

A WOMAN WHO HAD A STRONG INFLUENCE ON THE POLICY OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

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Annotation: The scientific article provides information about the life of Kosem Sultan, who left an indelible mark in the history of the Ottoman Empire, one of the most powerful empires in the world, and his influence on the country's domestic and foreign policy.

Key words: Anastasia, Istanbul, Kosem sultan, Sultan Ahmed, Haseki, regent

The Ottoman Empire is one of the greatest empires in the world that left an indelible mark in history. In the history of this empire, there were many famous rulers, even female sultans who had a strong influence on the internal and external life of the state. One such person was Anastasia, who left a mark in history under the name of Kosem Sultan. Kosem was born on the Greek island of Kefalonia. At first her name was called Anastasia. His father, Enzo, was of Venetian origin, and his mother, whose name is unknown, was ethnically Greek. In addition to Anastasia, the family also had a younger daughter. He named him heir to his estate shortly before it was captured by the Ottomans. Safia Sultan acquired a portrait of Anastasia, and her grandson Ahmed fell in love with the girl in the picture. Anastasia was captured by Nasuh Pasha on Safiya's order when she wanted to give a daughter to Ahmed, who had just ascended the throne as Sultan.

On her way to Istanbul, Anastasia tries to escape, but is chased by men and chased into the forest. Alexander, a newly recruited Janissary soldier, saves him. After meeting him again in the capital, he promises to help him return to Tinos. He arrives at Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, where he is met by Jannat Halfa. The servant gives Anastasia the name Haticha. The next morning, he is taken to meet Safia Sultan, who does not like the name given to him by Jannat Halfa, and gives him the name Mohipaykar. Anastasia Safiya begs Sultan to return her home to her family, but Safiya refuses her request.

Sultan Ahmed's mother, Handon Sultan, learns of Anastasia's arrival and orders her to be taken to the harem courtyard where the rest of the concubines live. She lives under pressure and oppression from her harem concubines. While exploring the palace for an escape route, Anastasia discovers a secret garden overlooking the Bosphorus. He tries to climb over the wall in the garden, but slips and falls into the hands of a young man who introduces himself as Bakhti. Anastasia, chosen to spend the night with the Sultan, learns that Bakhti is actually Sultan Ahmed. While waiting for Ahmed,

Anastasia meets Alexander, renamed Alexander, in a secret garden. She asks him to help her escape from the palace, and Alexander once again promises to help her get home.

Sultan Kosem is the next representative of the Ottoman Empire, and his fate is similar to that of Sultan Khurram, who is well known to all of us. First of all, both of these women were able to rise from being concubines to ruling the empire. On this way, they experienced many difficulties, conspiracies and tricks. Secondly, they are connected by ties of kinship. Kosem was the wife of Sultan Ahmed I, who was the granddaughter of Sultan Suleiman and Khurram.

There is very little information about the childhood of Ms. Kosem Sultan, most of them are based on assumptions. It is known that she was born in 1589 in the family of a Greek or Bosnian priest and was named Anastasia. At the age of 14, he was captured by slave traders, bought by courtiers in the bazaar, and brought to 13-year-old Sultan Ahmed. After that, the girl ends up in the harem of the palace. Sultan Ahmad ascended the throne in 1603 after the death of his father, Sultan Mahmud III.

In the harem, he received the name "Mohipaykar". There were many other concubines in the harem, and Mohipaykar did not stand out among them, so the young sultan did not immediately pay attention to her. However, the young maid did not want to accept fate and began to work on herself. He refrained from shedding tears remembering his family members, and set himself a firm goal of attaining a high position in the harem and gaining a place in the Sultan's favor. As a concubine, she learned Turkish and other languages, mastered court etiquette and rules of behavior, learned to dance and play musical instruments. When the girl first entered the presence of the sultan, the sultan recognized her not only for her beauty and charm, but also for her sharp mind, sweet conversation and understanding. Ahmad Sultan changed the name of the concubine and called her Ko'sem, which means "the most beloved". Ahmad Sultan, like his ancestor Sultan Suleiman, wrote poems under the pseudonym Bakhti, and the beautiful Ko'sem inspired him. This couple used to write letters to each other, in these letters their romantic relationship and pure feelings were reflected.

During the reign of Ahmed I, Ko'sem was only obedient to her husband and did not show any interest in politics. Although they were not officially married, Mrs. Sultan had the title of Haseki. This was the title given to the ruler's most beloved wife or concubine, and in the harem, the title of the sultan's mother was second only to the sultan. Khurram Sultan was the first to receive such a title in 1521 at the request of Sultan Suleiman.

Ko'sem Ahmad, who had the title of Haseki, gave birth to heirs - princes and princesses - to the sultan almost every year, and for this he had a deep place in his heart. However, she was not the heir to the throne, that is, the mother of the Sultan's first son. Historians say that Kosem gave birth to 13 children during her 14-year marriage with

the sultan, five of whom died in childhood. Two princes Murad and Ibrahim later became the rulers of the Ottoman Empire. According to researchers, Kosem also had sons named Prince Kasim and Prince Suleiman. The number of his daughters was more than that of his sons, and in order to maintain the stability of his position in the palace, he married them to influential and prestigious people, ministers.

