

Namik SELMANI

## THE “RACE” OF BAKLAVA

If we were to look closer into the spiritual identity of the region of Chameria, it is necessary to learn at some extent about its spiritual ethnography. Also, we should know its culinary traditions. Kitchen has never been considered only as the place of eating meals, but also an irreplaceable part of its mosaic of cultural values. This mosaic is so wide that even after more than 60 years of the Cham population organized banishment from the ancestral territories it has never faded away. Life of this population has never been separated by the belief in Islamic faith. Even, the numerous celebrations of the Muslim believers, with *Bayrams* as the main ones, have been accompanied with the cooking of Chams' most characteristic dish, *baklava*. A study of life, customs and folklore raises it to the level of and irreplaceable emblem of this part of nation.