

June 30, 2004

I am submitting this letter as a final report on our recent research trip to Turkey under the auspices of a Global Partners Travel Grant. Professor Kilic-Schubel arrived in Ankara on April 29<sup>th</sup>. She was able to obtain microfilm copies of six different Ottoman versions of the *Menak2b-2 Hac2 BektaII Veli (Vilayetname)* from the national library in Ankara. I joined her on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May. Together we arranged with the Cem Vakf in Ankara to travel on a pilgrimage to the tomb of the Alevi saint Kocu Baba in rural Central Anatolia for a *kurban* (animal sacrifice) ritual. The group of pilgrims included not only lay persons--both Alevi and Bektaşi--but also several *dedes*. We were able to videotape the entire event and recorded numerous interviews with the participants. From there we went to the tomb of Hacı Bektaş Veli where we followed up on some of our work from the previous year. Among other things we visited the tomb itself with Remzi Dede, the *dede* from the Dostlar Cem Evi in Ankara.

While in Anakra I was able to attend and make video recordings of two *ayn-i cem* rituals at the Dostlar Cem Evi. The second of these was a remarkably moving performance of the ritual and I was fortunate to be able to get a complete recording of the entire event. I have just attended a week-long conference at Kenyon College on technology in the humanities funded by MITC (Midwest Instructional Technology Center) where I have edited that footage into a one hour DVD, entitled *Ayn-i Cem: The Devotional Ritual of the Alevis*, for use in my classes.

We acquired a number of recently published books on the Alevi tradition including a new volume in the collected works of the Bektaşi scholar Dr. Bedri Noyan, a recent hagiography of Kocu Baba, and the hard to find collection of Pir Sultan Abdal's poetry by Gölpınarlı and Boratov. We also had a meeting with the famed Alevi musician, Ali Baştuğ. We are currently attempting to arrange a small tour of college campuses within the United States for him sometime in the next year.

We returned to the United States on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Although we had only a brief time in Turkey it was an extremely productive trip. We are very grateful to Global Partners for funding our research and giving us the opportunity to continue our research on the religion of the Alevi community.

All the Best,

Vernon James Schubel