

# WISDOM

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### Bektashism as a national value



**B**ektashism as a national value

### Brothers in the Future



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### Bridges of soul towards skies



**Bridges of soul towards skies**



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## Bridges of soul towards skies

*Tomorrow opens the symposium about messages forwarded from prophetic family in presence of researches from Turkey, Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iran, Iraq etc. The word of world Head of Bektashi, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj ...*

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### To make the world a better place



**To make the world a better place**

### I am wondered by bektashian faith



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## To make the world a better place

*With the invitation of the Secretary of the State of USA, Mr. John Kerry, the Head Grandfather" of the World Bektashi Headquarter, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj traveled toward to the Washington DC attended by Mr. Arben Sulejmani, Secretary for International Relation.*

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### A RETURN WHICH



**A RETURN WHICH**

### AWAKES THE HEAVENS



**AWAKES THE HEAVENS**

## A RETURN WHICH AWAKES THE HEAVENS

*The voice of the stuardess announcing that we were landing to Nexhef airport, made me to put immediately my front to the glass of the window. The Sun was so full that it seemed to me it gave much light than it needed to Karbala.*

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# Bektashism

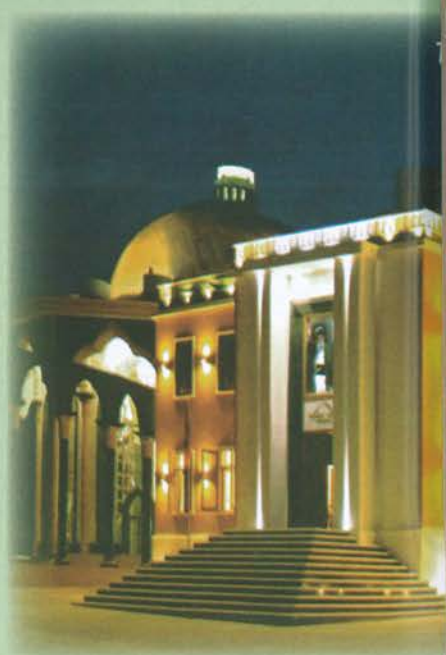
Haxhi Bektash achieved his first studies in the schools of Persia. In the manhood, he begun to follow the lessons of the greatest mystic of that time, Lokman Perende; he had big moral successes and he was dedicated to his mystic ideal. After, he was inspired by the saint guide Hoxha Ahmet Jesevii. In this way, he got settled in Sulxhe Kara Ujuk (Anatolia) and he founded there the first Bektashi tekke in the World, which became famous during the centuries and was transformed in a general Bektashi center. Very soon, the Bektashi dervishes and babas, achieved the geographical extension of Bektashism in the Small Asia, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Egypt, Yugoslavia, Greece, Albania etc. In the beginning of the 16th century, the Bektashism had already its educational center for the formation of dervishes, in Dimoteka (Bulgaria), where learned 400 dervishes every year.

Meantime, in the year 1826, Sultan Mahmud II, took very strong measures against the Bektashi tarikat (brotherhood); the Bektashi clergymen captured because dressed in their traditional uniform or because they practiced illegally their faith, were killed, imprisoned or interned. While, on December 13 of the year 1925, by a decision of the Turkish Parliament, were closed all the tekkes in Turkey. Under such circumstances, the World Bektashi Grandfather of that time, Sali Niazi Dede, who was the third Albanian World Grandfather, after the conversations with babas of Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia and Albania and after consulting the head of the Albanian diplomatic mission in Istanbul, decided to transfer in Tirana the Holy See of the World Bektashi Head Quarter. The III Bektashi Congress, which took place in Korçë, in 1929, decided definitively this transfer. In a document (Central State Archive, Fund 883, in the year 1932, file I, leaves 1-3) is written: "The Head of the tekke in Kirshehir; His Eminence Grandfather Salih Niazi, who is of Albanian kin and who is known as the Pope of all the Bektashis of the World, was constrained to get away of the great center of Bektashism and came to take place in Tirana as Grandfather of Albania, keeping also his high duty as the function keeper of this faith for all the World".

In the years 1930-1941, the Grandfather Salih



Tekke in Hungaria



Tekke in Kosovo



Tekke in Albania



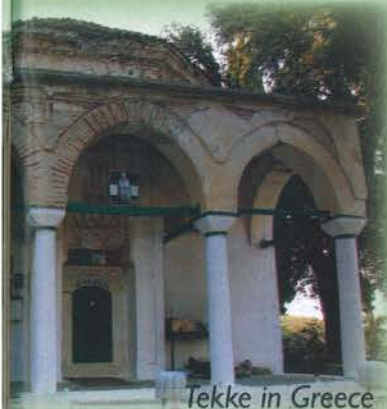
Niazi Dede gave to the Bektashism in Albania a new historical dimension and enriched day by day the Bektashi tradition of Haxhi Bektash Veli, which continues nowadays. He refused to sign the occupation of our country by Italy in 1939 and two years after he died as a martyr for the fatherland. After him, respecting the Bektashi code and customs, came in this high position: Ali Riza Dede (1941 - 1944), Kamber Ali Dede (1944 - 1945), Xhafer Sadik Dede (1945 - 1945),

Abaz Hilmi Dede (1945 - 1947), Ahmed Myftar Dede (1947 - 1980), Haxhi Dede Reshat Bardhi (1991 - 2011), Haxhi Baba Edmond Brahimaj (10.06.2011).

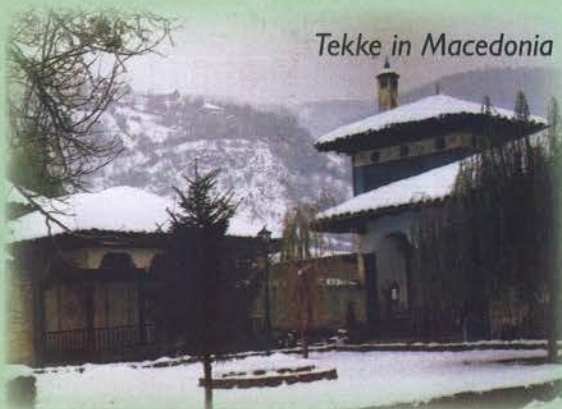
The Bektashi believers believe exclusively the only God. They are characterized by the tolerance towards all the other faiths. The basis of their believe are the precious teachings of the Prophet Mohammed and those of the Majestic Koran. Differently of the sunits, Albanian ones and others, the Bektashis, besides

the Prophet Mohammed, honor also the Prophetic Family - Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husein. The Bektashi tarikat (brotherhood) respects all the people, independent of their religion, ideas, race, color or ethnicity. The Bektashi believers pray in their sanctuaries. Men and women, they consider each other as brothers and sisters. The Bektashi believers go to tekke when they want, not when the clergymen want.

The Bektashis are leaded and orga-



Tekke in Greece



Tekke in Macedonia



Tekke in Kazakhstan

The Headquarter of the World  
Bektashi Community  
The Holy See - Albania



Tekke in U.S.A.



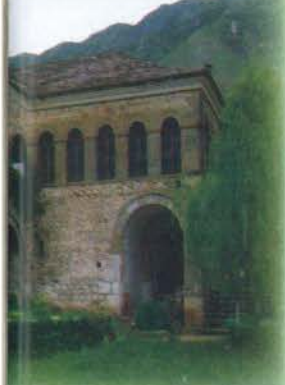
Tekke in Albania



Tekke in Turkia



Tekke in Bulgaria



nized by a World Grandfather - this is the Bektashi tradition, since the creation of this faith until nowadays. Within the Albanian areas, there are 8 gjyshatas (regional Bektashi leading structures), which are those of Kruja, Korça, Elbasani, Skrapari, Vlora, Gjirokastra, Kosova and Tetova. The Holy See of the World Bektashi Head Quarter keeps direct relations with the bektashi communities living and acting in USA, Canada, Germany, Australia, Netherlands, Great Britain, Greece, Egypt, Turkey,





Macedonia, Kosovë, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Iran etc.

Because of the strong influence of the communist dictatorship and by a special order of the State-Party, in the year 1967, in the isolated Albania were closed all the churches, mosques, tekkes and other religious institutions. After, as all the Albanian believers, the Bektashis continued to practice secretly their faith and the traditional rites, facing, often, big dangers and sacrifices, sometimes even the prison or the shootings. But even those repressive measures did not extinguish the faith of the Bektashi believers. In the years '90 of the last century, after the establishment of the democracy in Albania, 200 Bektashi religious buildings and institutions were reconstructed. Actually, many tekkes and dervishies are directed by numerous dervishs and babas. The World Bektashi Head Quarter is a juridical person, according to the International Right and to the constitutional laws of the Albanian State. It functions on the basis of the principle of the centralism and that of the strong and conscientious discipline of the clergymen and on the basis of the collegial directing work, of the common responsibility and fraternity, according to the Statute and to the Bektashi canonical rules.

On April 2 of the year 2011, passed away the World Grandfather of Bektashis, Haxhi Dede Reshat Bardhi, who will be remembered for his precious contribution in the years 1967 - 1990 and to the resumption of the religious life in general and particularly of the Bektashism, after the establishment of the democracy in Albania. On June 10, 2011, the High Grandfathers Council and the General Council, elected His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj for the position of the World Grandfather of Bektashis and actually the new World Grandfather is continuing the work of Dede Reshat. During the 6 years of his leadership, besides the activity and the initiatives concerning the continuation of the most precious Bektashi traditions, His Holyness His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj was received by the highest religious and state personalities in USA, France, Italy, Turkey, Iraq, Belgium, Switzerland, South Korea, Rusia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Germany etc. He enjoys the support of all Bektashi communities, everywhere in the World.



Invited by the Organising Committee of the International Conference on Religious Freedom, a few days ago, Baba Edmond Brahimaj travelled to Kochi, India. It was the first time that the Bektashi delegation participated in this international religious event and the organizers showed great respect and appreciation. This was also due to the fact that Baba Edmond Brahimaj would deliver a speech on the threatened freedom of Bektashi Order in Macedonia.

The quality of the organisation was evident from the beginning. Coming from countries all over the world, religious leaders not only manifested their wisdom and sagacity but also their permanent vision. The marvellous city of Kochi provided everyone with the traditional Indian friendliness and hospitality. The Delegation of the World Bektashi Centre was accommodated in one of the most beautiful hotels situated in the centre of the city. We held continuous meetings and discussions with other religious leaders coming from all continents in that hotel.

The prominent religious leader, Dalai Lama, gave a warm greeting to all delegations and other leaders as well. The 33rd Conference on Religious Freedom has introduced the

Invited by the Moscow Islamic University, the Head of the World Bektashi Centre, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj participated in the Conference on Islamic Civilisation. At the beginning of November, we travelled to Moscow along with the Head of the World Bektashi Centre to participate in the 3-day Conference on the Islamic Values. We were





# New Dimensions

discussion panels, where each representative has had the chance to kindly share their concerns or ideas related to the dimensions of religious freedom. On the third day of this conference, Baba Edmond Brahimaj delivered his speech. Firstly, he delivered the greetings of the Head of World Bektashi Centre Hajji Dede Reshat Bardhi and then he talked about the active role of the World Bektashi Centre in Tirana.

At the end of his speech, Baba Edmond Brahimaj stated: "Among other things, we Albanians take pride on the life and works of Mother Teresa, a saint that did not stop providing help and sharing love until her last breath. The pure Bektashi belief, as well as other traditional beliefs in the Albanian territories and Balkans, have the great mission to live in peace and share love and kindness. We, the Bektashi believers, follow the principles of the Messenger of God and we view our religious freedom as closely related to the religious freedom of other nations and ethnicities. We believe that this freedom can take other dimensions only when we follow the paths that take us to the Almighty God."



On one of the days of the 33rd International Conference on Religious Freedom, the Bektashi delegation received a warm welcome by the religious leader Dalai Lama.

**"Winsdom" - reporter,**  
October 2010

## We All Share a Common Destiny

first welcomed by the Rector of the Moscow Islamic University, Dr. Marat Murtazin and his deputy, Dr. Alsu Sitdikova, in the premises of this university. The heads of this scientific centre informed us on the student education programme, as well as other teaching styles, which not only complete the marvellous mosaic of Islam, but they also emphasize the collaborative trends of Islam with early Russian Christianity. The University's premises, excellent library and the rare fund of Islamic literature made our visit even more enjoyable. In the second day of the Conference, our Delegation was welcomed by the Mufti of Tatarstan, Ildus, Dr. Nevzat Aşıkoglu, and Dr. Mohamed Al Ashin from Saudi Arabia. In addition to sharing religious experiences in various discussions, something of special interest was the curiosity of the participants about Bektashism. After the greetings of the religious leaders from Moscow, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Tatarstan, Algeria, Egypt, Syria, etc., in the main panel of this Conference, the Head of the World Bektashi Centre, delivered his speech by saying that throughout the course of history, driven by human, ethnic and religious trends, people have prejudiced and violently

confronted each other. These battles have undoubtedly provoked tragedies century after century and millions of people have survived these sufferings. This is history. Throughout the course of history, especially in the Balkans, the famous Bektashi quote has been continuously mentioned: "We are brothers, despite our race, religion and language". It is our God that gave us everything and by being grateful to Him, we create brotherly relationships with everyone, in exchange to His endless mercy and love. In conclusion, the Head of the Bektashi Centre stated: "We all share a common human destiny and are evenly exposed to secularism and radicalism. Just like families where love is profound and moral and divine values are transmitted, the future of human societies will certainly be bright if we consider each other equal to the attention of the Creator." During the days that the Conference was carried out, the Head of the World Bektashi Centre, conducted important meetings with religious leaders who participated in this event.

**Syrja Xhelaj, Moscow,**  
December 2011



# Bektashism as a national value



**B**ektashism today and challenges of the future. This international activity was organized and held on 04.06.2011, in a close cooperation between the Holy Residence of World Bektashi Headquarter and the Tekke of Saranda, which holds the name of "Haxhi Dede Reshat Bardhi".

Except the numerous bektashian oelievers who came from Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia, in Saranda there were also believers from all Albania. Regarding the papers, they arrived from Turkey, Russia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Bulgaria. All the activity was held in the premises of hotel "Mediterraneo" in Saranda, and what became notable were the good and qualitative overviews about bektashian faith. It was led by two Deputy Fathers Hajji Father Sadik Ibrokdheli and His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj. The interest for this symposium was high even by the side of Albanian state organisms, represented by minister on duty of Minister of Justice, Miss. Brikena Kasmi and the Chairman of State Committee for cults Mr. Rasim Hasanaj. Like in every previous activity, the international symposium was opened by the sounds of our national anthem, which was followed by keeping a minute of silence in honor of Hajji Dede Reshat Bardhi who now has gone off life.

In the first panel were the greetings followed by the papers. It was the representative of Tekke "Hajji Dede Reshat Bardhi" who welcomed the participants and spoke about the great work of believers of the South of Albania, who made possible the raising from foundations of this worship place and tekke within two years. After this, the Chairman of State Committee for Cults Mr. Rasim Hasanaj focused on the great value of such activities. In the name of Holy Residence of World Bektashi Headquarter, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj greeted all the participants. Dr. Mahmud Khalilzade spoke in the name of foundation of Ehli-Bejtit, who especially appreciated the conservation of wonderful bektashi traditions, in the blossom of Albanian believers, while Mr. Nuh Tokçelik, director of publishing house "Prizmi" with the main office in Tirana, underlined the aspect of religious tolerance

that the bektashi faith has demonstrated in Albania and more.

A warm greeting and pure messages of solidarity was brought in the symposium even by the chairman of bektashi community of Canada Mr. Muharrem Xhaferi. He assured the participants that thanks to the organization in branches and sections by cities, in cooperation with Canadian government it is in progress a good work to open a tekke even in the remote continent. In the second panel, Dr. Prof. Osman Egri, from Turkey kept his paper about philosophy of peace and love that bektashi faith forwards. He brought an important moment of this faith, especially in plane of raising and keeping bridges with other religions. While the academic Ali Aliu from Macedonia, brought through his paper a full view of beginning, development and nowadays tendencies of bektashism, in Albanian territories of Tetovo, Gostivar and Monastery.

