

Abstract

The story about love between Pava and her Islamised husband (Ahmet-beg) is the most famous tradition/legend about the area of present Vraneš valley that has been kept from the oblivion.

This tradition, as it is believed, describes an event from the past of Vraneš, related to a girl (only daughter) named Pava that married to an Islamised native who became pasha. After she died young, the pasha gave the order to name this entire area like Pavino Polje Valley as a sign of love and gratitude to Pava... When the pasha was dying, he made bequest to be buried beside Pava who kept her (Orthodox, Christian) religion until the end of her life. It is believed that two tombstones (cross engraved on one and crescent on the other), placed today nearby to the center of Pavino Polje are tombstones of Pava and her husband, representing a monument of its own kind to that great love.

Tending to solve historical ground of event described in the tradition, I have collected sixteen versions of this legend that were written down during the last (20th) and at the beginning of this century. I have presented to the reader by chronological order and using comparative analysis in which way the tradition was retold and added in writing gradually, in other words, in which way they received new, often irrational, shapes according to wish and need of writer, and it can be said - also of time. Thus, the tradition on Pava can be observed also as a paradigm of shaping the past of Vraneš area (and not only Vraneš!).

Although it dates from the ancient past, this story brings always live message, also to our time, about the necessity of tolerance and common life where importance is not put on other people's religion or nationality, but whether or not a person deserves respect or love.