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“REÇAK OF ÇAMËRIA”

Frequently, the historic events of a nation, be it small both in the number of population or in the geographical extension, have occasionally some cross-points with each other.

This is also the case with the history of Albanian nation. When the American ambassador Walker became witness of the extraordinary massacre by the Serbs in the village of Reçak in Kosovo, a village not much known at that time – by the end of the XX-th century, all the historians, and even ordinary people, brought in their minds a massacre of the same dimensions that had happened in Albanian territories. At that time, that was not happening in Kosovo, but down, much down the state boundary; inn the South, in the region of Çamëria, with so many traditions. Exactly in the village of Selan, in a stream through a death-abyss, which was quite near the Çamëria town of Paramithy, in the year 1913, the Greek andart forces inhumanly treacherously killed 72 best men of Çam villages of Nihor, Mininë, Drams, Koriqan, Beden etc. It was found a much crooked reason to justify such a bloody slaughter. All the men, to be killed, were called as if to “organize the state-power in Çamëri”. That was just the time when there were officially divided unjustly the ethnic boundaries of Albania, initiated also by other countries of Europe, allocating a lot of the most prosperous lands, in productivity and in history, to our greedy Greek and Serbian neighbors.

Massacre of Reçak in Kosovo was a turning point in the European and world diplomacy to give merited answer to the Serbian rulers. After this massacre, the Serbians, led by the dictator Milosevic carried out other massacres, too, including also that Head-massacre massive displacement, one of the biggest in the modern history of Europe at the end of the XX-th century. This event would remind everyone that tragic displacement made by the Greeks in the year 1944 and 1945, with the same unbelievable

reason, not only at that time but also nowadays, after 65 years of a history of two neighboring countries. They were forced out “as collaborators of Germans”, cutting as if by knife, the Muslim population of Çamëria, obliging them to displace and negating their national right and Muslim faith that the entire population of Çamëria enjoyed.

In both these dolorous events of our nation, at the beginning and the end of the XX-th century, was quite felt that great solidarity that Albanian population had. Thus, in Çamëri military forces from Vlora, Fieri, Tepelena, Mallakstra and other regions ranged to oppose by arms the conquest of Çamëria territories by Greece. In this struggle took part the best sons of Çamëria such as Abedin Dino from Preveza, Ali Riza Pashaj, Muharrem Rushiti from Koska, Qemal Frashëri from Filipiadha, Zija Dojakë from Filati, etc. In Albania, after the Massacre of Reçak, there were opened the doors of houses to welcome the brothers and sisters from Kosovo in that March of Blood.

By remembering both these events, which for another dolorous casualty, happened in the month of January, we recall the massacres caused to our nation being a prelude of an unprecedented genocide at a time when our history witnessed its most important blind-alleys. These are two events that have naturally taken their place both in history and in folklore. These events have also had a great echo in the international medias.