



From Tradition to the Future, from Sports to Brotherhood Project

Traditional Sports Panel

North Macedonia, Skopje, Park Hotel 13.05.2023

English Transkript



Funded by
the European Union

"It is supported by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ Programme. The content contained herein reflects the views of the author and the European Commission and the Turkish National Agency cannot be held responsible for these views."

Presenter , Onur Loç:

Dear Tradesmen and Craftsmen Association and KepenK Spor Chairman Mr. Mahmut Çelikus, dear Tradesmen and Craftsmen Association managers, our dear NGO representatives coming from North Macedonia, Sivas, our homeland, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sweden, welcome to all of you. I say, you did me an honor. Before I start my speech, I would like to wish that the project "From Tradition to the Future, from Sports to Brotherhood" will be beneficial.

I am Onur Loç, the Chairman of the North Macedonia Turkish Youth Club. We are a non-governmental organization that carries out educational, cultural and artistic activities together with young people in almost every region of our country, with our headquarters in Gostiva in North Macedonia, where our compatriots and co-religionists live. Today, our mother state is what we call our homeland. We have also hosted our valuable guests in the project realized with the support of the Turkish State and the Turkish National Agency. We have very valuable guests today. First of all, we have a panel guest whose subject is the Past and Present of Traditional Sports. First, I would like to welcome our guests. Today, with us is Sivas Cumhuriyet University Faculty Member Mr. Dr. There is Ömer Temizkan, welcome. Archer instructor İrfan Mehmet Bey from North Macedonia is among us, welcome. And Mr. Wrestler Mustafa Başpehlivan, welcome among us, Mr. Mustafa, you have done me an honor. Before I keep you waiting any longer, I would first like to thank Sivas Cumhuriyet University Faculty Member, who came from our homeland. Dr. I want to make a promise to Ömer Temizkan. Here you go, dear teacher.

Panelist - Ömer Temizkan:

Hello welcome. The main theme here is oil wrestling, but I will briefly inform you about the concept in which we will discuss this oil wrestling. It is a subject that has become very popular in recent years. We can see this not only in Turkey but all over the world. This is partly related to the shaping of world politics. Previously, there was such a thing in modernity, where everyone was much more the same; later, in post-modernity, more ethnic groups, smaller locals, and the local come to the fore. Therefore, by bringing the local and the local to the fore, sports or cultural activities that are thought to be unique to them or that are thought to be unique to them. Wrestling is one of them. Archery is also one of them. Apart from this, other things can also be mentioned. Equestrian sports can be considered. Canoeing will also take part in this project. It will be their responsibility. They are part of it too. Why do we, with such a name, always bring these things to the fore, from tradition to the future and so on? A little bit, actually, because there was a problem that the world was stuck, so the world was starting to become very similar. So, let me give an example on architecture, for example, an apartment building. In the 80s and 70s, cooperatives were very common in this geography. Since communism was experienced very seriously in this geography, people here have better observations. His influence also brought it to countries such as Turkey,

and we encounter buildings that are very similar to each other, streets that do not differ architecturally, and the same places. But this created some problems both economically and politically. That's why we had to go back to those things, our own roots. He felt the need to look at the places we call tradition in the world. In our part, when such an open field was opened, Turkey moved particularly quickly because these traditional sports were not something that had been broken off in the world, especially in the West, but we entered traditional sports at a level fast enough to catch up with them, and today Turkey is one of the leading countries in terms of traditional sports. countable. What is being done in Turkey in this sense? First of all, archery had not started yet, that is, after the proclamation of the Republic, they continued traditional archery, that is, Ottoman style archery, for a while, but of course, current technological conditions and developments are ahead of these. In other words, the interest decreased, then there were people in small groups who were interested in this. When those people came together in Turkey, they learned about archery, what is an arrow, what is a bow, what is happening. When it comes to who is doing it outside, it was in 2008 and 2009. Actually, when this started, there will be a bit of a change, but it started in Sivas. In fact, we started this in Sivas as a group. For example, it was continuing in Köre, we contacted them. In Europe especially Poland, Hungary and America. It was continuing around here. We contacted them. Then there was no one making bows and arrows in Turkey yet. A master was doing it in Hungary. That was provided by him, then let's see how to do this on the horse, we got on the horse, then we didn't get off from there yet, and today it started specially in Kyrgyzstan, but you know, Turkey didn't contribute much in the beginning, the Russians took a little step. The international nomad games festival was held in Turkey this year. He moved to Turkey. What's in it? Let me talk about these and then make a promise to you. Here you talk a little bit about it at the archery level. Archery, ground archery. Horseback archery, wrestling, Kökbörü or Kökpar, actually Kökpar is its name, or it is expressed as ice spoon or Kökpar. It is a game and sport used and practiced in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. There it is mostly known as ice kakach, only in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan it is known as "root varar". In Turkey, it is called "göbörü". So I think this is a nationalist attitude. In fact, it has nothing to do with the etymology of the word. There is that, other than that, there are also races, such as horse racing. It's not like what happens in the hippodrome, but it's a little different. Polo is something we know from the British, but we have a sport called Çevgen, for example, and these are things that are starting to get a little more active. Apart from these, of course, things like wrestling etc., oil wrestling are also included. We can say that these have been institutionalized to some extent in Turkey, and this institutionalization is of course an intermediary for the implementation of these in Europe or the world.