A paperwork of high level, a detailed assay of life and work of Hajji Dede Reshat Bardhi, was the one presented by world deputy Head Father Hajji Father Sadik Ibrokdheli. The real and deep assay, brought in evidence all the work of Head Saint Bardhi, related closely with the surviving of bektashism in our country. Invited by the organizers of this symposium, Dr. Marat Myrtazin spoke about nowadays developments of Islam, and the value of cooperation between taricates within islam and other religions. He also gave high considerations about organizing the symposium and invited both deputies bektashi head fathers officially to participate in one of activities of Muslim University in Mosco, where actually he performs the duty of Rector. The third panel, was opened by Prof. Dr. Hysen Osxhan from Turkey, who spoke about life and influence of Hajji Bektash Velii, he underlined the importance of preserving the bektashian values by the side of Holy Residence in Tirana, while Sheh Hysen Ali Hormova, stopping at the figure of Hajji Dede Reshat Bardhi brought the idea that we must learn these precious lessons and forward them to the future generations. Deputy Rector of Muslim University of Mosco, Miss. Sitdikova Rifatjevna also stressed the tolerant tendencies of islam, and how bektashism is seen as a group of ideas and practices very related with the time we are living in. She also attracted the attention of auditor claiming the important leading role of World Bektashi Headquarter in Tirana. Dr. Stefan Naumov, held light on the old relations of bektashian communities of Bulgaria with other Tekkes in Balkan and stayed on cultures and modern tendencies that faith has inherited even in the catholic religion, while Doc Parim Kosova, trying to explain the bektashian philosophy of physical and spiritual family, gave new ideas for challenges set before this faith, before the numerous influences of life in western.

"Wisdom" reporter  
June, 2011



# Brothers in the Future



A few days ago the debate on the role of religious communities in nowadays social aspects was held in Brussels with the encouragement of the European Commission for religious harmony. Under the framework of the People to People Programme and in cooperation with TACSO Project, senior representatives of religious communities from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Iceland, Macedonia and Kosovo attended this activity. They had the chance to share their opinions, as well as discuss with senior experts of the European Commission about the valuable role of religious communities regarding social aspects. The Delegation of the Bektashi World Centre consisted of His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj Head of the Bektashi World Centre and Mr. Arben Sulejmani from Macedonia.

The first panel of the debate, composed of the European Commission experts, shared their ideas and promoted cooperation among religious communities, especially among religious leaders to follow the most valuable religious principles concerning social aspects of nowadays societies.

All the people present in this panel were eager to listen to the speech of the Head of the Bektashi World Centre, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj. Firstly, he talked about the history of Bektashism, starting from its emergence and development, which is 800 years old and is present nowadays thanks to important religious events.

Among other reasons, this religion survived because it is a testimony of its deep roots and love for the Creator. Throughout the centuries it had to face contempt, scorn and disdain but it overcame all of them, because its fol-

lowers shared their devotion and permanent cleansing of the human soul with each other, according to the great saying of the ancient mystics: "In the man's heart there cannot be two loves. The man who loves God, cannot think of any other love."

His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj continued further by saying: "Honourable guests! No other nation has endured the efforts of the government to uproot religion from our souls like my nation has. In this framework, the Albanian Bektashi have experienced such dramatic experiences. In Albania this situation was unequalled because the attention of millions of Bektashi believers worldwide was focused there. Nevertheless, even during these dark times we did not lose hope.

I believe that the leaders of the religious communities present in this room share the same opinion with me about the fact that Europe requires us to maintain our religious originality, tradition and identity. We should live in this big and modern family following our spiritual principles, but always seeing each other as brothers. Brotherhood among believers undoubtedly encourages brotherhood among nations. This historical responsibility should make us conscious and able to accept each other in every aspect.

Over the following days the members shared special experiences related to the role and coordination of non-profit organizations with the religious communities.

"Wisdom", reporter  
October 2011



# Bridges of soul towards skies



**T**omorrow opens the symposium about messages forwarded from prophetic family in presence of researchers from Turkey, Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iran, Iraq etc. The word of world Head of Bektashi, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj was well received in the first session of this symposium. Among others he expressed that: "I am really lappy in this wonderful audience, through which comes to the sunlight, to the attention of various religious believers and communities, the Ehli- Bejt's messages, our prophetic family, transmitted in centuries. I wish this audience this peaceful day these pure words inspire the viewpoints and behaviors

of tomorrow, to come closer to universal Islam mercy. Allow me also to thank you in the name of HollyWorld Headquarter of Bektashi, and in the name of millions of followers of Hajji Bektash Veli, everywhere in the world.

All of us gathered here today, I believe we think the same when Prophet Muhamed (s.a.s) portended that "I have left you the Koran, and my pure family" he also intended the shiny word of High Allah and the excellent model of Ehli-Bejt. Both these resources have lowed during eight hundreds of years of bektashism giving us the divine right and providing generations of believers with their perfect attributions. It's this love for Koran and Ehli-Bejt that our Piri Hajji

Bektash Veli wanted to plant, reflecting fraternity for all his followers, and leaving messages for tomorrow. These two springs remain lot only an inspiration for our faith but have been an appeal for millions of believers, in four comers of the world in order to be on line of devotion and chastity, in mentioning the Creator. The Bektashi religion arrived in Balkan territories since in XIII century, manifested perfectly the aforementioned orders of Muhamed prophet (s.a.s) appreciating and making evident the values of Islam doctrine. This manifestation was of course neither demonstrated by force of spades nor by the drums of public criers.

Away from noise and reputation,



our pure faith, reached to touch the souls of thousands of Christians in Balkan, who saw hope, peace and inspiration in the word of prentice Hajji Bektash Veli. The reason why Bektashi religion was fast spread on these territories is that it came to Balkan like a real value, as a flash of light in the un-enlightened religious mosaic, it came like a fraternity of people who believe to a unique God.

I underline once more that it's because of fraternity nature of this faith and its very deep doctrine, that thousands of believers left the pedant orthodoxy finding themselves to the cradle of thoughts and pure acts of Ehli-Bejt. Even in our country in Albania, the Bektashi faith, brought by Anatolia, from Sari Saltik- saint and myrid of Hajji Bektash Veli, managed to have great spiritual territories. There are even documents that prove that this faith has served like a preparation to reach in that preparation and evolution of Islam doctrine.

In the later centuries, Bektashi dervishes and fathers reached to be raised in their doctrinal and social viewpoints, over malice and ire that this peninsula had inherited from its past. Bektashi clerics educated through their feelings and works the idea that belief and act based on holly willpower are reflected on over the universe and that love rays touch all the creation space. The Hadith transmitted by Imam Xhafer Sadiku that "Love is branch of acquaintance and understanding", has been and it still stays a model for the best honored works in viewpoint of religious moral and of purifying the spirit, on its long and far road. Everybody already knows that the real and stable love is the love that comes from the human heart and nature. Both these worlds go around with the attention to Creator, to his Saint, to His endless perfectness. Everybody is born from love and in one way or other he feels the love for God growing, for his sender, for the imams and for the other symbols. We all without exceptions are influenced from this love, which is led by the attention of Creator, in real it makes us more sensitive

**Bektashi clerics educated through their feelings and works the idea that belief and act based on holly willpower are reflected on over the universe and that love rays touch all the creation space.**

to any reality and more consequent to face the signs we encounter. Worn exactly with these feelings, the opinion of dervishes and fathers coped to transmit every time more the signals of spiritual peace in Balkan. Regarding in Albania, it worth not to forget that 19th and 20th centuries proved, that Bektashi clerics led by the motto "No fatherland, no faith", played an uncomparable role in Albanian autonomous movement. It cannot be casual that the Albanian Joint of Prizren was founded in the Tekke of Frasher, in the south of Albania, as it cannot be casual that on the head of the first Albanian state, in 1912, the majority of state men were of Bektashi Faith.

Later on, in our territories the love for Ehli-Bejt was not considered separate from the love for fatherland, in any moment, for the universal human freedoms, because in the essential of holly spirit of prophetic family has always been and still is the love for God, for brother, sister, for the man who is beside you, regardless race,



**The Hadith transmitted by Imam Xhafer Sadiku that "Love is branch of acquaintance and understanding", has been and it still stays a model for the best honored works in viewpoint of religious moral and of purifying the spirit, on its long and far road.**

color, ethnic or spiritual and educational preparation. This wonderful belief certainly found a renaissance, in 1930, on occasion of arriving in Albania of Sali Niazi Dede, follower of head of Bektashi Hajji Bektash of Turkey. This outstanding cleric by coming and establishing in Tirana the world Bektashi headquarter signed a topnotch moment not only for Albanian believers but even for all our nation, and for believers of other religions as well in the turbulent Balkan. In these years Tekkes in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia and Greece spread everywhere the feelings of peace and kindness, inspired of pure principles of Ehli-Bejt.

Syrja Xhelaj,  
Çorum Haxhibektash - Turkey  
January, 2012



**Bektashism is an Islam mystic doctrine, dealing with the spiritual perfection of the man. For the believer, it is the leading way to the objective desired by him - the approach to the God. The roots of Bektashism, as an Islam doctrine and practice, are in Koran and in the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed and of the saint imams.**

# WE APPRECIATE THE MESSAGES YOU SEND TO US!

Some days ago, in the premises of Holy World Headquarter of Bektashi, the special representative of Muslim Communities at American State Department, Farah Pandith and the special sent for supervision and anti-Semitism Fight, Hanna Rosenthal came for an official visit. They were also accompanied by the vice ambassador of USA in Tirana Mrs. Deborah Johnes. It was the Head Father of Bektashi, his eminence, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, who after wishing welcome, underlined the pleasure to receive the honored representatives of USA. He, made a brief description of bektashi religion development in Albanian territories and further and he stopped on priorities of this religion nowadays. Referring to the importance of existence of a World Headquarter of Bektashi in Tirana, his eminence His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, explained the way of coming of this Holy Residence from Turkey and the attempts of bektashi clericals of Albania to keep vivid the love in Balkan lands, the doctrine of Hajji Bektash Velui. This doctrine, even formed already 800 years ago, came enriching with new values, in full conformity with developments in different times. Mrs. Pandith's interest regarding the role and place



of woman in bektashi religion, the World Father answered with a clear viewpoint, underlining the fact that bektashi women enjoy the same rights in having the religious rituals as their men or brothers. In addition he expressed that: "Historically bektashi believers have not covered their women with veils. Even in the most obscurantist periods of Albanian civility, they have been considered as members with equal rights in the community of bektashi believers, in that community that especially in Balkan has served and it still does even today as a significant factor of peace and religious harmony. The voice of bektashi women, lately organized even in their forum, has always had the attention and deserved respect in the blossom of bektashi community."

On her side, Mrs. Hannah Rosenthal, thanked not only bektashi believers but even them of other religious traditions faiths, who by their work in defense of Jewish people ranked Albanian nation to the side of nations with excellent religious, ethnic or race tolerance. She also added that she was happy for Albanian families who faced the risk, the risk of receiving Jewish families illegally, whom a great number belonged to bektashi religion. In support of this idea, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj expressed that bektashi believers have been inspired of their religious doctrine since centuries, the one that has brought together people of different races, ethnicities and nations under the peaceful flag of Hajji Bektash Velui.

*"Wisdom", reporter  
April, 2012*



# THE LIGHT BROUGHT FROM FAITH

An invitation from "Vatra" could not pass without special emotions, except in a gold jubilee as the 100 years old of birth. What a meaningful name! Vatra - Fire-place! Almost a magic word. We all feel good when we go to the fireplace. There we feel we are all the same, like kids. No titles, no grades, no air of authority there. We are all brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. The ongoing of a great history, born 100 years ago, on the cradle of dreams, in the place of permanent freedom, of America. A full century ago, the underground of our national conscience felt a powerful movement. Nothing to do with matter symsiology. The heart of nation presaged other movements related with so indispensable autonomist propensity as with wisdom shapes of this emblematic event. People of "Vatra-Fireplace" from all Albanian territories, on their first meeting in the end of April 1912 decided unanimously to help the nation. An immediate help, at any aspect especially in financing the men who got in hands the fate of the country, organizing and raising the voice

up to the European Chancellors' desks.

It's a great honor and we feel lucky, as members of World Bektashi Headquarter, to have the chance to celebrate this precious jubilee. Together with the World Headfather of Bektashi, his Grace, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, and the Secretary of Foreign Relations of the World Bektashi Headquarter, Mr. Arben Sulejmani, were welcomed at the New York's airport from an outstanding mission of nowadays "Vatra". The conversations were turned around the latest events in our fatherland returning to the history of pan Albanian federation. Especially in the meeting with actual chairman of "Vatra" Mr. Gjon Buqaj, among others we learned about timetables of the great feast, of symposium, receptions suites and of the great dinner of "Vatra". Mr. Gjon Buqaj did not forget to tell us that, bektashi faith has played an irreplaceable role to the 100 years life of "Vatra". Fathers and the outstanding bektashi intellectuals, being aware of devise that "No fatherland no religion" have contributed with everything, in every circumstances, in service to the future of Albania. When

our national anthem starts to play I am next to Mr. Ekrem Bardha. It flows from the wonderful voice of Merita Halili. Other tens accompany her in the solemn hall of the luxury hotel in Manhattan; I saw the tears falling down from the eyes of Ekrem Bardha. He told me that this anthem has been sung completely there in the roads of Manhattan, then where in Albania the real lines were censured, It's God who said in voice, that nations get vanished on earth, but Albania shall live, that's what we are fighting for! And Albania really lived because wise men like those of vatra who realized that in times of strong Balcan storms they had to hold somewhere tightly. And they did not fail. The history of "Vatra" itself is the history during which vatra's men raised their voice to defend the fates of Albania.

The World Headfather of Bektashi, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj delivered also his speech in this meeting. He thanked the initiators of this assembly for the invitation, on behalf of the Holy See of the World Bektashi Head Quarter, assuring the presents for the progress in the right sense of the Bektashi faith. Further, he spoke about the top events such the jubilee of "Vatra", underlining the excellent religious tolerance of the Albanians, which was manifested also during the last 100 years among the "Vatra" members. Ending his speech, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj said: "In every initiative of "Vatra", Albania has been the first, in every work of "Vatra", the Fatherland has been the first. A strange resonance accompanied the pains of our nation up to here, to these coasts blessed by the freedom. Every time, in hard situations for our nation, the Albanians looked hopefully to these parts, to their natural and secure protector. Our marvelous Bektashi faith, though its incontestable role for the religious harmony of the Albanians everywhere they live, is under obligation to "Vatra", anyhow. This obligation is linked to the opening of the first Bektashi tekke, in Detroit, Michigan, which could







not exist without "Vatra". The initiator and the founder of this tekke, Father Rexhep, publically affirmed that could be not possible for our tekke to grow up and to flourish without the help and blessing by Fan Noli. This was one of the reasons because in the years that came after, it was transformed in a warm fireplace for every Albanian, apart his faith or political position. Congratulating you for the 100th anniversary of the birth of "Vatra", I pray the Sublime God to augment to you the will for greater works and excellent ones. God bless America, which was and which is so attentive to our fates! God bless all of you! Amen!"

In these days full of meetings and conversations, we had a particular impression by the cordial talk with the American Congressman Elliot Engel, who is a wellknown personality for all the Albanians. He received us in his office in New-York, together with the Chairman of the State Committee on Cults of the Republic of Albania Mr. Rasim Hasanaj and the great friend of Bektashism Harry Bajraktari. Mr. Engel, after bidding us welcome, congratulated us once more the 100th anniversary of the foundation of "Vatra". Further, he expressed the interest to know more about the Bektashi faith, about the Holy See in Tirana and its relations with the other Bektashi communities in the World.

