

DESCRIPTION OF EVLIYA ÇELEBÍ TRAVELS THROUGH MOLLOSI AND ÇAMERIA

The *Halveti* Turkish shaikh Evliya Çelebi, has travelled three times in Albanian land - named Arnavutllük, during the rule of the Ottoman Sultanate: in 1660 through its northern part, in 1662 through its middle, while in 1670 through its south; the last part consists of Çamëria and Mollosía. This article focuses only on the description of Evliya Çelebi travels through these two regions.

Çamëri was called the terrestrial streak by the Ionian Sea, which extends 110-115 km from the Gulf of Preveza northward and extends 36 km from promenade eastward, all covered within an area of about 4140 km². Dodon - Mali i Gjerë east-ridge separates it from Mollosía, territory with an area of over 5,000 km².

Evlija Çelebi toured throughout the territories of Çamëria, who were then part of the Albanian trunk land, like no other foreign travelers. This gave him the opportunity to know in detail each show and behavior of everyday life: language, trends, especially those most favorites: manhood, bravery, loyalty to word promises, generosity, mercy, etc. With few words, he became their most perfect cognitive. He notes: *"All Albanians speak Albanian, language unlike any other language ... It is wonderful language which they speak with devotion and politeness when addressing each other with honor."* Among other things he extols the Albanian's hospitality; writing: *"A foreigner, even a stranger, in Albania is welcome in any home to speak and he can stay there as he wishes. The owner of the house, if the necessary food is missing to satisfy newcomers, he will leave his rifle - the most precious and vital to him and his family - as a guarantee to get all he needs to satisfy the guest."*

He reflected his observations one by one in the book *"Evliya Çelebi Seyyahatnamesi."* In it appear all the phenomena of social and economic life of our country: history, geography, agriculture,

handicraft, trade, political and religious organization, customs, culture, legends, etc., which he describes with surprising candor and detail. The book, from all points of view: social, economic and political life is a rich treasure to light the history of the Albanian people and its regions currently outside the political borders of Albania.

Evliya Çelebi has described everything that caught the eye: Mountains heights, the size of towns and villages, has carefully measured the length and breadth of palaces, mosques and churches, has described with special attention without leaving anything out the constructions of the time, closely observed the life of the people, language, religion, customs. He is the greatest of all medieval Muslim tourists, going ahead off Al-Mesudi, Ibn Al-Fadlan, Al-Idrisi, Ibn Al-Batuta etc..