Presenter , Onur Loç:

Thank you teacher. Now, I would like to make an addition, if you allow. As you know, dear participants, we are currently in Skopje, one of the centers of the son of Fatih, in a region that was dominated by the Ottoman Empire. So, here in North Macedonia, Ottoman artifacts and Ottoman works are available in every corner. As the Turkish community living in Macedonia, especially in the last 20 years, with the support of our mother state, the Turkish Republic, we have also been able to preserve the Turkish heritage from the Ottoman Empire for a period of 30 years. We continue to work to keep Turkish culture, Turkish customs, Turkish food and Turkish alive. With a consciousness of a cause and a completely voluntary action. Now, if you want, there is also archery among these activities. I would like to make a promise to archer instructor İrfan Mehmet Bey. He is really knowledgeable about this subject, that is, our country is North Macedonia, so you are one of the first people who come to mind when archery is mentioned. I mean, how did archery start in our country, how did it continue, what kind of projects were realized, what kind of events and projects do you aim to carry out. Here you go.

Archery sports expert - İrfan Mehmet :

First of all, dear audience, thank you very much for coming from our homeland. It is a great honor and honor for us to see you here. Yes, as he mentioned, our brother, we are the grandchildren of the son of Fatihan. Even before Istanbul was conquered in 1453, there were suspicions in Skopje and it was conquered in 1392. I am a very lucky person, because I am involved in a traditional sport that belonged to our ancestors 100 years after the Ottoman Empire. I first attended a traditional Turkish archery course by Yunus Emre in 2017 and I had never experienced such a feeling until that day. Now, for introductory purposes, our first lesson teacher spoke there. We listened with excitement. Our teacher said this there: 'In order to become an archer in the Ottoman period, it was necessary to suffer 1000 days of shame.' The first thing that came to my mind was, I said, "Oh, we won't be able to shoot arrows for nearly 3 years, I'm sorry." However, in the Ottoman period, my teachers know better, not only in the Ottoman period, but also from the Scythian Turks, Uyghurs, Gokturks, Seljuks and all the way to the Ottomans, bow and arrow and hunting were a whole, but they reached their peak in the Ottoman period. The highest quality bows and arrows were made in that period. Biocomposite springs, for example. Because of this, for example, there are laminated springs and biocomposite springs. Biocomposite springs are made from silver wood, buffalo horn, nerves of the buffalo or bull's foot, and the best glue is sturgeon. All these four parts are combined. Of course, a bow is made with great skill and from a single piece. Ottoman bows were unbreakable and required a lot of strength. Well, but today we are talking about archery first, archery was first used for feeding, that is, as you know, in hunting, then in wars and now in sports competitions. It is this last third that is important for us. Because now the Balkan cups are held in Macedonia and the Balkans. In these Balkan cups, there are athletes from all the former states of the former

Yugoslavia, whether Serbian, Bosnian or Albanian, Turkish, we were in Montenegro in the last competition, we experienced a very interesting event, the entire former Yugoslavia, the entire Balkans, we are there, we are all archers. We have a common language. Not Turkish. So sometimes you see sports do things that politicians or politics cannot do. That's why, in order to raise a healthy and good generation, we made a project where this traditional Turkish archery is taught not only every 3 months, every 2 months, every 6 months, but also to schools , primary and secondary schools for promotional purposes, and we had nearly 200 students last year. Because, as you know, in this new age, our children and young people have this technology disease. It's all like that, with phones. Yes, we are, and I tell my children, put that phone down, take that phone away. We say okay, leave that phone behind, but what do we give instead of that phone? Here we give a bow and an arrow to our students. Because our children and students can play the same game in the virtual world, that is, on the phone, that is, they can shoot arrows, but that is not our goal. Our goal is for our children, young athletes, to hold something concrete in their hands, pick up the bow or arrow and feel it. Because we need to focus on sports only in order to raise good generations, I don't want to talk about those bad habits, so that they can stop there. I don't want to say too much, our esteemed teacher will talk about this, that's all I have to say. Thanks.