On His part, the World Bektashi Headfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, thanked Mr. Engel for the warm reception. Further, He informed the high friend about the recent developments in the Bektashi Holy See, guaranteeing him that, apart the circumstances, the Bektashi clergymen in Albania, in all Balkans, in Turkey and in other continents, are resolute to go ahead,

preserving and safeguarding the tradition and to give evidence by their works that they are enriching this 800-years tradition. Another warm reception was reserved to our delegation by the American Congressman Gary Peters. Together with Mr. Ekrem Bardha, who is already the Honor Consul of Albania in the United State of America, we informed the high friend about the developments in Albania, especially about the religious aspect. We know that throughout centuries of our long history the Albanians of different faiths had always fraternal relations between them, in the religious sense, but we must not consider it as a gift we had once and for all. The World Bektashi Headfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, closed his speech telling that we have to preserve and to defend the interfaith harmony in Albania and to put it up in higher levels, in order to be the most conscientious possible towards the developments and the context in which we are living. We have to see unified the traditional doctrines and the purely albanian practices in the nowadays european developments. On his part, the American Congressman, expressed his pleasure about the excellent collaboration with Mr. Ekrem Bardha and for the representation by him of the Albanian community in Detroit. Although his knowledge on Bektashism are not so deep, our friend expressed the higher respect to the Bektashi doctrine, round which are gathered, among others, thousands of believers of the tekke of Father Rexhep. The understanding among them and the respect to the believers of the other faiths, is touching, said Mr. Peters. I trust in your contributions in the future.

*Syrja Xhelaj, New York  
May, 2012*



# THE RE

A delegation of the Holy See of the World Bektashi Head Quarter participated at the International Conference organized by the University of Bologna, Italy, with the title: "The religious communities in Albania - the coexistence is possible". Taking place in the ancient city of Ravenna, by the end of October of this year, 2012, this international Conference on the religious harmony was particularly interesting and exciting. The initiator of this Conference, the University of Bologna, by this event wanted to make known the wonderful truth of the Albanians - the ancient religious coexistence between the believers of different faiths. All the religious communities in Albania was represented in this Conference by their delegations. Our delegation was headed by the World Bektashi Headfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj. Many clergymen, researchers and other personalities, from Italy and Spain, participated also in that event. The first day of the Conference delivered their greeting speeches, among others, Mr. Mario Bova, Ambassador, President of the Association "Blue eye", His Excellency Llesh Kola, the Ambassador of the Republic of Albania in Italy, My lord Giuseppe Vreuci, the Archbishop of Ravenna and Mr. Giovanni Luccheti, the Director of the Juridical Department of the University of Bologna. All of them underlined the particularity of the Albanians regarding the interfaith coexistence, this precious value that they offer to Europe, for which they dreamt and even fought, along centuries and actually, nowadays. In the second panel of the greetings, it was the turn of the World Bektashi Headfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, to deliver His speech. Thanking the organizers and the researchers for their attention to the Albanian believers, the World Headfather said: "This initiative of our friends of the University of Bologna has good reasons. I wish that in these days, all of us, through our ideas and our messages, to have the possibility to point out, in different ways,



# RELIGIOUS COEXISTENCE AS A VALUE



just the interfaith dialogue. Since some times this dialogue is in the center of attention. All the media in all over the World, speak and write about it. Certainly the theologians in their chairs analyze it discussing endless about sayings and contradictions; the same happens in churches, in mosques, in tekkes and other religious institutions of other faiths. Even, instead of religious conflict, the debate takes place in the media, trying to explain according to their different interests the religious dialogue or its absence. Thousands of lecturers spoke before us, thousands of other lecturers will speak after us. I think that the most important is how this dialogue goes to the soul, to the heart of the modern people. Which are the possibilities and the force to reduce as much as possible the number of the "solitary men", which ideology equalizes the life with the maximalization of the financial means. Our sensitivity in this matter and the collaboration between us and between the respective societies would be, undoubtedly, the good basis on which we can build the cultural foundations of the tolerance, of the comprehension and of the interfaith dialogue.

I would like to underline since the beginning that the Albanian example in this context is a very significative one. In the history of our nation, strangely encircled by the blind rancour of the eastern and southern neighbours, the religious communities marched everywhen together, in peace and mutual comprehension. For us, the religious leaders, this is not an ancient blessing of the Creator. I think that we can find the roots of this religious harmony into the depth of the religious doctrines, especially of the Christian one, which all of us have joined until XIV - XV century. I think that all of us, being here, today, we share the idea that in the foundations of the Christian doctrine has been and remain the principles and the values of the love and respect, even veneration, towards the human universality. It makes more sensitive the religious ambient in Albania towards the doctrinal ensemble, giving new expressions to the monotheistic tendencies, fighting against every abuse with the religion. Bektashi faith, which was formed 800 years ago, not only survived resisting to

the waves of the history, but it was developed and progressed, for the sake of its tolerance. The renowned actual researchers of Islam, think that in the times when the turks controlled big regions of the World, they made social, political and economical laws, which had a universal nature. The osman tolerance and spirit of reconciliation were a result of the soufism, which really was grown up in Anatolia. Especially among the Turkish population the soufism became very popular, sooner than in other islamic countries. Since the time of the founder of the Bektashi tarikat (brotherhood), Haxhi Bektash Veli, until nowadays, the moral qualities, the respect to the others and the understanding has been the yeast of the Turkish people. In this sense, the spirit of tolerance and dialogue, diffused by Bektashism and other tarikats (brotherhoods), had expressed so good the cultural dimension of Islam. The renowned coeval theologian Sejjid Hysein Naser, living in the United States of America, commented sometimes ago: "In Islam, the soufism has been during several successive centuries, the secret heart which renovated the religious intellectualism, the Islam world and its relations with the other religions".

I think that we cannot conceive out of danger the interfaith dialogue and the harmonious religious coexistence in Albania, although they are a precious heritage from our ancestors since the ancient times and adapted to the modern developments of the albanian society. Because of the extreme isolation of the country and the official violation of the religion during the socialism, now, in the years of the democracy we note efforts to introduce in Albania radical attitudes, pretending different kinds of influences. Especially some albanian young men, who studied in different asian countries, try to introduce to the believers different ideas, attitudes and practices that not rarely are in opposite with the traditional values of the religions in our country. Therefore, I think that, better than until now, we have to pay attention to this phenomenon and to organize our common activities, according to a strategy, which could defend the foundations of our ancient tolerance and in the same time it could make possible to enrich these precious values. We have to educate the new generations of believers with the sense of the responsibility and of the respect towards everybody who believes in God, apart the fact by which side he climbs the mountain to have His attention. Only in this way we can protect these values, which belongs to the religious communities and in the same time have formed their historical identities". In the second day of the Conference too, the speakers underlined the fact that the religious coexistence is an expression of the emancipation of a nation and also a priority in the moral and spiritual continuity of its identity.

The visits to the wonderful cathedrals and churches of Ravenna, to the old building of the the Municipality and to the sepulcher of Dante Alighieri, enriched the Conference with particular emotions.

*Syrja Xhelaj, Ravenna, October 2012*



# I ADMIRE YOUR SURVIVAL!

Invited in Macedonia by high Albanian authorities, the Former-President of Croatia, Mr. Stipe Mesić, paid a visit, these days to the Bektashi tekke "Harabati-Baba", in Tetovë. He was accompanied by several local authorities and Albanian intellectuals, distinguished in the activities on the occasion of the Centenary of the Independence of Albania. Firstly, Mr. Mesić was received by the World Bektashi Headfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj and further by numerous Bektashi believers came from Tetovë, Gostivar, Kërçovë and Kumanovë. The visit in the historical ambients of the tekke excited the curiosity of the honored friend, who was interested on more information, not only about the building of tekke, but also about the Bektashi faith in general.

Considering the interest of Mr. Stipe Mesić, the World Bektashi Headfather His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj told him about the history of "Harabati Baba" tekke. He said that the origins of this tekke go the past centuries, but its precious values are not only museal ones. Firstly, we must not forget that this tekke, as well as the other Bektashi tekkes, was transformed in a patriotic fire-place. In the meydans of our tekkes, together with the light of the belief to God, the believers of the Albanian territories learned the history of their country, took knowledges about its great events and about the works of the martyrs for the prosperity of the nation. It is wellknown the fact

that the "Harabati Baba" tekke played its incontestable role for the organization and the action of the fighters for freedom, during the great events of the years 1910-1912, which led to the proclamation of the Independence of Albania on November 28, 1912.

Further, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj said: "Here, in this tekke, many generations of Bektashi believers from the Albanian territories, kneaded their ideas, according to the great device "There is no religion without Fatherland". They came to the door of this tekke with their scrapes and their sorrows, they took here the fire of the talks with dervishs and babas and they left smiling and full of hope. Their thought was clearer after coming here, because our Bektashi doctrine itself has been and remains an eternal need of the purification of the spirit and to fill it by the love for the Creator. Inside this great and unshakeable love are grown up the other loves - for the Fatherland, for the family, for the traditions, for the neighbour near by, apart his nationality or race. Just because this reason, because it has been always a defender and initiator of the best and the most ancient Albanian religious tradition, this tekke is now under the blind pressure of different segments, allegedly religious ones, which has usurped the holy places of this Bektashi masterpiece. In any case, we remain firm to keep chaste the flag of our faith, remaining always a model of the religious harmony and tolerance and waiting for the energetic action of the community of Moslems, as well as that of the Government of Macedonia.

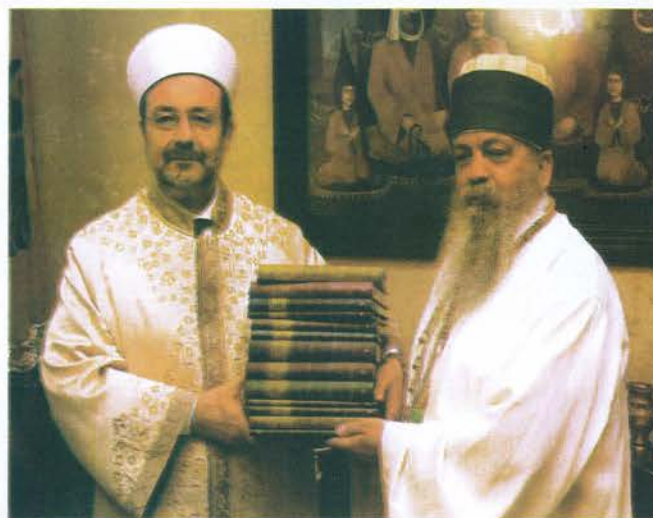
On his part, Mr. Stipe Mesić said, among others that this day was a special source of inspiration for him. He knew the painful road of the survival of this faith and the contribution of its clergymen, everytime, comprising the difficult situation during the communist regime in Albania. In the end he said: "I admire your survival and I am convinced that you have not only the due calm and maturity, but also the real engagement of the international mechanisms, in the Region and widerly, for the progress of the Bektashism; you have also the will and the trend to stay over these actual events nowadays and to be framed in the first ranks of the ideas and actions leading the Albanians to the doors of the european civilizations".

*"Wisdom", reporter  
December, 2012*





**S**ome days ago, in the context of conference of Muslim leaders of Ballkan, held in Tirana, his Excellency Dr. Mehmet Gurmez, at his request, was welcomed at our Holy See, by the World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj. Since at the beginning, should be said that the visit was very friendly, and it was a new station for the mutual relations. It was the World Bektashi Grandfather who welcomed our friend from Turkey, reminding briefly that the mutual relations have always been sincere and keen towards a real and fraternal cooperation. He brought to the attention of the Turkish Muslim Leader and of the other Friends who accompanied him, the fact that the Holy See and the ex-World Grand father, Haji Dede Reshat Bardhi has been visited by high personalities of Ankara in Albania, as he had been welcomed too by famous personalities of



## United before challenges of Islam

**The chairman of Muslim Dijanet of Turkey thanks the World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, for the step forwarded to Islam devotion.**

academic and religious world. These meetings and mutual conversations have made the initiatives and movements be discussed fraternally serving this way not only to the collaboration between two institutions but even to the development and growth of Islam in nowadays. In addition, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, underlined the idea that the bektashi tarika, not only in Albania but even in Balkan and wider, is represented to the highest levels, being considered as a sound branch in the ancient body of Islam.

The bektashi faith, born 800 years ago in Turkey, still tries to embellish the mosaic of Islam, with its doctrinal power, with the comprehension of monotheist faiths and above all with its advanced vision. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Gurmez, by his side thanked the World Bektashi Grandfather and expressed his belief that the existing relations will be more evolved, in good faith in God. Focusing on the emotions of this reception, Gurmez said: "I feel lucky. I am excited too. In such courtesy recep-tions, we usually put fresh flowers. In your splendid table, instead of flowers I see Kuran Kerim. This is very significative.

No tarika can be born, grown and developed without the precious lessons of Kuran. Bektashism, as it is witnessed to us, has been and still is a faith that builds bridges, bridges between religions, ethnics, and between peoples. I catch the occasion, to thank His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj,

Dede Reshat Bardhi has done and still does commendable job every day both in terms of raising cult objects and in reestablishing the former ones. Simultaneously with his vision, he is putting the Bektashi faith alongside the other religions, in the nowadays coming challenges before Islam. The steps forwarded till now are promising, because they are related to the enrichment of tradition of this faith and are harmoniously linked with Islamic piety.

*"Wisdom", reporter  
May, 2012*







# *To make the world a better place*

**Secretary of State Mr. John Kerry, invited the Head Grandfather of World Bektashi Headquarter, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj to participate in the Ramadan Iftar dinner hosted in Washington DC.**

**W**ith the invitation of the Secretary of the State of USA, Mr. John Kerry, the Head Grandfather" of the World Bektashi Headquarter, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj traveled toward to the Washington DC attended by Mr. Arben Sulejmani, Secretary for International Relation. With a very careful protocol of the State Department, this Ramadan Iftar dinner moreover was outlined as a sincerely meeting where the people exchange their ideas for the actual situation and the future of religious in world. • Top level religious leader; congressmen and representatives of the Islamic Institution in USA, gathered together to illuminate the actual faith situation, emphasized an important fact that the vast armada of those who work and inspire the peace around the world needs more and more supporters.

Under the directly concern of the Ambassador of Albania in USA, Mr. Gilbert Galanxhi, His Eminence Headquarter, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj introduced to the wide intellectual meeting some of his ideas regarding the Bektashi order. The conversation between His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj and the Assistant Secretary of the State Mr. Philip Reeker focused on the latest event in the bektashi Teke "Harabati-Baba" in Tetova. Very well informed with this issue, Mr. Reeker expressed his highest consideration for the Bektashi Community in Macedonia, as an essential community that has played an important role in building communication bridges among other religions in this country. He really esteemed the role of the bektashi clerics and Head Grandfather of World Bektashi.

When the all people were accommodated according the protocol, the Secretary of State Mr. John Kerry began his welcoming speech "Assalamu Alaikum. It's wonderful to be here with everybody. We are joined this evening by a really remarkable group of people. And I want to welcome

my former colleagues from the United States Congress who are here, members of the Diplomatic Corps who are here, some of whom I saw just last night as we received many of them here. But I also especially want to recognize our Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, and Rashad Hussain, President Obama's Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. We're delighted to have them here. (Applause.)

Most importantly - and I say this without any artifice - every single one of you were invited here because you are all doers. You are all active. You're all engaged. You're all involved in trying to make the world a better place, and you're all involved in reaching out to other people and practicing, if not your faith, certainly practicing the best tenets of how human beings can live together.

And we are celebrating the holiest month of the Muslim calendar year, Ramadan. It is a time for peaceful reflection and for prayer. It is a time for acts of compassion

and charity. So to all of you tonight, and to the millions of American Muslims across our land, and to the many more around the world, Ramadan Kareem.

*"Wisdom", reporter  
July, 2013*



# *I am wondered by bektashian faith*

**T**he noted French researcher Mrs. Laure Cambau, came in Tirana, recent days, after the invitation of His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, World Grandfather of Bektashis. Her acquaintance with Bektashism is an ancient one. She studied especially the folkloric traditions of this faith. Through analytical researches Mrs. Cambau discovered that Bektashism is present in Albania since eight hundreds years and nowadays it contains new values and a new spirit and for that Bektashism is adored more and more by the people and it gains new spiritual dimensions in all the World.

