
SOURCES OF DEMIR BABA, THE TEKKE
(DERVISH CLOISTER)
AND ITS REGION (DISTRICT)

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(S u m m a r y)

The different explorers and sources provide contradictory data about when exactly Demir Baba lived. The author puts also the question, where the saint was buried. She informs that tekkes (dervish cloisters) attributed to Demir Baba exist in three different places: two in North-East Bulgaria and one in Rhodope Mountains.

According to the documents available, at the end of 17th century most of the inhabitants of the tekke and its vicinity were non-Muslim Bulgarians.

Demir Baba's pedigree is described in his Saint's Life. Among his great-grandfathers, there were persons with Muslim names, but others had Old-Bulgarian names. There are also names of individuals, who had been non-Muslims, and afterwards became Muslims.

A legend exists that Demir baba's mother — Zahide, born in Sinya Voda village, was Bulgarian. There is a similar legend about the godmother of Zahide — Kiz Ana, who was born at Davidovo village. Later she became wet-nurse and dry-nurse of Demir Baba.

The author presents also the case of Akyazili Baba. The father of Demir Baba — Hadji Dede, served to this sheikh before and after his wedding. When Demir Baba grew up and became a husky man, he travelled with Akyazili Baba till his death.