Presenter - Onur Loç:

Thank you so much teacher. Of course, you touched on the basics and benefits of archery, and at the same time, it is a traditional ancestral sport. Of course, we will carry out more comprehensive activities in the coming periods, both with the support of our Tradesmen and Craftsmen Association and with the European Union projects. Thank you very much again, teacher. Now, finally, to my esteemed teacher, we continue with the same ancestral sports of wrestling. I want to give it to my teacher Mustafa Başpehlivan. Here you go, dear teacher.

Wrestler - Mustafa Başpehlivan:

Yes, dear, you are ready. First of all, I greet you with respect and love. You really touched upon a very important issue. So you chose a topic related to sports. We need to know what sport means and what it does. Our presenter friends told us nice things. I want to expand on this a little more. For example, it is not easy to become an athlete. For example, he will make a move, let me tell you about wrestling, he will make a move, he has to do that move thousands of times. In order to be able to apply it in the competition, he has to make the right move thousands of times with such patience. His teacher says, for example, you will do this movement 100 times, you will do it this way, he will not go beyond that, he will obey and learn to obey there. I mean, right now, for

example, we can't explain things to young people, right? After they reach a certain age, they don't listen to us, they don't understand what we say, why, after a certain thing, when they reach puberty, people say things like, "I know too, I too have ideas, I too can know the truth", etc. Conflict occurs within a family with ideas such as, " He doesn't like the people around him, I can do better things, I am free, etc." However, this conflict is least explained to people who do sports. For example, I have asked for something like this before and it also coincides with puberty. During adolescence, young people often have depressive disorders, mood disorders, attention deficit, behavioral disorders, aggressive attitudes and a rebellious state. Sports is one of the most important factors to explain adolescence with the least problems. Because young people expend most of their energy by doing sports. There is discipline in the sports environment, discipline must be followed, there are rules. He must comply with these rules. He spends every last ounce of his strength for his sport. He does not have enough strength to do those inappropriate things at home and cause trouble to his family. When he comes home, he follows the 19:04 fan schedule, is obedient, and never rebels. Because he is given a task in constant difficulty. He will do it. He never rebels, he does it patiently until the end. He follows the plan, he is ambitious, that is, he is ambitious to win, but he is not ruthless. He does not harm anyone, so what he does is to be successful. His ambition has to comply with the principles of his team and the instructions of the coaches, otherwise he cannot be successful. As a result, it is almost mandatory to be a moral, harmonious and useful person. In this way, the difficult period of adolescence can be overcome in the easiest way. With the education he receives and harmonious behavior, he takes his place in the good human class. I mean, bad people don't usually come from athletes; it's very rare. Because something fits, it always has to fit into something. If you go somewhere and you go with a team of 20 people, if I come to that place and that person disappears, then a lot of disharmony will start. You comply with the discipline, you comply or the teacher told you that you will do this 100 times, I know because I did it. The teacher would say, "You will do this 100 times. When I do it 99 times, I will consider myself as having disobeyed my teacher." I would count, my teacher is not in the mood to count, we would count and count. We would try to make the most difficult shapes like this in the fastest way possible. Of course, while doing this, one's health is also important, of course, you gain health there, you constantly work on the same things, your whole body works, all your organs work and you become a healthy person. You also gain healthy strength. Let me tell you about wrestling. A little bit about how we started wrestling, how it continued, and what we came to later. Of course, when we were wrestling, such clubs were not very common. I was the athlete of Ankara Municipality, they just opened the branch, it is called Ankara Municipality, not the metropolitan Municipality. In other words, they give you allowances when you go somewhere. I mean, they don't give you a decent salary or anything like that. They give you allowances, but you just go back and forth or try to make ends meet with some small pocket money. It's really hard to make a living. Because you don't have a club. If not, you do whatever you

