

“Yours is Only What You Give Away.”
Funeral and Memorial Rites among Bulgarian Muslims
(Based on Examples from the Village of Breznitsa, Gotsedelchev Region)
Behrin Shopova
(Summary)

The article examines the funeral and memorial rites in the village of Breznitsa, Gocedelchev region. The specific local manifestations of the practices studied are presented in comparison with those of the other Muslim communities. Various elements of this rite are described both as prescriptions in the Koran and the Hadiths, and as the narrative tradition of the Bulgarian Muslims. The analysis of the connections between written and oral traditions shows the presence of an untransformed, ancient layer which continues to exist in parallel with the precepts of traditional Sunni Islam, characteristic of Ottoman culture. The field data used is gathered by the author in the period 2021–2023.

Keywords: Bulgarian Muslims; Mawlid; memorial rite; Judgment Day; eternal life

Behrin Shopova
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies
with Ethnographic Museum
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
6A Moskovska St.
1000 Sofia, BULGARIA
behrin.shopova@iefem.bas.bg