

## CHAMERIA AND CHAMS THROUGH THE FLOW OF THE MILLENNIUM EVENTS

Since the early ancient world and up until now, Chameria has been continuously -and still is- inhabited from the same population: Albanian chams, Homer on the *Odyssey* called them "Titan", and according to Efori, Straboni- called them "divine pelasgians". Since 1530 B.C Chams had their kingdom. When sea waves through *Odysseus* off the shores of Chameria, on the throne was Queen Kalidhikë, who sheltered and helped him to return to his beloved island, Ithaca. Scilacis Cariadensis says: "on the lower lands of Kaonia, there are Thesprots and right after them there are Mollosët". Mr. Urban in "Studies about South Albania" writes: "From Butrint up to Preveza lived Thesprotians". (A.I.H., dos. A-I.6) Franz V. Scheiger writes: "Albanian element extends in the south up to the Gulf of Arta, where as to the East as far as mountin Pindos".

That Chams refused to be occupied from strangers, can be quite evident through their rebellions in the years: 1336, 1714, 1708-1709, 1780-1800, 1824-1828, 1831, 1833, 1834, 1847-1848 etc. These uprisings were temporarily halted because of his Greek state rulers became a threatening force against Chams and their country. Once they got hold of state power, they rested their eyes on territories in the north, mainly Albanians. Because they were new on political scene, didn't dare to push forward their aimed agenda. The given opportunity came at 1854, when the military defense of the time was stuck with Russian in Crimea. On 2<sup>nd</sup> of January of that year they launched an army led by General Theodore Griva, who managed to occupy the entire eastern part of the Chameria, as far as Kalama River.

Sadly the flowing time went on against the Cham up to this day. On the night of 17-18 Octobre 1912, the Greek army ran Chameria with warships and other military force; it hit Preveza

and all northern shores between Preveza and Narta. Although fighters of Chameria and their allies the Ottoman army partially based in Ioannina and composed partially of Chams fiercely responded with gun fire. Nevertheless, after a month of some deadly clashes, the ever growing Greek army, pushed as far as to Black River flow.