Before this invitation, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj and Mrs. Laure Cambau met together in Paris. In that meeting, His Eminence made the acquaintance of Mrs. Cambau especially with the story of the establishing in Albania of the World Head Quarter of Bektashism, as well as the geography of the tekkes in all the Albanian territories, some Bektashi traditions in Balkans etc. Also, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj informed Mrs. Cambau about the countries and nations who conserve and enrich every day those traditions, adding other contemporaneous values to this faith. Together, in Paris, they brought the impressions from the Meeting of the Poets in Struga, where have been present Bektashi motives too.

The visit in Tirana was a special joy for Mrs. Cambau. She was received in the Holy See of Bektashism by His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, who resumed for Mrs. Cambau the priorities of Bektashism in the context of the actual religious developments. Answering to the interest of the well-known researcher concerning the exciting continuity of Bektashism, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj brought some concrete examples. Among others, His Eminence said: "In despite of 800 years since the birth of this faith, the values of Bektashism were not dwindled but on the contrary they increased and grew up.

This happened because in our spiritual Univers the Freedom gained the merited place. Is a very nice one this sentence of Imam Ali (Peace upon him!): "Man! You are born free by your mother and father. Don't become a slave of anybody".

*This powerful human sentiment made possible to the Bektashi faith to survive in the dramatic context of the spiritual developments. United by the devotion to the Creator, our free soul faced successfully the great religious and national challenges, testifying not only an epochal resistance but also the inspiration for the generations".*

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"Wisdom", reporter  
February, 013





# Commemoration of the birthday of the Profet Mohamed a.s

**O**n the occasion of the birthday of the Prophet Mohamed (Peace upon him!), The Moslem Community of Albania organized a Symposium on the topic "Prophet Mohamed a.s. and the Human Dignity". At the beginning of this event a piece from Koran was sang by the theologian Elton Karaj, who is the imam of the Mosque Et'hem Bej in Tirana. Further it was presented a documentary film on the life and the work of the Prophet.

The Chairman of the Moslem Community of Albania H.Selim Muça, in his greetings to the Symposium, thanked the participants for accepting the invitation, considering it as a sign of respect and apprecia-

tion to the Prophet Mohamed a.s. Further, H.Selim Muça underlined the high moral and human values which characterized the greatest Prophet of the Mankind and especially the Koran ajet: "Really you (Mohamed) are on a high moral level". Among others, H.Selim Muça said: "Who wants to perfect his moral, must take the example from the nature and from the brilliant behavior of Mohamed (a.s.), who, since 14 centuries, enriched the Mankind by the highest moral qualities".

Further, Mr. Erion Veliaj, Minister of the Social Welfare and Youth, gave his greeting speech. Mr. Veliaj expressed his special pleasure for participating at this event and underlined that in the world literature and especially in the precious heritage of Islam, a spe-

cial place is dedicated to the work of the Prophet Mohamed. Mr. Veliaj said that the personality of the Prophet Mohamed left indelible tracks in the Mankind history and in that of the religions. "In this commemoration day we must reflect about what represented the prophetic personality, because his model is precious for everybody who looks for a moral and virtuous life" – said Mr. Veliaj.

In his speech, Mr. Veliaj spoke about the interfaith harmony which characterizes the Albanians of all the faiths, appreciating it as a precious asset and an exceptional value of which we are proud of. "We are proud of Moslems, orthodox, catholic and of the believers of other faiths, because through them we offer to the World a very rare and precious postcard" – said Mr. Veliaj.

Mr. Veliaj thanked H.Selim Muça and his staff for the excellent work and the values they transmit to the Albanian society, sharing with the Albanian citizens the problems and troubles they have to face.

His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, the World Grandfather of Bektashis, gave also a greeting speech to the participants at the Symposium, congratulating all the Moslems wherever they are and sharing with them the best wishes.

"Wisdom", reporter  
February, 013





# Best Wishes to Bektashi Believers

Invited by the Head of the Muslim Diyanet of Turkey, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Görmez, a few days ago the Head of the Bektashi World Centre, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj conducted an important meetings tour in Turkey. Accompanied by the Counsellor for Religious Matters, in the Turkish Embassy located in Tirana, Mr. Şaban İşlek, he first visited the Muslim Diyanet in Ankara. In the presence of multiple print and broadcast media and prominent senior religious figures, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Görmez welcomed the Head of the Bektashi World Centre and expressed his gratitude to their arrival. The Head of the Bektashi World Centre ensured Mr. Görmez that every visit in Turkey, especially in the premises of the Muslim Diyanet, were of special importance to the Bektashi World Centre.

Moreover, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Görmez provided an overview of the recent activities of the institution he leads, emphasizing the good relations between the Diyanet and other tariqas, which are strengthening based on mutual respect and love. Görmez further talked about the Bektashi Order and mentioned that the Bektashi Dervishes were the first to share Islamic lessons and doctrines in the Balkan Peninsula. This was the reason why Islam in these territories was quickly embraced and by virtue of the universal Muslim mercy, our Order found endless



paths of development.

The Head of the Bektashi World Centre, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj thanked Mr. Görmez for the invitation and then sent the well wishes of the Bektashi World Centre to all Muslims in Turkey.

Moreover, he talked about the broad and multifaceted activities of this Bektashi World Centre regarding religious, social, moral and identity aspects. The Head of the Bektashi World Centre addressed the development of Bektashism in the Balkans and highlighted the most important qualities of this Order, which by perfecting themselves in the soul of the believer, lead him to the attention of the Creator through a safe way.

After carefully listening to the speech of the Head of the Bektashi World Centre, Prof. Dr. Mehmet

Görmez added: "In the framework of the latest religious developments, especially in the Balkans, I understand your activities and concerns. It is true that in Albania, Bektashism is the backbone of establishing an interfaith dialogue and it is true that there are powers that are interested in removing you from Islam. I am glad that you, as the Head of the Bektashi World Centre, follow the steps of Hajji Dede Reshat Bardhi, who was also consistent in every public statement, by defining Bektashism as a sound branch in the ancient trunk of Islam. For that reason, but also due to your other activities, I am telling you that our doors, the doors of the Muslim Diyanet of Turkey are always open to you."

Syrja Xhelaj,  
Ankara, March 2014



# A RETURN WHICH

**T**he voice of the stewardess announcing that we were landing to Nexhef airport, made me to put immediately my front to the glass of the window. The Sun was so full that it seemed to me it gave much light than it needed to Karbala. Euphrat, along which the greenery was intermingled with the ancient epos, was flowing peacefully, tranquilly, as if the old-time tragedy did not happen in its sides. It seemed that only some grey-white birds, flying in big flocks enjoying the May day, gave life to its waters. The yellow sandy dunes, the

palm-trees and the date-trees, showed more and more clearly their terrestrial forms while we were approaching to the land, challenging the angelical Universe.

I don't know why, but in these minutes I remembered like lighting the Saint, Dede Reshat Bardhi. So many times, in lunches or dinners with the believers, when, thanks to his excellent intuition, he understood that the souls were getting drunk by talking, he sang that magic song, with the poem of Naim Frashëri, starting:

**Oh you, Karbala field  
Standing to my eye...**

His voice awaked the waves, the longing for the the Karbala Knight. The motif of the martyrization has a special place in the religious epos, since the most ancient times. Formerly, Annemarie Schimmel wrote that since from the myths of the ancient times in the Near East and in the Far East, we heard about heroes who fell fighting heroically. The names of Attis and Osiris, which come from Babylonian twilights, serve as excellent models of the idea that the continuation of the life could not be possible without the death and that the blood shedded for a saint work is more precious than any other thing. The sacrifices appeared since those times as means for arriving sublime levels of the life. The Biblical and Coranic confession of Ibrahim shows, in incomparable way, the moral chastity of this sacrifice.

Since the Nexhef Airport it was reserved a special reception to our delegation, headed by His Holiness Haxhi Baba Edmond Brahimaj, the World Grandfather of the Bektashis.

The Iraqi brothers looked curiously to the World Grandfather and through their wishes they transmitted the nice saying: "Let the Supreme Allah accept the zijaret"!

The hot tea, bananas and a lot of different juices were offered to us, together with the questions that don't ceased.

They were interested on Balkans, on Albania, on our historic and religious destinies. Later, thinking about our tiresome itinerary, they accompanied us to Karbala, with 2-3 small cars, respecting high level security rules.

We were accomodated in the hotel which keeps the name of our honored Imam Hussein, situated only hundred meters from his tyrbe. ►





# AWAKES THE HEAVENS

We had a white night but we could not sleep. Our accompanist, Muhamet Abibi, extremely lovely with us, suggested us to repose for some hours and after to go to the blessed mezare of Imam Husejn and Abaz Ali. But it is the time of the noon prayer. The World Grandfather of Bektashis, His Holiness Haxhi Baba Edmond Brahimaj together with Arben Sulejmani, Artan Shqiri and Hisen Sulejmani, joined thousands of pilgrims praying the namaz in the interior ambients of Imam Husejn Mauzoleum. The Creator brought us in this World in the most charming forme, giving to everybody what we need. Among millions of creatures he gave us the riches of the wisdom and intelligence and he gave us the power of the mund, through which we find the way where to walk. He gave us the light for doing good works, making sure the eternal happiness, in this World and in the other World. The namaz is our thanks for the endless riches the Creator gave us. It is the nearest way to link Him, the link which brings us tranquillity and security, illuminating us the soul and the mind. The prayer brings us more and more nearer to the Creator. The Prophet Mohammed said that namaz is the light of my eyes.

Accompanied by Ibrahim Evahad, after the welcome and the tea, we visit the Mausoleum of Imam Husein. This museum, conceived as a small part of Paradise, contains almost all the phases of the history of Karbala. Of course, the staff of this museum attained at these level for the sake of tolerant ideas and thoughts, comprising every actor of that story. There we saw collections of ancient weapons, came by kings of India, as well as ancient daggers gifted by kings of Persia. There you can see golden carpets of Abassids, Ubajads

and Seljucs and you can satisfy your curiosity observing pages of Koran which read Imam Ali. There we saw decorated carpets with ancient mystic motives, as well as the golden box used by the saint Fatima Zahra to keep her things. There are exposed also golden works came



from Osman Sultans and marvelous crystal products gifted by Tsars of Russia. A kind of symmetry almost magic one, units the history in the sense of the past, by these rare objects.

Meanwhile, our attendant, Mohamed, informed us that the Imam of Karbala, Abdul Mehdi El-Karbala is waiting for us, in thirty minutes, in the Holy See of the Mosque of Imam Husein. In the anteroom we had tea and meanwhile some journalists of newspapers and televisions came in, for reporting the meeting. The interest was a special one. The journalists are very prudent and take care that the questions be done in the right time and in the right place. After, 2-3 young men, students who helped voluntarily in such a cases of the receptions of the Imam of Karbala, invited and accompanied us to the reception hall. By a cordial "Salam Aley-cum" the Imam bids us the welcome

and after he said to the World Bektashi Grandfather: "Come, sit down here, near me. In the house of Imam Husein we are all servants, there are no first or second persons". We are liberated by the emotions when we saw the smiling face of the Imam and his fraternal care

of our World Grandfather and when we heard his sweet words. Through his words he expressed the idea that though Imam Husein (Peace upon him), passed away here, in this place, almost sixteen centuries ago, he is remembered in all over the World. All his life, he worked and prayed for the peace. And when he saw that all his struggle was in service of the human moral, of the truth, of the right, he did not spare his life. Through that sacrifice of Imam in this place, blessed centuries ago, augmented the fame of the Moslems, putting them up, to the higher pedestal of the history of Islam. As a great fighter for the great truth, He became an excellent example, proving that the injustice is a sandy fortress, which the destiny is to fall down by the wind.

By the end of the meeting, the World Bektashi Grandfather said: "I feel myself lucky because of the fact that now, after



almost a century, the doors of these saint tyrbes are opened again for us, the Bektashi dervishs and babas. I thank you today, on behalf of those clergymen that have passed away from this life and who could not touch at least once the tyrbe of Imam Husein. Also, on behalf of millions of Bektashi believers living everywhere in the World, I bring you the best wishes. Our faith, in these 800 years, since its foundation and during its developments, is always supported by the High Koran, by the teachings of the Prophet Mohamed, by the intelligence of the 12 Imams and by the wisdom of Haxhi Bektash Veli. Even nowadays, in our tekkes in Albania, Kosovë, Turkey, Macedonia and till the United States of America, we go ahead following the footsteps of the sacrifice of Imam Husein, we pray with His name in our lips and in our hearts, we wear the mourning of matem, we unit the arms and the hearts, keeping always

Karbala to our eyes.

Travelling to Nejef, you feel yourself as if you are approaching to a cold water source. You are tired, you travelled for a long time through foot-ways of knowledges and prayers, which lead in these places, you look for to approach to a spiritual attraction, to that attraction which was called halvah by the great mystics of the past, that means the solitude on the wings of the meditation. Without the perception of the weight of the time and reality, suddenly we found ourselves just in front of the Mauzoleum of Imam Ali (Peace upon him) together with the humming crowd of thousand of pilgrims. All the surface of this complex, which was built centuries ago and which was grown up and which was embellished year after year, is an oasis of peace, an oasis of relax, in the sanctifying and magnetizing presence of our Imam himself.

Here too, our guests are very care-

ful towards our delegation. According to the traditions, for the people coming from far away they serve meals, in clean ambients, embellished by mystic symbols. Further we were accompanied to the marvelous hall of the reception and there, other attendants, untiring in their service to us, took care that all be done according to the protocol. In the appointed time, we were in the room of the Imam of the Imam Ali Mauzoleum, Sheikh Dhiaa Zeineldeen. Just fraternally, he embraces all of us and bides us the welcome. We could see clearly to him the goodness coming from his spirit. When the World Bektashi Grandfather thanked him for the welcome to the house of Imam Ali, he said: "It is our common house. Nothing is divided in this brotherhood". After congratulating the World Grandfather, he was interested about all the members of the delegation and how were the visits to Karbala, Kufe and Bagdad. He was glad when we said that





we enjoyed the visits and we were very happy to visit these places and after, with his soft voice, he asked again about our works, about the Bektashism in Balkans and in other countries, about the standing up to the sad realities of the deviations from the way of God and about of the actuality of our Holy See. Obviously, we understood that he was informed on the religious activity of the World Bektashi Head Quarter and moreover he thanked us for preserving and enriching every day the traditions and the code of teachings of Haxhi Bektash Veli. In His greeting speech, the World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, thanked Imam Zeineldeen for the cordial reception and transmitted to him the best wishes and blessings of all the Bektashi believers. Further, he spoke to the presents evoking 2-3 historical moments, which are linked to the establishing of the World Bektashi Head Quarter in Tirana and to the disponibility of the clergymen for defending and developping the marvelous doctrine of this faith. In the foundations of the titanic work of the Bektashi dervishs and babas, apart the values transmitted by the High Korand and by the prophetic hadiths, has been and remain also the clear-sightedness and the devotion of the twelve imams. Not only with the doctrine, but also with the traditions, the history, the litterature and the wisdom the precious features of the twelve imams are fusioned one with another and gave to this faith a real dimension of freedom and belief.

After, we visited the saint tyrbe. The long queues of pilgrims seem as torrents of March, full of the water of the rains, leaving their beds. Rare are the persons of this World enjoying the happy chance to talk, in silence, with Imam Ali. Because of that, all of us became meditative and exultant. The word "Allah" was whispered by thousands of voices and remembered me the hadith "Say "Allah" and leave all the useless talks". In that talking in silence we felt a breeze, as a spirit came from the Heavens, which you would like to keep firmly in your hands, in your eyes,

in your soul, which never will leave. It is more than an inner need, indispensable for filling the empty of the spirit, just when the frightening metastases of the human egoism try to enter through its doors. In a such situation, Schoun would say that the knowledge saves us, on condition that we have to mobilize all we own. It wounds our nature, as the plough wounds the earth. The metaphysical knowledge is sacred. Is the right of the sacred things to ask to the man what he is.