can individually. The father is retired, the worker is retired, there is no income from there, so you are looking for something, you are looking for a source for yourself, but then you cannot find it. Then clubs came along. These clubs have been very beneficial to things. In our period, when there was a European second place, it was a great success in wrestling. In our time. We remember those times, it would be great when we talk about European champions etc. However, in the past centuries, wrestling was asked from Turkey. All the champions came from Turkey. As his interest diminished, he turned wrestling to that state. Now, it started to be given importance after the period I mentioned, that is, after 1980. Clubs were opened and athletes started to be formed. Now we have athletes who have won 12 European championships, 12 at different times for 12 years. Now this is an amazing thing, it is actually a legend. So, we, Yaşar Doğallı, are telling about the things of the past, and I see that they are not even half as big as these, they are our legends. So, these legends are a wonderful thing, but they are always given the importance. It's about the importance given to sports and the support given. This means that if you do the work you do, in accordance with the technique and procedure, something comes out of us. I did some research on oil wrestling and looked at it as follows: oil wrestling originated in the Balkans. This is the first time I heard it, so I was surprised. We shouldn't be surprised though. Because Edirne is the center of the place. So, since the Balkans are close, oil wrestling was held here. This is what you need to own. If it came out of here. Look, for centuries we could not make those championships the championships we have now. Why? There was no interest, do you have any interest in oil wrestling now? otherwise you will not be successful. So there will be one or two, oh nice wrestling, okay, it's over. For example, in our past centuries of success, wrestling was held in every village. Championships are won in those wrestling matches. For example, let me tell everyone about my ancestor. Let's say he is my grandfather's grandfather's grandfather, that is, his name is mentioned as İsmail Pehlivan, 3-6 generations ago. When he was a child, he grazed animals in the mountains. At that time, there are wrestling matches in the market. Bazaar viewed from top to bottom. He can't go there. Because his father is angry. Who will take care of the animals? At that moment, an old uncle comes and says, 'Son, why don't you go to watch the wrestling?' He says, 'How can I go and leave the animals behind?' He can see down from here and there, but he is also doing something like climbing branches on trees, as if he were wrestling. Then he says, 'I'll take care of it.' He says no, uncle, I can't leave him. He says it is not possible, my father will kill me. 'It's okay, it's okay, you say hello to me, your father won't say anything,' he says. Anyway, he goes there, and at that time he was not even 18 years old. So at a young age. There are wrestling matches, he watches them secretly from his father. Then the champion is determined, the chief wrestler is determined, they used to ask if there is anyone who will wrestle. This chief wrestler is asking if anyone will wrestle. Here a few people come out and beat them, the chief wrestler again. This one says, I will wrestle too. Of course, his father gets angry when he sees it. Of course, first. After that, the people next to him say, 'Well, guys, let the kid

come and wrestle with enthusiasm." When he starts wrestling, of course, the first thing he grabs is the moment he catches him, he hits the ground and takes the chief wrestler down. Of course, by the way, I forgot to mention this, as I was going down from there, this old uncle says to you, roll up your shoulder, so that your shoulder doesn't touch the ground, and sends you like that. After that generation, he never turns his back to the ground. After that generation, his son, his grandson, that is, for exactly 5 generations, we have no losers. The generation before me, my grandfather, was also a wrestler. He has never been defeated either. But there was an evil eye incident, and he went blind during that wrestling match. It was quite swollen and then he left it anyway. He was his brother, he was our last chief wrestler. There is no one who has defeated him in that region. They even met with Yaşaroğlu etc. Yaşardoğu says, "Come, let's take you, we can make you European champion", but of course his father won't let him go. It remains that way and the next generation did not do it, none of the next generations did wrestling. After that, I thought I'd do some. That's what I was able to do for about 23 years. That's a matter of luck. This is our beginning, I started wrestling when I was 16 or 15 years old, and I continued wrestling until I was 16 or 17 years old. When I first started, there were 16 wrestlers in the competition for two months, my weight was only 2 months old, and I came in fourth. In the first wrestling match, the one who beat me came first and the other one came third. That's how I came fourth. I came second in the next one, and after that I took first place in Ankara. We haven't left it for years. After that, here are the interregional wrestling, Türkiye is the champions. This and that, we continued. But we couldn't continue for long. It took me 3 or 4 years at most. The reason why I quit is because our club was closed when the September 12 coup took place. Many of the people in the club were imprisoned. That is, our administrators. I have a license but we can't get it. At that time we moved to Istanbul. There is Istanbul Wrestling Specialization Club in Istanbul. So he was the most famous at that time. It was one of the most famous places in Turkey. I went there and participated in training. So I asked if I could join. They said come, then when I watched the training, the teacher said go and get the right license and come. He saw light. So he saw the light. Here we came, we looked and couldn't find anyone. Because the men are inside. When I said no one was there to talk to, I said slowly and left it that way. When I saw my teacher years later, he criticized me heavily. He said, "Where are you? We explained the situation." This is how it happened. He said I was preparing you for the Olympics. He says, "At that time, my weight was 55 kilos and I was getting ready to weigh 74 kilos." He did such a thing. He put a plan in his mind, but that's all our share was. Of course, since it comes from this ancestor, there is also a blessing given by God Almighty. In other words, it continues undefeated from generation to generation. It's an amazing thing. We have very few crumbs left, we are sorry. I also want to tell you something. A story about our Prophet, wrestling with the shovel. Our Prophet is a story about him. One day, Rukane, one of the strongest of the Quraysh and one of the indomitable wrestlers, encountered the Messenger of Allah in one of the valleys of Mecca. The Prophet said to him, "O Rukane, will you still not fear

