asiye Sultan's share of money construction of a modern, big and covered cemetery was started.

### **6- What was Naime Gevher Sultan's service?**

With her own share, Naime Gevher Sultan had an improvement of the stream coming from Olucak and Taşpınar ridges which were seriously threatening people's health, causing illnesses and damaging property and lives from time to time with floods. That stream made harmless by bridge constructions in some places.

### **7- How Turkish women were appreciated by Turks before Islam?**

Mentioning with praise and showing great respect to Turkish women in \*Orkhon Inscriptions, Turks show how much importance they gave them in their history. At that time, the woman in the war, political arena and social life all the time with her husband; the Turks have seen that equality between men and women in state administration. Khan cannot give orders or edict on his own or rather is not considered valid. On given orders, if the orders starts as Khan and his wife ordered that, then it is only being accepted as a valid order.

### **8- How Turkish women were appreciated by Turks after Islam?**

After accepting Islam after the arrival of the Seljuks in Anatolia Turkish woman shows her presence in all areas. She did all of her tasks, like man, in the market. She never stayed at home. For three hundred years of domination by the Seljuks, man and woman did not separate from each other. As art and cultural activities people built in behalf of women madrasa, hospitals and libraries.

### **9- What was Melek Peyker Sultan's stereotype in terms of women and science?**

If we examine in terms of women and science, Melek Peyker Sultan did not work in today's standards of theoretical scientific theories. However it is a fact that both in financial management and engineering issues she was application-oriented.

### **RESEARCH TOPICS:**

1. A trip to the beginning of Kadınana water spring.
2. Preparing an album by shooting photos of the Kadınana water spring area and its surroundings.
3. A trip to the fountains in Afyon where Kadınana water flows.
4. Preparing an album and a school or class bulletin board after shooting photos of the fountains in Afyon where Kadınana water flows.
5. Known as Female-parents in Afyonkarahisar, visit Melek Peyker Sultan, Naime Gevher Sultan, and Asiye Sultan's graves.
6. Creating platforms about the Female-parents thru social networking sites (facebook, twitter, etc.) on the Internet.

