ON CHRISTIAN-MOSLEM RELATIONS IN THE BALKANS

*Boris Sukitch Razvratnikov

An interesting piece of evidence on the nature of relations between Christians and Moslems in the Balkans is the following poem, which was taught to the author in Turkish by an Albanian living in Macedonia. The poem is given below in the original Turkish with a translation.

Am karakaşlı  Black-browed cunt
Sik soğan başlı. Onion-headed prick.
Am dedi "kaçarım." Cunt said, "I flee."
Sik dedi "koçarım: Prick said, "I pursue:
Nerede tutarım, Where I catch,
Orada sikerim." There I fuck."

Clearly, this verse originates in the centuries-old Balkan tradition of Moslem men raping infidel women. As Moslem women depilate their pubic region, an *am* which is karakaşlı can only be non-Moslem. The description of the *sik* as soğan başlı indicates an exposed glans—the result of circumcision. It must therefore be Moslem, as a Christian would be uncircumcised. The remainder of the rhyme describes the drama so frequently played out by the characters described in the first two lines.

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