Allah and insist on not accepting Islam?" He invited himself to Islam by saying come and be a Muslim. Rukane said: O Muhammad, if you defeat me with the sun, I will believe in you. The Messenger of Allah asked: If I win, will you accept that what I say is true? Rukane radiyallahu anh: Yes, if you defeat me, I will either accept Islam or these sheep will be yours. He said, "If I defeat you, you will give up this prophethood." They started wrestling, but Kainat fell to the ground as soon as she caught him. Rukane ra was not able to defend himself. Ya Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: Let's wrestle again. The Messenger of Allah wrestled with him again and defeated him again. Rukane said, "Oh my uncle's son, let's meet again." Rukane, who fell on the ground for the third time, did not believe again. The light of existence was very upset by Rukane's lack of faith and some of the words he said. He ordered him to take the cattle. Thereupon, Rukane said, "I swear, I have never seen anyone better and more honorable." Rukane became a Muslim years later, after the conquest of Mecca. It's in the sources here. In other words, our Prophet also practiced wrestling. Wrestling is actually something very important to us, something we should give importance to. If oil wrestling came out of here, I don't know how you can talk to the authorities anymore, but tell about it in Türkiye. Look, Türkiye, which could not produce either freestyle or Greco-Roman champions for years, has now started to produce champions. Great importance was given. This started to be given importance after 1980 and we are just seeing the fruits.

1. **Question:**

So, did they grow up in oil wrestling?

Wrestler - Mustafa Başpehlivan:

No, I mean, they grew up as wrestlers, so Turkey's thing is actually normal karakucak wrestling. It was turned into mat wrestling. Currently, great successes are being achieved in mat wrestling. It's the same way in oil wrestling. I mean, I don't know if wrestling is held here at weddings right now, is there anything like that? If we want our children to be moral, the things I have mentioned are important, if we want our children to grow up morally, if we want to save them from this computer and phone addiction and raise a healthier child like this, sports, okay wrestling is an important thing, but it can be any sport. Because there is obedience there, there is patience, there is the desire to do something. They need to be evaluated. Thank you very much for listening to me. May God bless you all.

Presenter, Deniz Onur Loç:

Dear teacher, we thank you. Now, of course, you touched on a very important issue, the issue of wrestling. From her child Fatiha from the Balkans. When we talk about North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, we see the Archers Foundation, which was established in 2013, in recent years regarding archery. With the support of the Archers

Foundation established in the Republic of Turkey and the organization of the Yunus Emre Institute in the Balkans, our compatriots and co-religionists in the Balkan countries began to show interest in this issue. But, as my dear teacher mentioned, in terms of wrestling, especially when our president Mahmut is here, when we are all here. So we can start a study. This is a more detailed, more serious study. It can include the Balkans and the Turkish diaspora. Let's say that hopefully this panel will lead to the establishment of a new wrestling club. Let me continue with our teacher İrfan Mehmet. As I said, the Archers Foundation was established in the Republic of Turkey in 2013, and after that, many trainings, competitions and events were organized on this subject with the coordination support of Yunus Emre Institute in the Balkans and among the Turkish diaspora. Our teacher İrfan is also one of the managers of the North Macedonia leg. Here we are among the people who have truly specialized in this field. I want to come back to him a little more. Sir İrfan, what is the current state of Archery in North Macedonia, are there any new projects? Activities that will take place? Also, according to the information we received, you came somewhat prepared. You also bought a bow and arrow here. If you show some to your friends.