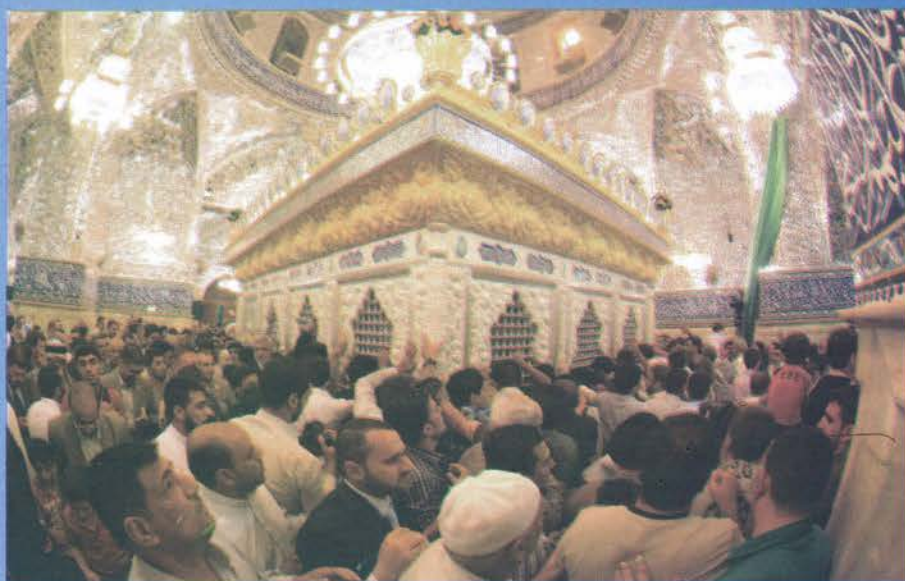
Meanwhile the imam of medressa, Seit Emir Shubar, waited for us, in the presence of some of his best students. He tells us shortly the history of this medressa and mentions several distinguished names of those benches, who now are leading mosques and museal complexes, wellknown in all over the Islamic world. Further, with his natural amability, he said to the World Grandfather that the doors of this medressa will be open all the time for every student coming from Albania, not only from the tarikat (brotherhood) of Bektashis, but from each one of the tarikats. On his part the World Bektashi Grandfather, after thanking for the fraternal reception, remembered that decades ago, the Bektashi clergymen studied in the medressa of Tirana. Sali Niazi Dede and after him all the World Grandfathers, kept a hojja in the Holy See, willing to firmly preserve the principle that

the tarikats are healthy branches of the old trunc of Islam. Even today, the relationships between the Bektashi Holy See and the Islam communities in Balkans, Europe and in other parts of the World, are at the highest level of a mutual friendship.

The last evening of this visit we enjoyed together with the Vice-Minister of Culture of Iraq, Mr. Mustafa Hatibi. Being very well informed about the activity of the Bektashi Center in Tirana, he wished us successes and guaranteed us that this relation will become stronger day to day. In the same wave of friendship was the speech of the World Grandfather. After, together, we walked in the streets of Nejef. It was almost midnight and the breeze caressed the branches of the palm-trees. By far away came the green light which surrounds the Imam Ali tyrbe and joins, as a saintliness necklace, the three-floor houses, almost sleepy. We talked as brothers of the same mother and brother, separated by the destiny. We were consigned to holy places and in this consignment none periferic expressions of protocol has a sense. This was one of the teachings of this travel. Leaving, Mr. Mustafa Hatibi whispered: "Innali'lahi ve-innailejhi raxhiun", which is traduced: "Really we belong to God and we return to Him". Of course, is a return which awakes the Heavens.

Syrja Xhelaj

Karbala - Bagdad - Nejef, May 2014







# Seat of patriotism and divine values

"I am pleased to join in celebrating your 60th anniversary.

Throughout our Nation's history, places of worship have brought us together in the spirit of faith and love. Offering space for celebration in times of joy and comfort in times of uncertainty, they help foster a strong sense of community and call on us to meet life's most sacred responsibilities to give of ourselves in service to others. As you mark this special milestone, I hope you take pride in your community's commitment to faith. May the years ahead be filled with continued blessings".

Barack Obama

It is celebrated before some time, through great emotions, glorious jubilee of the 60th anniversary of the opening of the first Bektashi Tekke in Detroit Michigan United States of America. The great event gathered together, Bektashi believers, ambassadors, high religious figures as well as representatives of Michigan State. Feast has become even more cheerful presence Bektashi World Head Grandfather, His Eminence, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, as well as full of friends and lovers of Baba Rajab, whose name obviously relates the whole story of the birth and development of spiritual thoughts, as well as the warm hearth of Albanianism.

This unconventional values of Bektashi tekke, raised six decades ago with the spirit, understanding finances and donating hundreds of Albanian immigrants, all the present personalities took the speech and gave their impressions. Imam of Mosque, Haji Shuaip Gërguri talked about Tekke values as a country where over the years, are embodied most relevant features universal mercy Muslim, while the representative of the Catholic Church, Ndue George, welcomed fraternal and patriotic spirit of the Bektashi. Baba Arshi Bazaj in 100 years in the shoulder, wished luck to all the participants, while the Ambassador of Turkey, His Excellency, Fatih Yildiz, recalled the wonderful Ankara's relations with the Holy of the Bektashi in Tirana.

Dervish Eliton Pasha, was focusing more on the responsibilities of today, reminded everyone that applies to gather more often and more open to the idea that this is valuable to be apply the yesterday, but also today, as the combination of each other, in religious and national level, while our Ambassador to USA, Galanxhi, evoked religious tolerance among Albanians, and especially highlights Bektashi philosophy and attitudes. On his part, the chairman of the committee of this tekke, but also one of the followers of the spiritual father Rajab, Mr. Ekrem Bardha, brought to attendees in particular outstanding contributions to the saint, from Gjirokastra, which had a prophecy of Hajj Bektash Veli, when had said 800 years ago that when my candle extinguished in the East, will light up in west. He

also praised the role of the Tekke, in the sense of a moral school, the storage and dissemination of valuable Albanian traditions.

With interest was received from attendees and greeting of Bektashi World Head Grandfather, His Grace, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj. Among other things, he added: "Dear high religious and state personalities! Dear myhibanë and believers of Tekke of Baba Rajab! Dear my brothers, Baba Arshi Bazaj and dervish Eliton Pashaj! Dear my friend and brother Mr. Ekrem Bardha, believer of Bektashi Order! "It is a particular honor and pleasure for me to participate at the glorious 60th anniversary of the opening of the first Albanian tekke in USA and to congratulate you on behalf of the Bektashis. Today we feel happy for the mission of this tekke. In this jubilee we reflect and we feel grateful and respectful for ever to the life and to the illuminating work of the clergymen who worked in this tekke during these 60 years, and especially to Baba Rexheb Beqiri. Many people, men and women, old and young, christian, moslems or hebrews, in 50 years, found support and comfort to this mountain of faith, taking from him the blessings and his holy spirit. Also, this jubilee gives us the privilege to congratulate Baba Arshi Bazaj and Dervish Eliton Pasha, who are following the footsteps of Baba Rexheb and his spiritual chastity and depth"...

The audience was impressed from a congratulation telegram of the president of USA Barack Obama, who among other things said: "I am pleased to join in celebrating your 60th anniversary.

Throughout our Nation's history, places of worship have brought us together in the spirit of faith and love. Offering space for celebration in times of joy and comfort in times of uncertainty, they help foster a strong sense of community and call on us to meet life's most sacred responsibilities to give of ourselves in service to others. As you mark this special milestone, I hope you take pride in your community's commitment to faith. May the years ahead be filled with continued blessings".

"Winsdow", reporter







# RELIGIOUS ARMONY: THE FOUNDATION FOR FREEDOM

It is turned into a grand reception for all Albanians of any religion or belief, arrival of Pope Francis. Of course, he chose our country, as the first in Europe to be blessed, considering land of the eagle as a symbol of hope, illuminating the whole of the Albanian world. In two decades ago, Pope Wojtyla was humbled in our land, in the name of suffering centuries, this, of nowadays prayed in the name of hope and the future. Because really, we Albanians are having this hope, we hit attack by fate, angry centuries of neighbors, of the barbarism of dictatorship that we passed.

In his speech wise, among others, President Nishani would say precious friend: "We Albanians are ancient people, with strong national consciousness, we have a language rooted as the unifying, our traditions and customs are same but thank goodness in different ways. This fundamental act of our lives, we have always done in peace and harmony with each other. Constitute our spiritual edifice of Christianity with Islam, these two major world religions, namely Catholicism, Orthodoxy, Sunni and Bektashi Mahometanism, which in the bay of this ancient people, in shaping civilizations co Mediterranean, already know the dialogue. Albanians have passed along all historical processes, as unique units, ethnic, above all National Revival. As such we have succeeded to independence on 28 November 1912, in the 102-Albanian state. We are proud of this! Between us there is no discrimination, no intolerance, no extremism, but mutual respect inherited from generation to generation, harmony and full equality in religion communities."

Too felt, within a stunning philosophy were Pope Francis conversations with representatives of religious communities, after which he said: "Albania is so sad what has been witnessed violence and drama can cause the removal of God from life daily, in the name of an ideology that ends in idol worship. And thereafter man pale. This is what happens when God leaves to human dignity and resembles what happened. All religious communities must maintain traditions, despite great persecution. More important is moral rather than economic construction of the country. Religious Harmony in Albania, is not only a gift from God, but is a gift to all, is the foundation of freedom. We are all brothers and freedom of religion is against any kind of totalitarianism. But should add that true religious freedom, avoids the temptation of intolerance and sectarianism and supports attitudes of respect and constructive dialogue. I can admit that the lack of tolerance for the one who has religious beliefs different from ours, is particularly insidious enemy, which today unfortunately is emerging in different regions of the world."

"By the end of the meeting with the World Bektashi Grandfather, after the presentation of the Protocols of Vatican, the Pope Francis, fraternally congratulated the Bektashis for their mission. The World Grandfather thanked the dear friend for the cordial visit to the Albanian land, as well as for the messages of His words."

"Winslow", reporter  
September 2017



# BEKTASHI MODEL MAKES ME ENTHUSIAST

**The Head of World Bektashi Centre, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj participated in the Peace Summit in Seoul, organised by the World Alliance of Religions**

**T**he Head of Bektashi, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj attend peace summit in South Seoul of Korea, organized by the World Alliance of Religions.

By special invitation of the organizers of the summit for peace, organized by the World Alliance of Religions The Head of Bektashi World, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj participated in this event by transmitting best messages of Bektashi faith. In the stadium of 60 thousand of participants to Seoul, the presence of the Bektashi delegation was accompanied with specific emotions and applause, respecting in this way not only our doctrine and tradition, but also today messages of Bektashi Plane interfaith in dialogue and understanding.

Further, has been President of the World Alliance of Religions, Mr. Man Hee Lee, who offered a special reception for the delegation Bektashi. First, he thanked the delegation for the invitation of the organizers, to join this important event. Further, addressing the Head of Bektashi World, he expressed particular satisfaction of the highlighting meeting, in the unfolding humanitarian values and culture of Seoul heavenly Stadium. Finally, in these warm words, Mr. Lee would say: "I sincerely thank you and your arrival here, but also for your personal commitments, on top of this belief. The model make enthusiast the Bektashi tradition not only for him but also for the ways and priorities shared with others, the divine and human brotherhood. For peace of the world in a thousand way. You find in this context be your ways. We all try to restore universal light in this undertaking. not only a deep optimistic desire, but especially your determination."

In turn, the Head of the World of Bektashi religion, said he felt himself lucky that the Bektashi community was already doing organic part of the World Alliance of Religions. This alliance today is certainly faces significant challenges, but if any of its member, inwardly feels obligations to generations of today and tomorrow, obviously it means convincing his speech.

Further, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj added: "assemblies, receive priceless value, particularly today, when connections and communications that underpin our planet incalculable increase in dimensions when we obey every day that despite what geographical positions and politics are in, we have a common destiny on this earth. Flows of world history, I believe that we have provided to all, learning valuable than worth, to join the great brotherhood, not only understanding, but even accepting wholeheartedly sensitive character, morals and religious orientation of the man we have in the wings, despite the change in race, color and ethnicity.

Invited by the organisers of the Peace Summit, organised by the World Alliance of Religions, the Head of World Bektashi Centre, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, participated in this event and shared the best messages of the Bektashi order. The Bektashi Delegation was welcomed and applauded in the Seoul stadium with 60,000 participants. Not only were our traditions and doctrine respected but also nowadays Bektashi messages under the framework of the interfaith dialogue and tolerance.

Furthermore, the Head of the World Alliance of Religions, Mr. Man Hee Lee, warmly welcomed the Bektashi Delegation. Firstly, he thanked the delegation for accepting the invitation of the organisers and participating in





this important event during these difficult times. Moreover, he addressed the Head of World Bektashi Centre and expressed his pleasure by highlighting the emotions of displaying humanitarian values and celestial culture in the stadium of Seoul. He finished with the following warm words: "I sincerely thank you for accepting our invitation, but also for your personal commitments regarding this Order. The Bektashi Order does not only make me happy with its traditions but also for the ways and priorities that it shares with people regarding divine and human brotherhood. Towards world peace or thousands of paths? You have found your path. We all attempt to restore light in this universal effort. I am very optimistic for your will and determination."

Moreover, the Head of World Bektashi Centre stated that he was happy that the Bektashi community became part of the World Alliance of Religions. This alliance nowadays is facing great challenges, but it will undoubtedly leave a mark if every member feels responsible for present and future generations. His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj added: "Such gatherings have great values, especially nowadays when the connections and communication in our planet are at

great dimensions, and when we are sure that despite our geographic and political positions, our destiny on this planet is one. The course of the world history with both peaceful and hostile events and full of great dangers has provided us with the valuable lesson that "It is necessary to unite and become part of the great brotherhood of understanding and accepting the sensitive nature, moral, and religious beliefs of humans, regardless the fact that we have different races, skin colours and ethnicities."

I believe that all of us share the same opinion that our characters, languages we speak, religious beliefs and cultural traditions will be diverse and contradictory as long as our world is existent. However, irrespective of this unique diversity, we have been, are and will be creatures of the same God. Referring to a sole Father, we approach a peaceful world with our efforts and vision. The Order I represent today has a long history of 800 years. As an Islam tariqa, Bektashism is a type of doctrinal and spiritual system that approaches the hearts and conscience of the believers aiming at alleviating them from the burdens of mortal life and bringing them closer to the Creator. The essence of Bektashism is "brotherhood as a strong founda-

tion of peace". 750 years ago, the founder of this tariqa, Hajji Bektash Velii, wrote: "I built a lighthouse and I placed it in humans. I named it heart. It is divine and the greatest in this world. The spirit of this lighthouse is divine knowledge. Its sky is belief. Its sun is wish. Its moon is love. Its stars are knowledge. Its mountains are prayers. Its trees are service. The leaves are attitude. The fruits are understanding. This lighthouse has four doors. The first is wisdom. The second is humility. The third is patience. The fourth is gratitude."

The miracle of brotherhood has existed and keeps existing in Bektashism thanks to these wise sayings, traditional doctrines, as well as historic and ethnic contexts from 800 years ago up to nowadays. It is not a secret that even today, when three, four or more Bektashi believers start their journey to the Creator they become siblings from the same parents, spiritually and physically. Their physical family has grown and the brothers and sisters of the meydan identify each other as biological brothers and sisters until their last breath. This magic and rare reality of our times makes us feel proud and contribute to enrich Islam with great values, especially in the context of wars in the Middle East. Our tradition unanimously prohibited and prohibits any war in Islam, and distortion of the trust in the universality of brotherhood.

The following days, the Bektashi Delegation led by the Head of World Bektashi Centre held important meetings with senior state and religious personalities, whom they shared similar viewpoints with, especially regarding the situation in the Middle East, as well as the importance of strengthening a joint world front in order to fight killer religious extremism. In addition, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj replied to the questions of thousands of journalists in the televisions of Seoul and Europe that participated in this event.

