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BAZAAR AND SOME OF THE MOSQUES IN ELBASAN

The place where all the different economic activities developed and that gave greater vitality not only to economy, but also to the urban life, was the Bazaar. There it was developed a vivid and active life, linking Elbasan with all other Albanian and Balkan cities, as well as with Thessalonica and Istanbul, two very important city-ports for the trade of that time.

The main part of the Bazaar of Elbasan was the Square of Tabaks (today Martyrs' Square), in the middle of which it was found the fountain with two sprays pouring restlessly in the round and deep basin, where 12 horses of a caravan could drink water at the same time. In the fountain stones it was written in Arabic: "any vivacity derives from water". Swinging movement of tenants, the whinny of horses, loading and saddling under the ticking sound of the caravan trot, the shrill voice of coffee-makers and shots of the bakers peels, formed the noise of that rich market that slowly woke up by the crisp echo of the movement, which was closely related to the economy of the country.

Elbasani people developed their trading links with abroad. Only during the years 1741-1800, there were 20 different merchants trading only with Venice. Before the year 1878, it was established "Commerce Chamber" with a chairman and five members and it was established the commercial court of arbitration with its code since 1851.

One of the most important events in Elbasan is the opening of the Normal School, which gave momentum to Albanian national education. The Normal School of Elbasan was established on 1 December 1909 with the help of prominent figures such as H. Ibrahim Dalli, Alexander Xhuvani, Luigj Gurakuqi, Sali Ceka etc. It is the first Albanian national secondary school, a center for the preparation of Albanian teachers in the mother tongue. During the Balkan wars, it turned into a hotbed of resistance against the Serb occupiers, by H. Vehbi Dibra, who launched his directives on behalf of the government of Ismail Kamal to organize the resistance against the Serbian occupation in the areas of north-eastern Albania.

Among the oldest mosques of the city of Elbasan, we can mention the Mosque of Sultan Mehmet (1466), King Mosque, the mosque of Naziresha, of Ballies, of Aga, etc., built during the XV-XVII-th centuries.