Archer - İrfan Mehmet :

Yes, the first support regarding archery was given to us by the Archers Foundation. After we had our first training with Yunus Emre Institute at Yunus Emre in Skopje, they took us to the Archers Foundation and we received a really special training. After that, when we return to Skopje, here are the things we can do related to archery in Skopje, Macedonia. We established the traditional Turkish archery Skopje club. As our activities there continued, we saw that my dream is to establish an Archers Federation Union in Macedonia. In other words, we need at least five clubs to establish a federation. That's why I founded a second club, İrsel, under the leadership of my wife. İrsel, İrfan Bendeniz and My Wife Selma, İrsel comes from Arabic İrsal, meaning news from the Prophet, letter from the Prophet, and we established our second club as İrsel Traditional Turkish Archery Skopje. Now, I would like to establish 3 more clubs as soon as possible. As I mentioned before, this is my dream to establish an Archers Federation in Macedonia. As İrsel Archery, of course, we will not stop here. I just mentioned that we need to touch this young generation. My teacher just said something very nice. I want to connect it there with a hadith. Our Prophet already said. "Teach your children to shoot arrows, wrestle, ride horses and swim," he said. This is a very beautiful hadith. We would really be happy if we could give any of these sports to our children. We did not expect this much for Archery in Macedonia. We started in Skopje and then moved on to Gostivar. There was great interest in Gostivar, that is, hundreds of children. Now, God willing, we want to start in Ohrid as soon as possible. We made an agreement with a secondary school there, and as İrsel Archery, if God wills, we can enter not only Skopje, Gostivar, Tetovo,

but also all cities, provinces and districts of Macedonia. My teacher just told me some really nice things. In archery, especially us, young people and children, have a problem focusing on one place. So, you are telling something to the children, they don't mind at all, but when you make such a sound or lightly tap on the table, the child immediately reacts like this. What does this mean? I will return to these technological devices again. They really waste a lot of time there. Now there is such an advantage in archery. For example, my teacher also knows that we have Melike shooting in Traditional Turkish archery. We have Melike shooting, what does it mean, shooting with heart, that is, we have the idol in front of us, we have the bow in our hands, we are there. You focus there. But there is no aiming point, such points are like shooting with a rifle, three points will become one so that you can hit the target. We don't have anything like that. In order to convince my students of this in my last lessons, I told my wife, come and close my eyes, it's not that far, of course it's 15 or 18 meters, I said look guys, I'm really not going to aim and I'm not taking aim, and we have a verse about it. "Vema rameyte iz rameyte velakinallahe rama" In the 17th Verse of Anfal Surah; "When you threw (read), you did not throw, but we threw." When I read this verse, I felt so terrified and didn't say anything. God, God, and then I experience this as we shoot our arrows. When we shoot our arrows, we don't shoot them in vain. Believe me, each of our arrows goes away saying Ya Hak. Because this is our belief, our arrow actually hits the target before we aim, and I would like to say another hadith related to this. During the battle of Uhud, our Prophet (peace be upon him) said to Abu Waqqas, May my parents be sacrificed for you, O Abu Waqqas. Why, because Abu Vakkas shot nearly 1,000 accurate arrows in that tough battle that day. Everyone said to our Prophet, may my mother and father be sacrificed for you. Here, the exact opposite happened; the Prophet said to one of his companions, "May my mother and father be sacrificed for you." That is, we want to convey and experience these things to our students while studying and learning. We want to explain, popularize and keep alive Traditional Turkish Archery in Macedonia and the Balkans. I mean, there are many topics, you can tell us more, but we want to make young people love it, and when we make them love it, it will live on, that is, someone else will take the flag after us. Our goal is to keep a pleasant sound here in the dome.

Presenter, Deniz Onur Loç:

Thank you dear teacher, you spoke very well. I would like to make a promise to my dear teacher Ömer. Finally, is there anything you would like to add, dear sir?

Ömer Temizkan:

Actually, there is nothing to add, it was nice, I mean good things were talked about. I will just say this, there is a terminology debate regarding Traditional Archery, Turkish archery.