*"Wisdom", reporter 2014*



# WE NEED A HAXHI BEKTASH TODAY

In the blessed Day of Ashura, the speech of the Prime Minister of Turkey, His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu, was received with interest by the numerous presents. After greeting all the presents, Mr. Davutoglu spoke about the tragedy of Karbala, evoking especially the mission of the Head of Knights. Further, he spoke about the philosophical and religious values of the tarikats and he said: "I am the first Prime Minister of Turkey coming here to take the du'a of Haxhi Bektash Velu, in order that our work to have a prosperous end. The Day of Ashura is a great day, apart from the fact that in its foundations is the blood of Imam Husein, perfidiously killed by Jezidi, this adversary of the true way. In this case, I want to remember to all of you that we have an amanet (will, order) and we have to fulfill it together, all of us. Let the God from the Heaven remove the quarrels between us. We must not permit the hate to come down in this blessed country, because all of us, we are followers of Ehli-Bejti. But, my brothers, this new epoch is not opened today. At the very first I took the difficult charge of the Prime Minister of Turkey, I went immediately to the Tyrbe of Haxhi Bajram Veli and I had his permission and his consent. After, I went also to hazreti Mevlana and had his permission and his consent too. And today, we are together here, in the famous Bektashi Tekke of Haxhi Bektash Velu, for giving the ikrar. All the Bektashis and the Alevis know what it represents the historical moment of giving the ikrar. As Haxhi Bektash Velu said, the believer has to control the hand, the waist and the tongue, which is linked inextricably to our moral. Last year - continued further His Excellency Mr. Davutoglu - in the blessed Day of Ashura, I was in Karbala. There, I felt the aroma of the history and the fragrance of the holy earth of Karbala. My brothers! If anybody forgets what happened in Karbala, forgets the Humanity. All of us, together with hazreti Husein, we are travelers. Also,

the Twelve Imams will remain eternal spiritual leaders for us. Though we are in the new millennium here in Anatolia we need a Haxhi Bektash and also we need a hazreti Mevlana, to tell us the great truths. Some intellectuals to us are terrified if the name tekke is mentioned, but just in this tekke we find the life and the inspiring work of Haxhi Bektash, therefore is necessary to change and to evolve our concepts on tekkes. For the sake of the truth, I tell you that I come from a family of Sunnit spiritual tradition, but it needs to know, all of you, that I cannot be the Prime Minister of Sunnits, but of all my citizens. Every citizen of the free Turkey - Sunnit, Bektashi or Alevi he may be, is fully equal by the law and they are brothers between them. Let me, brothers, to pray with the words: Let the Peace and the Clemency of the God be on you! The Peace and the Clemency of Ehli-Bejti, Imam Ali and Imam Husein be on you! Let us pray to the God that never could be repeated the tragedy of Karbala.

"By the end of the activity, the presents visited the museal part of the tekke, manifesting their interest on the precious objects and on the places of the religious events in the past. The Turkish Prime Minister was accompanied by the World Bektashi Grandfather, who demanded, among others, that this object must have again its original function, as a Bektashi temple, visited every day by the people".

*"Wisdom", reporter,  
December 2014*





# WE ARE ON THE SIDE OF TOLERANCE AND PEACE

Talking about the tragic events which happened in Paris in January of this year, The Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Edi Rama, expressed some ideas, in the presence of highest religious leaders of our country. After a special greeting to the participants of the Albanian religious delegation in Paris, he said, among others: "The human coexistence became often a scene of macabre murders because of the deformation of religious faiths. The centuries and, for us, the people living in nowadays, the last years, are witness of more and more shuddering crimes in the name of the prophets, hostages of the barbarism and of the passion for power or for money, which entered in action through the darkness, the ignorance, the poverty and the social desperation. Undoubtedly, not all these crimes provoke the same social reaction. Certainly, many of them did not arrived to the eyes and to the ears of the public opinion. While some others, which caused hundreds or thousands of people, as it happened in Nigeria just some days ago, become meat of butchery for the beasts that claim to defend a faith, for us remain just the main titles of a day, on the top of the news editions on TV, bringing us information about the deaths, continuing further with other news, using the news about those horrible deaths as publicities for a new movie just appeared in cinemas. And the day after, all continues as nothing happened. But sometimes it happens that such cruel crimes are committed in the face of the public opinion, by human beings transformed in demons.

Just in these cases, when somebody or several people try to dictate their degenerated faith of a very small minority, on the stage of the human coexistence appears the dignity of

millions of people, from all over the World, resolute to defend their faith or their faiths. So was the tragic event which smeared Paris with blood, sprinkling the screen of our imagination with the blood which was shed in one of the world capitals of the freedom of the thought and of the faith of the people. The demoniacal barbarity strangled some voices by the horrible violence of arms, but it arose a multi-million chorus appealing the name of Charlie in the name of the human dignity. I have not known any journalist of the magazine "Charlie Hebdo". And in fact, the people who knew them are more than the very few from the millions united in the chorus: "We are Charlie". Who has followed that magazine, testifies that the journalists of "Charlie Hebdo" were people with a high sense of humor, as all the illuminated minds are; they were artists, very good connoisseurs of the power of the pencil, fiery promoters of the power of the image; they were people that knew that the freedom of the expression, the freedom of the thought and the freedom of the objection are not negotiable.

*"Wisdom", reporter  
January, 2015*





# WE APPRECIATE THE ATTITUDE OF YOUR HOLY SEE



Several high cultural and religious personalities received the World Grandfather of Bektashism, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj recent days in Paris. The cordial and interesting talks are focused to the cultural and identity roots of the religions as well as on the encouragement of the collaboration between the religions, which are able to offer models and artistic achievements beloved by the believers of every religion. In the same time, promoting the values of dialogue and tolerance, the experience of the Bektashi faith was appreciated as a model to be followed by the others.

Firstly, the World Grandfather was received by the Director of the House of the World Cultures, in Paris, Mrs. Arvad Ezber. She said she was excited by this visit, even because of his familiar origin and that she admired meetings like that,

with personalities of a mystic and progressive faith. Mrs. Ezber informed the World Grandfather that in Paris, since many years, the House of the World Cultures organized Days dedicated to different cultures from all over the World and she said that a 800 years old faith, which survived mostly through its cultural messages, is always very attractive one. Further, Mrs. Ezber wanted to know more about Bektashism, not only the traditional religious aspect, but also about the cultural and doctrinal models which are so much representative nowadays.

The World Grandfather of Bektashism, His Eminence Haxhi Baba Edmod Brahimaj, after thanking Mrs. Ezber for the cordial reception, made a short description of the history of the birth, the increase and the development of the Bektashi faith in the Asia of the past, in the actual Europe and in all those countries where the Bektashi communities are present. He said that Bektashism was born by the stratifications of religious elements of Islam and it was formed with the deepest human love. The Bektashi Tarikat (brotherhood), not only in a symbolic way but especially in its essence, means the reconciliation of the spirit, the moving away from the material side of this World and the travel full of sacrifices and devotion to the Creator. In this travel, which begins since when the believer pledges his word, many cultures are mixed, religious or not, which vivify the motion, which inspire it by the nectar of Bektashi songs (nefese), of the dances, of the polyphonic song and other rites and customs.

In this case the World Bektashi Grandfather told the last episode of the famous Souleiman with the ant, which was written some centuries ago by the great mystic Attari. Millions of ants were going to work. Only one of them was not hurry. Before its ant-hill it faced a pile of sand and it took the granules of sand one by one and pushed them away. The famous Souleiman looked it and said: Ant! You have not the force and the patience. Even if you may live so much as Noah did, even you may have the patience of Ejub, you cannot achieve this work! With your force you could never move this pile of sand! The ant answered: Great King! In this way, we can go ahead only with generosity!

Syrja Xhelaj,  
Paris - May 2015



# The Souls' Open Gateways

**T**he Bektashi World Leader, His Grace, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, participated in the Second International Competition of the Mediterranean Countries Union.

Senior representatives of the state, different non-governmental organisations, as well as religious leaders from the Mediterranean countries, Africa and Middle East, have gathered in Palermo, Italy on 9-11 October 2015, in their Second Competition on the economic, marine, cultural and religious cooperation. It was the sea that gathered these personalities with the idea that it is worthwhile to stand next to each other in front of the power of the sea and globalism trends. Designed and oriented towards a comprehensive and specific cooperation to use every natural opportunity and scientific resource, the multiple discussions, speeches and presentations provided information on the participating countries' major concerns and effective solutions.

The international colloquium was designed in this context for the essential presence of the interfaith dialogue among countries whose shores are washed by the sea. In this colloquium different religious leaders of Catholic, Muslim and Jewish communities, as well as the Head of World Bektashi Centre, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj. The abovementioned activity was conducted in full cooperation with the University of Sicily Rectorate and other personalities, civil and military authorities. After the greeting of Bishop Domenico Mogavero, who greeted the participants and started the activity, the Head of World Bektashi Centre took the floor and talked about the multiple aspects that join religions, which

if appreciated, can accomplish their mission. However, in order to respect the ancient traditions of our faiths and religions, it is necessary to know them, within our reach and time, according to the relationship we have with our faith. We instinctively try to approach the diverse options of the religion, but after all God is one and if we want to obey his will, it is necessary to consider other believers the same as we consider our brothers by birth.

Next, the meeting was enriched with the speeches and ideas of the Great Mosque of Rome imam, Muhammad Hassan Abdulghaffar, and the Catania Mosque Imam, Khalil Abdelhafid.

The president of the Sant'Egidio community for Sicily, Emiliano Abramo; the mayor, Prof. Dr. Francesco Milazzo and Chief Rabbi of Syracuse, Stefano Di Mauro provided specific and meaningful examples related to the establishment of the interfaith dialogue, as well as the new atmosphere that should characterise religions regarding moral and social aspects. During the event, the Head of World Bektashi Centre, His Grace, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj met and discussed with renowned personalities, who were present in this event, such as the professor of Philosophical Sciences, Henry Franchini; the promi-

nent linguist and professor, Francesco Altimari whom he shared different opinions on the philosophical streams of nowadays religions. Meanwhile, the meeting with Prof. Dominique Nogues was very interesting, because he was curious about the Bektashi vision regarding family and believers in the society. The Head of World Bektashi Centre recited the ayat where God orders: "Allah has promised, to those among you who believe and work righteous deeds, that He will, of a surety, grant them in the land, inheritance (of power), as He granted it to those before them; that He will establish in authority their religion, the one which He has chosen for them and that He will change (their state), after the fear in which they (lived), to one of security and peace!"

Likewise warm and brotherly was the conversation between the Head of World Bektashi Centre and the mayor of Palermo, Leoluca Orlando, who visited the Holy See of the Bektashi World Centre a few weeks ago. Mr. Orlando was excited about the establishment of our magnificent sanctuary and he stated that among other things, such a temple will make the Bektashi around the world proud.

*"Wisdom" reporter  
October, 2015*





# MESSAGES FROM CENTURIES TO CENTURIES



In November 19, 2015 took place, in the hall of the "Skampa" Theater in Elbasan, the International Symposium on the occasion of the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed, Peace upon Him, organized by the Bektashi Holy See, in collaboration with the Bektashi Head Quarter of Elbasan. Besides the believers who came from different regions of our country, in this event participated also the World Bektashi Grandfather, His Eminence Haxhi Baba Edmond Brahimaj, deputies of the Albanian Parliament, representatives of the other religious communities in Elbasan, representatives of the local powers and academicians. The main messages and ideas which were expressed in this event were: the irreplaceable role of our Prophet in the rousing of the highest moral and spiritual values, the transmission of these values within the Prophetic Family, Ehli - Bejti, and the Bektashi heritage.

After singing a hadith and the National Anthem of Albania, the World Bektashi Grandfather thanked all the participants and wished them good luck and prosperity in their families. Further, he said: I have the great pleasure to be with today and to honour

together our Prophet Mohammed, Peace upon him and His Family, on the eve of His Birthday. Let the Majestic God hear our marvelous words towards our Prophet Mohammed and satisfy our wishes! In this commemoration and deep reflection day, we are together in our discourse about the life and the work of our Prophet, which left indelible traces not only for the Islamic World, but for all the Mankind history. The models which followed our Prophet during His life, were the highest moral virtues, therefore, everyone of us who is looking to perfect his moral, needs to follow the example of the brilliant work of the Prophet Mohammed.





med, which continues to illuminate our souls even nowadays, after so much centuries.

This common joy is linked to the felicitous idea that all of us are benevolents of Ehli-Bejti in the Albanian lands and we want to transmit the messages of the chaste family, so pure and divine, through our culture, through our arts, through our high moral. In the essence of everyone of tari-kats, do not exist neither blind rancours nor dominant tendencies towards other faiths. On the contrary, we see ourselves as green branches of the grandiose plane-tree of Islam. Our subject and our main work and activity have been and will remain the propagation of the blessed word of Ehli-Bejti.

I am proud that the Bektashi faith, preserved intact during eight centuries, since its foundation until nowadays, the brightening teachings of Qurani Kerim and of the Prophet Mohammed, Peace upon Him. We feel ourselves proud that even nowadays, we learn by the wisdom of the twelve Imams, that we remember with tears in our eyes the Kerbala tragedy and that we don't forget the instructions of Haxhi Bektash Veli. Even in the most difficult years for the believers, when in Albania the practising of the faith was prohibited by the Constitution, the dervishs, the babas and the Bektashi believers, kept, through so much sacrifices, the sacred swear towards the Family of Ehli-Bejti. I assure you, that the precious example of this brightening family will serve the actual generation and the generations of the future, without distinction of their religion and faith. The universality of its moral remains a challenge over all the times.

Meanwhile, let me remember all of you that nowadays, some barbarians who have nothing in common with Islam, try to take hostage the blessed name of the Majestic God. Their crimes, unexampled in the history, are exactly the contrary of the merciful nature of Islam; in fact they want to get dirty our universal



values, because, in every line of Qurani Kerim, in every word of the Prophet Mohammed and in the wisdom of our Imams, has brightened everytime the idea and the goal to protect and to embellish the human life, far away from the things of this world and especially, far away from all the forms of barbarism.

"Further, followed the scientific communications of the clergymen and researchers, underlining the idea that the learnings of the Prophet are and remain always actual ones. Also, the participants attended with interest the ideas of Dr.Valente - Italy and of Dr.Aziz Abaz - Iran".

"Wisdom", - reporter  
December 2015





“ *His Holiness the Pope Francis received in a special meeting the World Bektashi Grandfather His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj.* ”



**I APPRECIATE THE GOODNESS  
THAT YOUR FAITH EMITS!**

... His Holiness the Pope Francis, with His thinking eyes, started His speech by remembering the marvelous impressions from His first visit in a European country, in our Tirana. It was not difficult to understand every word of His Holiness; because they were transmitted by an interior enthusiasm, similar to the bud of the new green grass. “You came to the threshold of this century passing through great spiritual and physical dramas. I understood it during my sojourn in Tirana. I saw it in your eyes” - started

His speech the Pope Francis. Further. He said that in His memory were recorded three images from Albania. “I saw so much youth, in the streets, in the squares, in my meetings. It is sure that for a nation who has a youth like that - enthusiastic and sincere in its belief to the God, it is easier to face the unexpected events the destiny reserves. Also, I thought for a long time about the martyrs of your catholic clergy. I saw so much sadness, but also courage, in their portraits. Courage and belief that the faith to



the God cannot be lost, even when ideological politicians violate it and fight against it. But also the religious fraternity in your country is a very precious thing. It is a priceless spiritual richness. Every war, in its essence is an expression of the devil's power. But the religious war is the more macabre than every other thing. We, the Christians, have made wars in the past and now we feel ourselves repented. The only way for the Mankind is the peace".

Further, speaking to the World Bektashi Grandfather, the Pope Francis closed His speech with the words: "Especially the religious leaders have a great mission. With their moral authority and their concrete example, they lead the believers to the perfection of the spirit, to the human goodness. I appreciate the fruitful activity of all the Bektashis and the goodness that your faith emits".

