

**The Musician (*Zakir/Imam Jafer*) in the Culture  
of the Alevi and Bektashi from the Region of Kardzhali**

*Rumyana Margaritova*

(Summary)

The paper concentrates itself on the figure of the Alevi-Bektashi musician (zakir, Imam Jafer) in Kardzhali region, who has at the same time religious, social, and artistic roles in society. Because of his characteristics, this figure could be categorized as an epic musician. His non-professional, but specialized activity is presented through the insiders' views on the specifics, educational manners, musicians' quality assessment and their differences in performing styles. A young Bektashi musician from the region, whose biography and performing manner are marked by the complex interaction between his great talent and strong religious feelings is also portrayed in the paper. The interaction itself determines his complicated path as a musician and as a member of a community of heterodox Muslims.

**Keywords:** Alevi-Bektashi ritual music, Alevi-Bektashi musician, zakir, epic musician

*Rumyana Margaritova*  
Institute of Art Studies,  
Krakra Str., 21  
1504 Sofia, BULGARIA  
rumiana\_margaritova@yahoo.com