Now, for example, the Archers Foundation is preparing an encyclopedia, called the World Ethnospores Encyclopedia, and I wrote 15, 20 articles. Now, while I was writing them, this was always talked about in school. What do we mean? This is actually something that has been discussed for a long time and has now become a bit famous. Does it mean traditional Turkish archery? What distinguishes us here is that it is traditional? Turkish word? The word traditional? The word archery? Actually, I am on the side that defends this, I am in favor of calling it Turkish archery. First of all, as you just said, this was a technology that people used when hunting prey to survive. Then, when others started using it or acquired other offensive weapons, it was actually a weapon they used to survive. This is not a sport, but of course, what is called war requires a preparation process. In the meantime, it is necessary to do drills etc. We may not need such a thing anymore, or today, for example, shooting, hunting, etc. are done. You know, in technology today, this is something that people use to avoid death, but its sporty version can be regulated. We can take it this way too, but there is no need to call it traditional. There is no need like this. We do Turkish archery here. Because what distinguishes Turkish archery from other archery, what we call Olympic Archery or Modern Archery, is the standard. Everyone who does modern archery, whether in Korea, Mongolia, France, Spain or Arabia, uses the same style of equipment. But when we say archery, that is, when we add the name of a nation to archery, the style of equipment changes. What we call Turkey is something else, that is, its format is different right now, Mr. İrfan, I do not know which one you have, but when we say Hun bow, we understand one thing, and when we say Korea, we understand another thing. Therefore, what is distinctive here is not actually being traditional, because everyone has a tradition. Tradition is not something unique to us, what is unique to us is the language we speak, our culture that created us, etc. We code and handle these under the word Turkish. There is such an approach, it is very generally used and this continues as a terminological debate. I wanted you to have this in the back of your mind, too. Also, the issue of archery is really important, especially in terms of keeping children away from negative things, right? It's the same in wrestling. In fact, all sports are like that. You know, it's really a useful thing because it helps you focus and so on. Yes, lamination is the part of the work related to technical materials, but in terms of publication form, this Turkish bow is called Ottoman bow and Turkish bow. Because the English bow is 2 meters and 18 cm, our Turkish bow is shorter and can be shot easily from a horse. Now, the type of bow that was actually used until the Turkish bow came to the Ottoman Empire, that is, until the 13th and 14th centuries of the Ottoman Empire, may be considered a little stronger than the Turks and other bows, but there are equivalent bows. There are Scythian bows, for example, Mongolian bows, Hun bows, Korean bows, and different nations have their own bow shapes. The shape you see is actually the reason why the bow is named this way; in the Ottoman Empire, a little more work was done on the bow and the bow was shortened a little more. That distance is a little shorter, and the dot you see here doesn't go up like that, it goes down a little bit. Now, while the Ottomans were

doing this, of course, there was another thing that the Ottomans had a very serious conflict with at that time, the Mamluks. They take some from the Mamluks, that is, after the Mercidabık war, the Mamluk technology passes to the Ottomans and the Ottoman bow then takes the form of a tulip, you know, when we pull it like this, the issue of the bow taking the form of a tulip happens there. Its special feature is the bow, it is something that is used on horses, but for example, using this bow on the horse is normal, we have a sipahi bow and so on. It's not grozer, it's grozer. The Hungarian master's name is shorter, which makes it easier for you to use it there. Of course, it also makes a difference.

Archer - İrfan Mehmet

I brought arrows too, guys. Because there are several disciplines in these sports competitions. Firstly, shooting to the puta is 18 meters in these halls, and in open air conditions it is 50, 60 and 70 meters. I competed in 105 meters in Kahramanmaraş in 2017. Yes, and we came in first as Macedonia on the first day. We experienced something like that. Then it is 70 meters in the Fetih cup. Now puta arrows are made from a different, wider pine tree. Now our rear sights are not plastic, but they are also wooden. The feathers are made of goose down and have temren at the tip. Now there is something very important here. For example, our arrow must be compatible with the bow. For example, if this bow I have is 35 lbs. This means read Range, Read Range, as you know, in history, İskender Tozkoparan threw 846.5 meters and this record has still not been broken. I mean, what kind of a shot is it? I mean, the maximum I could shoot was 450 meters in Adana last year. This arrow is a different arrow, its tip is a little more shapely here, and the middle is a little more shapely. Their feathers are different. In order to fly more easily, this arrow must fly at least 500 meters. Turkey's current champion is 540 meters or what? Yes, however, in order to become an archer in the Ottoman period, you had to shoot an arrow below 900 gerz, that is, 600 meters. If you shot an arrow below 600 meters, you could not become an archer. I wish I had a biocomposite spring so I couldn't bring it. I bought this bow by mistake. Because the kids changed the cover and I never opened it, I was in a hurry and bought this anyway. But we were able to explain it somehow.