The World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, thanked the Pope Francis for His warm and fraternal hospitality, as well as for His kind appreciations towards Albania, Albanian clergy and Bektashi faith. He expressed the message that the relations between the Albanians and the Holy See date from many centuries and they contributed to keeping alive the hopes of the Albanians to be a worthy part of the European family. So, we are approaching to the solemn moments of the Sanctification of Mother Theresa, who had Albanian origin and became the tender mother of all the poor men, of the unsheltered people and of the sick people of Calcutta and of all the World. Also the World Bektashi Grandfather expressed His high consideration to the initiative of the Holy See for beatifying of the clergy of the Albanian Catholic Church, who faced the ideological obscurantism, as the clergy of the other faiths in Albania did. Appreciating the open and wonderful ideas of the Pope Francis, the World Grandfather mentioned the emblematic expression of the Saint Father during His visit in a Greek island where thousands of refugees from the Middle East were installed: "Before opening the doors of the borders, the

Western Europe must open the doors of the hearts".

By the end of His speech, Haxhi Baba Edmond Brahimaj said: "Is the will of the God, of course, that we, the Bektashis, are here today and we are talking as brothers do. Let me, Excellency, to express to You the gratitude of millions of Bektashis, who cannot forget the contribution of the Holy See and Your contribution to Albania and to all over the World inspired by the freedom and by the religious faith. As the Holy See of the Bektashism, we are trying to safeguard our best traditions and to enrich them, in the doctrinal, social and moral aspects, convinced that we have to be in accordance with the impetuous developments of the human life.

Our faith, during 800 years of its existence, since the foundation until nowadays, could survive in different situations in the time and in the space, thanks to the comprehension with all faiths and religions. Nowadays also we travel together with the believers of the other religions in the way to the God, with the profound love for them that the God put together with us, without prejudices or doubts. After what happened in Paris to the "Charlie Hebdo" magazine, we the representatives of the traditional Albanian religious communities, marched together with brothers from all over

the World, against the terroristic and violence acts presented and made in the name of the God. Of course, we have many challenges, which we have to face in fraternity with the other brothers. Thank you again for receiving us and for sharing these moments together!".

By the end of the meeting, according to the protocol, some minutes were reserved to the change of presents. The Pope Francis gave to all of us the gratitude of the Holy See and embraced us cordially. The World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj presented to the Pope Francis a picture in silver of the Ehli-Bejti Family, a copy of the "Wisdom" magazine and the official annual calendar of the Bektashi Holy See for the year 2016. In this calendar, for the sake of a happy coincidence, the picture of the month of May, is the photo of the World Grandfather with the Pope Francis, during His last visit in Albania. The Cardinal Turan, smiling, said that the next year the calendar of the Vatican will present the photo of the Pope Francis with the World Grandfather. So, more than a visit, these symbolic moments ended the meeting between the brothers. An "ending" which leaves open other meetings, in other times and other places, for the good of the human peace.

**Syrja Xhelaj**  
**Vatican, May 2016**





# THE RECOVERY OF THE BEKTASHI A FEAST FOR ALL

A quarter of century ago, Albanians turned the momentum of the good will, wanting to rebound as soon as possible, with that faith anathematized by the ideology of the time, based on the love of the Creator. They addressed the few places of worship remained without being destroyed, filling spaces altered with great hope that they could find traces of the clergy, the events of long ago or historical dates connecting with Christ, Mohammed or Haxhi Bektash Veli. In this context, the headquarters of the World Bektashi, gathered in "Tirana-Internacional" on March 19, 2016, many authorities in higher religious positions, researchers from several countries, as well as believers from Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Macedonia. The great revival, that work of spiritual estimated value was seen in the perspective of the Ahl al-Bayt tradition and in particular on the historical role of Dede Reshat Bardhi. After singing a Qur'anic traditional anthem, The World Grandfather, His Eminence, Haxhiji Edmond Brahimaj announced:

"Bismalah Rahman Rahim! In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful i honor my brother, President of the Albanian Muslim Community, Mr. Skender Bruçaj! Dear Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, Mr. Blendi Klosi! Dear brothers, Bektashi clergy, coming from Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo! Dear ambassadors! Dear scholars coming from several countries! Faithful brothers and sisters!

Allow me, as the Grandfather of the Bektashi World, to express to all of you who honor us with your participation, my deepest gratitude for the fact that you become part of the symbolism of this day. Today's event, with the idea of rebuilding confidence through the Bektashi tradition of Ahl al-Bayt and the historical role of Dede Reshat Bardhi, proves that we are aware of the way we came from and the way ahead us. United in ideas, attitudes, in any development time, I believe that the will of the Great God, we will succeed, we will bear great responsibility on his shoulders historic World

Center of Bektashi faith. 25 years ago, a group of believers, supported by some Bektashi clerics and guided by our patriarch, Haxhi Dede Reshat Bardhi, opened the doors of the Holy See, opening doors of hopes between the most horrible system and ideology of the past. 25 years ago, with the blessing of God and the saint Mother Teresa, we opened a new history of religion 800 years old, the doctrine of wise and unifying Haxhi Bektash Veli, the philosophy of the wisdom of

the twelve Imams, generosity and patriotism of Bektashi dervishes and Albanian fathers, who fed the generations of believers... I'm sure many of you are here today in this room, joined in the idea that the foundation of every initiative of Our Holy See, the foundation of every thought and action to rebuild confidence Bektashi are the mind, spirit, strength and light scatter emblematic of Haxhi Dede Reshat Bardhi. Who more and who less, to all of us in this room today, we have the great fortune to share together; this warm atmosphere and parenting, to awaken His word. We have had great luck, that by kissing him in the unrivaled hand in the way of Haqq, we get the strength and hope of his face. We have had great luck, to learn not only from the soft words, but also by His warnings. We benefit of His spirit and that spirit will accompany us until our last breath, because that was His great spirit. Characterized by "Wisdom", none better than Dede Reshat, could not enter into the spirit of the believers, in the most remote Teqe of Albania, up to Detroit in the United States. No

one better than he, has encouraged us, the younger generations of the Bektashi clergymen, on the road full of sacrifices. His name obviously relates everything we have achieved in these 25 years worth of proud. If today Albania has become a model of religious brotherhood, this means is definitely of the historical role of Dede Reshat Bardhi, his vision and commitment. Wishing good luck to foreign researchers in their noble mission, please accept the expression of my sincere desire: God bless you! Amin!"

"Wisdom", reporter, 2016







# THE BELIEF IN FACE OF THE CHALLENGES OF THE TIME

The Bektashi Holy See gathers in Tirana and Tetova 27 religious leaders and researchers from Europe, Middle East and Japan

For the first time in Balkans, religious leaders, researchers and representatives of religious mechanisms in Brussels, collaborating with the World Bektashi Head Quarter and with the Bektashi Community in Macedonia, have an interesting point of view on the religious faiths, not conclusions after wars, but interpretations of the reality, through eventual help of the faiths for the solution of conflicts. The Conference was anticipated by the massive participation at the pilgrimage to the Tomori mountain, just in its nicest days, by the end of August. Mrs. Wydske, leader of the International Organization for the Religious Freedom, based on Holland, making a synthesis of the diversity so much desired by the believers of different religions on Tomori mountain, was expressed: "We are wondered by the generosity of Bektashis here, who receive, meet, accompany and talk with pilgrims of other faiths. Our organization works since 126

years for the religious freedom, which you show so easily, so majestically".

After, the Conference in question, which took place in August 23-25, 2016, in the South-Eastern Europe University in Tetova, passed through the emotions of the prayer of Ali Gronner and was Derek Me Auley who invited to speak the high religious representative Ivo Markoviç. A real thought and context accompanied his words, bringing to the auditorium the religious drama of Sarajevo and of course pointing the principal responsible - Serbia. Further,

the World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, by His speech underlined the idea that in the concept of the freedom of the religious faiths, the religious and state leaders have a heavy load on their shoulders and they have to be always in full coherence with the traditions, with the realities and the regional developments.

Further, the World Grandfather continued: "During the history, the peoples, because of their terres-





trian, ethnic, religious or cultural trends and interests, prejudicious towards one another, faced one another even in ferocious physical collisions. Undoubtedly, these collisions caused great tragedies and endless pains, because through them moved, full of anxieties, the life of millions of people. We can agree or not but this was the history. During this history cannot be ignored the great devices of Bektashism for peace with ourselves and with the neighbor, resumed by the axiom: "You are all brothers of one another". So, even if the Majestic God had made us present every thing, even if we pray to Him for every goodness in this temporary World and in the other one, we must not forget that we are brothers with common mother and father, with common past and future, just like in a family, where dominate the harmony and the mutual respect, where are inherited the perfect moral and physical values. If we consider ourselves within a great human family and we want to be near the attention of the Creator, our future will be, certainly, illuminated".

Dr.Arben Sulejmani transmitted to the presents the serious problem of the developments in the Bektashi tekke "Harabati Baba", in Tetova. He mentioned concrete examples of the abusive attitudes towards the religious freedom, of the violation of the basic acts on the the rights and liberties of the believers, accompanied by the absurd indifference of the public authorities and by the moral degeneration of the judiciary administration. By the end of his speech, Mr.Sulejmani told about the efforts undertaken from time to time by the international factor in Shkup, regarding the spiritual and physical usurpation of the ambients of the Bektashi tekke in Tetova.

After, was the turn of Dr.Hona Szent Ivanyi from Hungary, who underlined the idea of finding of the common points of the religions and faiths, which could make possible the approaching of the believers. Meanwhile, she dedicated particular importance to the Bektashism in Macedonia, congratulating the religious leaders and the believers there, for their calm and patience in the difficult situations they pass through.

While Dr.Anita Eucehen, in the quality of the representative of the Bureau in Brussels, thanking the Bektashis for their attitude, mentioned sufficient examples of the engagement of international mechanisms and their help regarding different religious conflicts.

During the days of the Conference, the participants in this activity visited several churches, mosques and other historical places in Macedonia. Meanwhile, a dinner was offered in the ambients of "Harabati-Baba" tekke in Tetova, where the participants, besides the kitchen, enjoyed the cordial talks about the interfaith dialogue.

*"Wisdom"- reporter, August 2016*

# "DOCTOR HONORIS



# TOGETHER

**T**he Ecumenical Patriarch of Istanbul, Barthelmy the First, received the World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj. Some days ago, the Bektashi communities in all over the World, attentively followed the visit of the World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Istanbul, Barthelmy the First. After embracing one another and the welcoming wishes, the Ecumenical Patriarch said: "I visited two times Albania. I feel and I nourish a special love for the Albanian people and for the Albanian nation. It was forbidden to the Albanians to believe to the God, but they never lost the faith. The Albanians suffered so much, but they were never vanquished by the history. I am very glad to receive, for the first time, You, as the First Moslem Leader, of the Balkans and of Europe, of the World

Bektashi Head Quarter, renown already in many countries of the World for nourishing love to the God to hundreds of millions of Bektashi believers. We have





# CAUSA" TO THE WORLD GRANDFATHER

A very special ceremony took place in the Holy See of the World Bektashi Head Quarter in Tirana, where the World Grandfather of Bektashism, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, was honoured by the title "Doctor Honoris Causa", accorded by the World Academy of Peace of the United Nations, in the presence of numerous Bektashi believers, deputies of the Albanian Parliament, representatives of the local powers, leaders of religious communities, many people from Kosovo,

Macedonia, Montenegro and from the Albanian Diaspora in different countries of the World. In this ceremony participated and greeted representatives of the Albanian Government, academics from Albania and from other countries, theologians and researchers. In the name of the World Academy of Peace of the United Nations, the academic Madhu Krishan consigned the title to the World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj.

Haxhi Baba Edmond Brahimaj is appreciated for his contribution to the field of theology and to the harmony between the religious communities, to the peace, to the love and to the goodness. "...The mission of Baba Mondi is so near to the mission of Saint Mother Theresa. I am very happy to have this opportunity, after a great struggle against my grave malady, to come to Albania and to consign to him this title, in the name of the World Academy of Peace of the United Nations" - said among others the academic Krishan.

Very touched, briefly, the World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, said among others: "...I feel myself very happy, also because of the fact that the World Academy of Peace of the United Nations chose me for the title "Doctor Honoris Causa", as a kind of gratitude and reward for the dialogue, the tolerance and the hope that our faith, the faith of Haxhi Bektash Veli, transmitted since 800 years to different peoples and countries".

*"Wisdom", reporter  
October 2016*

# R FOR THE PEACE



very good relations with Bektashis, since the times of your brilliant predecessors, Dede Ahmet and Dede Reshat. The collaboration between the faiths, with the Sait Father, the Pope Francis, with Your World Bektashi Head Quarter and with You as their Great Spiritual Leader, with all the other religions, everywhere in the World, are and must be the main ways we have to construct for the saint cause of the Peace. Let us be together for the love, for the peace and for the human values".

In his speech, the World Grandfather said among others: "The respect you showed to me, this warm reception, as a brother to his brother, is an historical engagement for me, in my way of service to the God, of service to the human values, of service to the Mankind. For us, the Pope and You, are leaders in service to the Peace and to the Progress. Your great work in the actual situation, your approach and spirit of collaboration with Judaism and Islam, are fundamental principles, because without peace and love between us, is not possible the peace and the love between the peoples and nations.

In the second day of his visit, the World Grandfather visited the Ancient Cathedral of Saint George, where he was received as a Primary, with a very special great ceremony. The participants in this ceremony received with applause and ovations the speech of the World Bektashi Grandfather, as the first Moslem leader considering the Christianity, the christian believers and their leaders as brothers.



# THE OPEN DOORS

***High religious and public personalities in Italy received and expressed their special consideration to the World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj***



the World Bektashi Grandfather, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, joined the joy of the catholic clergymen and of thousands of albanian catholic believers. Haxhi Baba Edmond Brahimaj attended all the magnificent ceremony and in this occasion he met several high personalities of Vatican, thanking them especially for the interest they show on the religious events in Albania. The warm reception that the Pope Francis reserved to the delegation of the Bektashi Holy See in Vatican, in the month of May of this year, was also the subject on which they talked during this event in Vatican.

Further, the World Bektashi Grandfather travelled to Palermo. There, thanks to the collaboration with local religious and public authorities, the Bektashis are going to open a Bektashi teqe. In Castronovo, the World Bektashi Grandfather participated to the event which took place in the school, where His speech was attended with a great interest. Firstly, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, spoke about the history of the origin and the development of the Bektashism, since almost 800 years ago. Also, He spoke about the doctrinal stratifications which came from the mystic tendencies in different countries and peoples, especially in the Middle East, which led to the birth of the Islamic tarikats (brotherhoods) and to the enrichment of the best Moslem traditions.

The thought of the World Bektashi Grandfather about the irreplaceable role of the tarikats in the Balkan areas,

In Albania, the Jubilee of the Charity was celebrated through great emotions. This jubilee is just a lesson, for all of us, for understanding that the Charity is the way to see the brother near you with the same look of the Creator, because the words and the sentiments are never enough. All these, the words and the sentiments, together with the Charity, we must apply in every minute of our life, in every human community. In this case we remember the golden words of the Pope Francis;

one year ago He said: "Passing through the Holy Door, we leave the Charity of the Creator to embrace us and we shall be impressed further to be charitable with the others, as the Holy Father is with us".

In its essence, the Jubilee proves that the door of the holy charity is never closed but it is open every time, for all of us. It was a wonderful epilogue of the Jubilee when the Pope Francis in Vatican, created as a cardinal His Eminence Ernest Troshani. The presence of



# OF THE HEARTS

in the meaning of the construction of bridges between two principal religions, Christianity and Islam, was considered very important and very significant one. The Balkan historiography, in several cases bore witness already that the tarikats (especially the Bektashi faith) inculcated to their followers not only the inexhaustible devotion to the Creator, but also the will to live and to act in a community of brothers, apart from the ethnic appertaining. Indeed, in Bektashism, both in doctrinal and practical point of views, the presence of several ethnic groups, races and languages, under the same heaven, is considered every time as a kind of religious and cultural mosaic, which only beautifies the life and the human destiny.

