

WAS MANI EVER OCCUPIED BY THE OTTOMANS

The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis 26 February 2013

Mani may appear lengthy but I have tried to keep it as briefly as possible with some examples, about their history so please bear with my response as it is only provided on my research at my disposal. I do not always believe what is on Google as information can be doctored without reference to original documents.

There is some blood connection between Napoleon and the Maniates through Napoleons mother whose blood lines is believed to be Corsican but origins from Mani. Does anyone have any insight into this. I am not sure if it has to do with the Stephanopoli family migrated from Mani to Corsica. As for the Mani people they were a blood thirsty lot according to the early travellers visiting Greece in the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th century documents. If you have Maniotiko blood within you, then its full of passion and fire (not blood).

They were also pirates, brigands, Thieves, freedom fighters, a free spirited people that took no shit from anyone including their own. One English traveller stopping one night at an old woman's home was perplexed why she was crying when they were leaving the next day. When her words were translated, he was astonished to hear that the old woman was crying because her son was absent and he was available to rob them. (Whether we can believe these English writers is another matter)

Feuds were not uncommon and the men had more to fear from their women who were also born fighters. If I am not wrong, Kolokotronis was of Maniotiko stock. The Mani people are worthy of additional research to remove the myths and ballads written about them. There is more research that needs to be done so that future generations can truly understand the meaning of a Manioti.

The Turks and other occupiers found it easier to allow the Mani people to be self governed as long as taxes were paid and paid some measure of observance to their local Beys whoever they may have been. In many cases the Beys were allocated from amongst the Mani people themselves.

The Mani people were defeated a number of times and agreements were made to pay taxes which according to my research they only paid once. They had a gutful of the Franks, Venetians and Turks as well as any other outsider.

They were very religious lot, and for example would not eat meat on a Friday. but killing someone was OK by them. They were tough, resilient, proud and a hardy people that loved their independence and freedom.

I always like to keep a clear and open mind on all matters by removing the passion and emotion from the subject. (Although I do admit that it does not hurt the Mani people for some embellishments to be believed in their favour) Now days we call it propaganda from a military sense and use of "Spin" on a political front.



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