Ambassadors from abroad expressed their opinion about Ko'sem and wrote the following: "He is very clever, smart, intelligent, skillful and at the same time sings beautifully. Sultan loves him very much, respects him and wants him to be with him always. Despite the fact that this woman is very intelligent, she does not talk about political topics in communication with her husband." In 1617, Sultan Ahmed I fell ill and died at the age of 28. Kosem becomes a widow, and it is from this period that his difficult and at the same time victorious life path for the authorities begins. After that, no lady sultan could do this.

At first, Ko'sem tried to gain a place in the heart of the sultan, but now he was fighting for the fate of his princes. According to the rule, Ahmad's first son from another wife, Osman, was to be appointed as the new sultan. However, the Council of the Kosem palace rejected this candidate on the pretext of his young age. Osman was 13 years old at this time, but his father Ahmad I also ascended the throne at the same age. The rulership of the Sultanate was entrusted to Ahmad's brother Mustafa I. Mustafa's rule was only official, in fact he could not rule the kingdom because he was mentally ill. Soon the supporters of the young prince Usman managed to dethrone Mustafa. All male relatives of the enthroned sultan were to be executed, but Mustafa's illness saved him from the gallows. Kosem and his children were banished to the old palace. From there, Kosem returned to Constantinople (now Istanbul) and began to lay the groundwork for the struggle for the throne. Prince Usman sat on the throne during the years 1618-1622. Then he became a victim of the rebellion organized by the Janissaries.

Despite his refusal, the management of the throne was again entrusted to Mustafa. However, Mustafa did not sit on the throne for long. In 1623, Kosem organized another coup d'état and succeeded in appointing his 11-year-old son Prince Murad as Sultan. Kosem, of course, had the status of sultan in Volida, and until 1623 he officially became the prince's regent (the title of the temporary ruler of the kingdom). According to the notes written by foreign ambassadors, Ko'sem stood behind the curtain in the meeting room and told his son what to say, how to answer this or that question, and what decisions to make. Murad IV grew up and renounced his mother's support. He had a hot-tempered and immoral character. His drunkenness killed him: he died of cirrhosis of the liver at the age of 28. Since he left no male heirs, his brother Prince Ibrahim took the throne in 1640 and Kosem became regent again. After the age of 21, Sultan Ibrahim I also refused his mother's help in managing the government and even

expelled her from the palace. This thing weighed heavily on Kosem and he did not forgive his son for it. Ibrahim I was weak-willed and mentally unhealthy like his uncle Mustafa - he preferred self-interested and selfish concubines over his mother. In 1648, another coup d'état took place, Ibrahim I was overthrown and executed. His son, 7-year-old Mahmoud, Kosem's grandson, took his place. The mother of the young sultan, Sultan Turkhan, was supposed to be his regent, but Kosem took away this right from her and started regenting her grandson himself.

It should be noted that Volidia Sultan could not turn a blind eye to the shortcomings of his sons due to motherly love, on the contrary, he was very strict and demanding. He instructed the palace eunuchs to teach his sons the secrets of managing the kingdom, doing business, and working with hijjats. He was an active and open supporter of foreign policy, opposed smoking and drinking wine, and disliked excessive luxury. But most of these efforts were in vain, just like in the life of Sultan Khurram. Khurram also did not want his son Salim, who was addicted to alcohol, to become the successor of his father Sultan Suleiman.

For the members of the Ottoman Empire and courtiers, Kosem Sultan was a domineering and strict woman. However, he was honorable for the common people: he was very involved in charity work, he often received news from prisons, hospitals and orphanages. Kosem also helped the poor to pay off their debts, helped orphaned girls get married and gave them a dowry, and patronized public canteens: where several hundred people ate for free every day. According to documents in the Istanbul archives, 10,000 people starved in the city after Kosem's death. Chinili Mosque was built in 1640 by the order of Kosem in the Uskudar district of Istanbul. It is still pouring snow today. After the accession of Mahmud IV to the throne, his mother Turkhan Sultan tried to regent her son, but Kosem did not want to give up his place to his daughter-in-law, and as a result, the struggle between women escalated. The cold war between these two sultan ladies in the Ottoman Empire lasted for three years and ended with the defeat of Kosem sultan. On September 3, 1651, the palace staff hired by Sultan Turkhan strangled Kosem while he was sleeping in his room. The age of this woman with the title of Great Volidia was 62. Kosem was the only woman in the history of the Ottoman Empire who had both her sons and her grandson become sultans and was regent three times. Although he was officially the regent, he actually ruled the entire kingdom after the death of the king until his last days. Historians consider this period to be one of the best periods of the Ottoman Empire.

To sum up, Sultan Kosem left an indelible mark in the history of the Ottoman Empire. Many researches about his life and work have been carried out and are still ongoing today.

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