By the end of His speech, taking into consideration the very interesting questions by the participants in this event, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, underlined: "In every faith, the religious context has its importance, because of the fact that the Koranic tradition is linked to this context, as well as the ways of collaboration between the faiths, in order to be united in their devotion towards the Creator. But I think we would be partial if we will discuss and conclude about our past without taking into consideration the actual challenges, which are numerous and difficult in the same time. After some years, the Holy See of Bektashism will reach a century of its presence in Tirana. We never avoided the great historical responsibilities, but, on the contrary, we firmly faced them, because we are conscientious of our mission, extended in every Bekrash community,



in all over the World.

Sometimes ago, after e great work and efforts of Bektashi believers, we inaugurated in Tirana the great multifunctional building which is worthy for the name and for the history we inherited. Of course, in its basis were the spirit and the will of the High God, accompanied by the sublime abnegation of all generations of Bektashi clergymen, who never separated the destiny of our nation from the destiny of the Creator. We are conscientious that to walk in their way it needs to do sacrifices every day, but we are sworn and we will go fairly ahead, in the way of Hak. The idea

of setting up a Bektashi teqe in this area, an expression of the emblematic tolerance of our Leader, Haxhi Bektash Veli, in the ancient country of the Christian security and Charity, strongly obliges us to construct communication bridges and to develop the religious and human dialogue, in service to the most lasting peace".

The Mayor of Castronovo, Mr. Francesco Onorata, thanked the World Bektashi Grandfather for His speech and His ideas and informed the participants of the event about the special contribution of the World Bektashi Grandfather to facing the new challenges of Islam against the international terrorism and against radical religious attitudes. By the end of his speech, Mr. Onorata said: "We are happy today to have among us a charismatic religious leader, who represents the World Bektashism and who emits everywhere "Wisdom", intelligence and the mystic traditions of His forerunners. The prestige of the Bektashi Holy See is reached by the sacrifices

of many generations and this Vmeeting today gave us the pleasure and the opportunity to understand that we came in this World to live in tangible harmony with one another".

A prayer for peace brought deep emotions in the hall and after, the pupils of the school got around the World Bektashi Grandfather in order to fix in photos this impressive event. The electronic and written media of Castronovo transmitted to the public this fruitful dialogue.

"Wisdom" reporter,  
December 2016



# BRIDGE FOUNDATIONS IN SERVICE OF PEACE



The year 2017 started by a good omen for the Bektashi believers, everywhere they live. On January 5, in our Holy See, through the representatives of the World Academy of Peace of the United Nations, the President of the United States of America Barack Obama delivered to the World Bektashi Grandfather, the Gratitude for Peace, for His work in service of Peace and Fraternity, as well as for His continuous effort to construct bridges between the peoples.

After, Mr. Hysi invited Dr. Otto F. Von Feigenblatt, the High Representative of the World Academy of Peace, to deliver the "Gratitude" to the World Bektashi Grandfather. His Holiness Haxhi Baba Edmond Brahimaj said, among others: "These are very happy minutes for me. I am full of joy by this ceremony taking place in our religious spaces, especially by the human love I feel around me and of course, by this Gratitude. Personally, I perceive the figure of the World Grandfather as the image of a simple man, at the level of good parents, of those who understand very well the God. I believe to the Bektashi Mission and particularly to the Mission of the World Bektashi Grandfather, who will help the believers in good and bad days, just like the Mission of the Great Albanian Mother Theresa".

Further, through emotions and applause, he delivered to His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj the "Gratitude". On His part, the World Grandfather was expressed: "...It is a special honor for me to receive in this day of January 2017, the precious Gratitude from the President of the United States of America, His Excellency Barak Obama. It is a special honor and pride, not only for me personally, but for all our believers in the World, for our cause that we inherited from our ancestors, which are transmitting to the actual generation and to the generations of the future. It is a reward for all the sacrifices of the followers of our 800 years old faith, which was proclaimed as unity between brothers and continues to remain a unity between brothers also nowadays, in our World full of egoism and tendencies to leave the spirit of the Creator, the spirit of the family, the blessed spirit of one another. This Gratitude, which identifies our trends of devotion towards the wisdom and the world peace, could not be casual. The essence of the Bektashi faith, the substance of the doctrine and of the attitudes of this faith, is just the sense of the diffusion of

the pure brotherhood. In nice days but also in hard days, in different times and places, even in situations of extreme danger of wars, we, the Bektashis, called the brotherhood and the peace. Peace which came firstly by knowing ourselves. Centuries ago, our illuminated Guide wrote: "Everybody who knew the God with the qualification "godly", has known himself in the quality of the humble, that means everybody has known his poverty by the things of this World, has known the unlimited riches of the God. Everybody who has known painfully himself, has known firmly the God. Everybody who has known himself by illumination, has known the most brilliant God. Meanwhile, by the generation of the renowned Bektashi clergymen, respecting each

one of them in different countries and times, I would distinguish the wisdom and the clear - sightedness of my predecessors by Albanian origin, who transmitted even until the far Nevsehir, in Asia, together with their devotion towards the Creator; also the love, the longing and the contribution to their Fatherland. Almost 100 years ago, those clergymen responded with the force of the Great God and of the clear reason to the efforts for violating and discriminating the Bektashism, making possible not only the defense and the preservation of this precious riches within the Islam family, but also the further development and enrichment of the Bektashism in Balkans, Europe and until the United States of America. Gratitude and deep respect to the life and the work of hundreds of Albanian dervishes and babas, who transmitted through the generations, in marvelous and careful way, their spirit of love towards the Creator, with the great hope that only the peace and communication bridges keep in life every human society.

Sisters and brothers!

After the according of this Gratitude to all of us by the President Obama, allow me to remember you that the last year, our peace, the peace of all of us, living under the same sky, was struck very hard, was violated and covered by blood, through actions encouraged by the devil. Also, the first hours of the year 2017 came together with the hateful crime of killing and wounding in Istanbul, which means that our peace not only is a fragile one, but it is also menaced by criminal segments of the human society, which have ties with any kind of barbarism but never with our God. Millions of Bektashi believers in all over the World, as well as nearly two billions of good and devoted Moslems, not only are afflicted because of those painful events, but they are united in this pain with the families of the innocent victims, praying that their souls rest in eternity. We are all conscientious that the ferocity with which the terrorism strikes us in World level, apart from the methods it uses, cannot be fought only by conferences and slogans. We need, better than before, to consolidate the institution of the solidarity, within the family, within the love for one another, accepting the diversity as a push to go ahead and not to revenge against the others. Through this solidarity, so much indispensable, we would unite our forces, of the reason and the physical ones, the forces



of the hearts and the divine ones, in order to accept and to love the people near us, to be with him in hard times and in joyful times, pulling down every wall which separates us, surpassing the conflicts by the respect and clemency towards the human being. Against the weapons which the others may use, our weapons, of the Moslems in all over the World, will be always the weapons of the truth, of the universal clemency and love.

Thanking you again for coming to participate at this wonderful event of the Bektashi Holy See, wishing you luck and goodness in your families and in those of all the believers, allow me to guarantee you that the World Bektashi Center here in Tirana, is resolute to go ahead following the most precious traditions of our faith, constructing every day foundations of fraternal communication bridges. Are just these bridge foundations that serve to the peace. We, naturally, have chosen solidarity as our motto, because a social and religious friendship will lead us

surely to the great peace of our human family. Therefore, the Gratitude coming today from the United States of America, I appreciate as an obligation in the great movements towards the understanding and the harmony".

Very symbolic was this evening the presence of the representative of the Embassy of USA in Tirana, Mr. Geoffrey A. Parker. In his greeting speech, among others, Mr. Parker said that he filled himself good in this auditorium and that he shared the opinion that the Bektashi Holy See, guided by Baba Mondi, is in the precious way of the faith which it represents, in the way of the consolidation of the religious dialogue, for understanding the situations, not only in Albania but also in the Region, in the way of the construction of the peace between the people, without distinction, for the good of the human and religious values. Further, the Albanian religious leaders, deputies and



diplomats congratulated the World Grandfather and the other Bektashi clergymen.

"Wisdom", reporter

## International symposium in Tirana

**O**n 20 May 2017, the World Bektashi Centre hosted the international symposium at the Tirana International Hotel, titled: "Imam Ali a.s and Bektashism". This symposium was attended by state and local religious figures, as well as researchers from different countries around the world. The Head of the World Bektashi Centre, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, started the greetings by thanking the participants and stating: "I believe that by reviving prophetic tradition of the Imamate and Hajji Bektash Velui, we can better understand ourselves and I believe we are in the right path; in the path of our religious identity to remind present-day Europe that among civilised nations we are a people rich in values...". Moreover, the Deputy Head of Muslim Community of Albania, Mr. Aga, highlighted once more the significant role of the World Bektashi Centre in preserving and developing the greatest values of this tariqah,

thus foreseeing the present-time religious situations...". During this symposium, the participants attentively listened to the speeches of Dr. Mahmoud Khalilzadeh - Germany, Prof. Dr. Mesut Idriz - Bosnia, Mustafa Bajrami - Kosovo, Prof. Dr. Éric Geoffroy - France Dr. Sajjad Hussain - Iran, Dr. Latifa Carol - India, Dr. Ahmed Azad - Turkey, Prof. Dr. Metin Izeti - Macedonia, Dr. Özgür Arapoglu - Turkey, and Prof. Dr. Rais Ismailov - Russia. During their stay, the foreign researchers visited some of the most renowned tekkes in Albania.

"Winsdow" - reporter







## LET US CONTRIBUTE EVERY DAY TO THE PEACE

After the invitation of the German Bundestag and by the initiative of the Albanian Embassy in Germany, in the first days of this June was celebrated in Berlin the "Prayer Morning", as a symbolic act of the religious harmony. Besides the high public and religious personalities, in this event were invited the leaders of the traditional religious communities in Albania. In the 1st of June, the delegations were received by the Vice-President of the Bundestag, Mr. Johannes Singhammer, who, after bidding welcome to the participants at the event, briefly exposed the situations in Europe, especially speaking about the common values of the different faiths, about the education of the new generations and about the religious identity and culture. Further, several deputies of the German Parliament made their speeches, speaking especially about the actual positive trends of the religion and mentioning also some cases of incompatibility to clichés or to declarations which ignore the contemporary context. The participants followed with special interest the speech of the Prime-Minister of the Central Africa, His Excellency Sarandji, as well as the ideas expressed by the Ethiopian Ambassador in China, His Excellency Mesfin. After, were organized the debates on the issues of the religious harmony and coexistence, in different groups of participants, composed on geographical criteria. The representatives of the Albanian religious communities and the

Chairman of the State Committee on Cults of the Republic of Albania, Mrs. Loreta Aliko, as part of the group of the South-Eastern Europe, attentively followed the speeches of Mr. Josip Juratović, German deputy, of Dr. Ahmet Shala, as well as the expression of the ideas of the Mr. Vuk Drasković, politician and writer; the speeches of all of them transmitted messages of peace between religions and peoples. The sessions were closed by a reception-dinner, in which, among others, was present the President of the Republic of Albania, His Excellency Mr. Bujar Nishani.

The second day of the event started by the "Prayer morning", in which warm atmosphere, the Albanian religious delegation drew attention and admiration of the other participants in this event. In the meeting organized by Nehemiah Gateway, which started by a film giving evidence of the religious harmony in Albania, the interest of the participants was a very great one. In this meeting, the World Grandfather of Bektashism, His Holiness, Edmond Brahimaj, said, among others: "...Allow me, honored participants in this event, to speak you about the essential feature of the faith to which I belong, the Bektashism. Since its birth, 800 years ago, was miraculously materialized the act of fraternization, not only as a basic doctrinal concept, but also as an indispensability of the human coherence. If you want to be in the society of the other believers in the night of the celebration as a Bektashi practitioner; than you will enjoy together

with them the syrup blessed by the spiritual leader and since that moment until your last breath, you enter in the great family of Ehli-Bejti, with the same rights and obligations as in the biological family. This significative act, which unites brothers of a religious faith rising them in the height of the biological brothers, has been and remains the philosophy of the resistance of our brotherhood in the dangerous cross-roads of the history, yesterday, today and in the coming centuries. If we see it in the context of the religious harmony in Albania, the times proved that the Islam brotherhoods and especially the Bektashis, regularly avoided blind rancours and Balcanic angers, caused by the race, nationality, religious faith etc. By the point of view of our traditions, the first idea, the first word, the first work is just the bridge we have to build, to live just as equals, in spiritual peace with ourselves and in human peace with the brother near us. Meanwhile, I believe that the christian and sunnit believers of my country lived in the same way, with the same care, because we are convinced that the language, the traditions, the customs and our common Fatherland, are formed and get rich from day to day, if we are blessed by the High God". "By the end of the meeting, the World Bektashi Grandfather talked with several deputies of the German Parliament, as well as with other personalities of the Bundestag".

"Wisdom" reporter.  
June, 2017



# Third Religious Leaders Conference on World Peace

## *With the solidarity of the Creator*

**O**n 14-19 September 2017, the Head of the World Bektashi Centre, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj participated in the Third Religious Leaders Conference on World Peace, organised in Seoul, South Korea. He was welcomed by the senior organisers of this event, who by inviting him for third consecutive year showed their interest not only on the activities of the World Bektashi Centre, but also on the impact of our Order on the Balkan trends directed towards the European civilisation. The Head of the World Bektashi Centre shared with the participants the realities that faiths and religions are faced with not only in the context of human developments but also the challenges imposed by different radicalisms.

During the three days of the Conference, held at Grand Seoul Parnas Hotel, special sessions were held to share the present-time experiences of religious leadership in carrying out an effective and long-term cooperation. Various examples were provided of the efforts of different leaders and religious leaders from around the world to study, understand and cooperate with the religion or faith of other people, convinced that only such mutual notion and relationship can maintain the morality of a society. The idea that God is our guide and we came into this world with His will is the only thing that unites believers more than politics or different ideologies ever could, despite where they come from or where they want to go.

In his speech during the second day of the Conference, the Head of the World Bektashi Centre, His Holyness, Edmond Brahimaj, stated that among other things, existence, development and new spaces embraced by Bektashism transmit mes-

sages of peace and dialogue in its doctrinal essence. Meanwhile, these noble brotherly feelings have made Bektashi clerics and believers, with their devotion to the Creator; to become one with the destiny of the nation and oftentimes they have opted for the sublime sacrifice to protect its language, independence and prosperity. Educating generations with the love for God, who brought us into this world, has never been viewed detached from wisdom and dialogues among faith and other believers, in spite of their race, to approach human and divine prosperity.

At the end of his speech, which was attentively listened to, the Head of the World Bektashi Centre stated: "... The paths that lead us to the universal peace are various, extended in time, doctrine, and in our every step. The World Bektashi Centre has a significantly difficult mission, especially in the turbulent Balkans with its history and wars, and aims at building bridges towards religious brotherhood. We always support the blessed Islamic belief that seeking knowledge is worth being viewed at any time in complete unity with accepting others and respecting the religious identity of every believer. This is the only right path towards the daily cleansing of the soul by perfecting our actions. In our mission as servants of our God in the sky and of believers on Earth, we try to reach the heights of solidarity, of which we can perfectly understand the past

and present history, as well as the future's human and religious mosaic. We do these always with the aim of achieving a blessed life".

During the days that the Conference was carried out, the Head of the World Bektashi Centre held meetings and discussions with prominent state and religious figures, such as: Prof. Dr. Oni from Nigeria, Dr. Maria Elsa Suárez García from Nicaragua, Dr. Naeem Ayubzada from Afghanistan, Dr. Elza Syarif from Jakarta, Sheikh Abdur-Rahman Adangloa from Nigeria, Dr. Andrzej Pietrasik from Poland, as well as other religious leaders. They discussed about their experiences related to establishing interfaith dialogue, as well as the paths they should follow.

At the same time, as a result of the latest developments of terrorism, especially in Europe, discussions in and out of the foreseen sessions, brought to everyone's attention a series of religious and state trends that should be followed to unite in one front in order to face terrorism, regardless where it comes from or what it represents.

*"Wisdom" reporter.*





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