

THE CHEST GAZETTE

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Hacivat

Karagoz



Karagoz

Two workers were not working actually, they were also preventing the other workers from working. One of them was an educated person, the other was more like an ordinary man. These two men were talking or squabbling in such funny way that everybody was watching them. But there was a big problem! The job was a mosque construction ordered by the Sultan. It happened in 14th century during the reign of Sultan Orhan in Bursa that was the first capital of Ottomans. The angry Sultan decreed their execution. But he regretted later after he heard their dialogues. Someone whose name was Kusteri saw that the Sultan was very sad, so he made the men images out of leather and played these figures by sticks behind a white curtain lighted by candles and imitated their voices.

Karagoz is the main character of this shadow theater. He is a realistic ordinary man who is brave, uneducated, transparent with emotions, who can easily get angry, who can not tolerate lies or hypocrisy. Hacivat is opposite of Karagoz. He is consulted for advices by the community, speaks well, is sneaky and tells what the people like to hear. Karagoz does not understand Hacivat, or pretends not to understand. The contrasts are showed in comical dialogues. Karagoz is generally in trouble because he is curious and involved in everything. But the play is always ended happily.

Over time, different characters joined in the show. The artist performs by moving the leather puppets by talking or singing while an assistant plays mainly traditional tambourine.

When I was very young, I remember the travelling karagoz showman who came to the fairground. But the kids were not allowed to go in the shadow theater because there were some obscene dialogues. Nevertheless we managed to find a leakage to sneak inside with friends, but we, as tiny kids, could not understand when these disgraceful words were told in the show. All I know was that everyone were laughing and having a lot of fun.

Today! This art almost disappear, there is not an interest in that shadow theater. It is important to transfer this intangible cultural heritage to the future generations because of its artistic side from making the puppets to performing the show with the traditional dialogues.

Not to forget the word meaning of kara-goz. It is black-eye.



Some of the other characters



Front view



Back view



Some of the woman characters



Reporter, Hakki Bilgen, 27.02.2021