Ömer Temizkan:

The most important part of these is archery, wrestling, they are all performed in different ways, but when we go back there, what we really need to look at is what we mean when we say Turkish archery. In fact, of course, we believe that archery does not have a place in today's lifestyle, that is, it is just a show or a sport, but on the other hand, wrestling, archery, horses and whatever else we can think of are all important in carrying

that social memory to the present day. things. Because memories are formed in different ways at different times, but that connection must continue in some way. Today, we are under the influence of the messages that technology constantly sends to us. Therefore, these are things that will be more useful to break that effect a little bit.

Archer - İrfan Mehmet :

But we use it for sports. I want to mention here. My first lesson to the children in my 1st lesson is that bows and arrows should not be shot at people, animals, birds or cats. We do this for sports purposes and we want to give this message to everyone in the Balkans. Now we use these arrows for peace, love and sports. Because we have Macedonian friends. We have Serbian friends. We have Bosnian friends, that is, we have sports friends from all nationalities. And they all have a lot of interest, so good things will happen, hopefully, step by step, from time to time.

Presenter:

Let's say, God willing, if the intention is sincere, God will help. Dear teachers, thank you. Now I want to move on to the question and answer part. Do we have any friends with questions? Here you go, President.

2. QUESTION

What is the difference in firing range between ours and the Ottomans? Is it physical? Or is it product technology? Why? After all, they are our ancestors too.

Archer - İrfan Mehmet

I asked this question to my esteemed teachers several times and did a lot of research. Now, both technique and body structure, maybe faith, yes indeed. Because 846 meters was a truly tremendous distance under the conditions of that day.

Ömer Temizkan:

So you also have another job. Now, if your primary concern had been to be a soldier or an archery athlete since you were a child, you would too. You know, you can't do this just because it's something you do in your spare time. So, of course, Alexander is a symbolic person. So, of course, it takes different forms in war techniques. But the real issue is whether it is your job or not. So, as you just said, in sports you have to do a movement maybe 1,000 times. Yes, you will have to practice 1,000 times, maybe for days, to throw it far.

İrfan Mehmet :

My teacher said the same movement several times, yes, this is actually a very nice thing, Melike, now you have tied that shot thousands of times, for example, we are shooting at the idol at the same distance, we took our movement like this, for example, now when you throw it hundreds of thousands of times, the muscles already remember that movement. Melike is actually her. Okay, believe me, I always tell my students, don't let any of you say that, I can't throw you away. Because if you say you can't, you really won't, and that's how it goes. Everyone will say. Yes, I will shoot, I will shoot, I will hit the target exactly at 12.

3. Question:

Thank you, dear participants, I have a question to ask, now you have touched on very good topics. We also have children. The archery you just described is an ancestral sport, and I agree with you on the traditional part. So, we should say that it is a Turkish sport. When we look at wrestling and archery now, I don't know if technology has developed today, but I have come across, for example, in archery, wrestling, boxing, and fighting, children do these things from here (in digital media). You did this as a club to spread this. Do you have any forward-looking ideas on this issue that will enable these children to actually do it at work rather than here (in digital media)? What could happen?

Ömer Temizkan:

Well, I have been doing archery and equestrian sports since 2008. Frankly, I think that these things were emptied after 2014 and 2015. While we were saying that we were building an identity, these things were emptied because the so-called Ottoman thing was reduced to just archery. The Ottomans did not only do archery, I mean archery was an important element for them, but everyone was an archer anyway, so archery was not a separate military class, but maybe the easy side was chosen, and somehow this became very widespread and became very popular. TV series are being made, movies are being made, and none of them reflect reality, so there is nothing in the resurrection that you watch in those TV series. I don't know, they are making a Seljuk movie, nothing you see there, the Seljuks were not making anything like that. They didn't dress like that, they didn't ride horses like that, so nothing you see there actually reflects reality. Everything was moved here like a Hollywood stage, and we actually built our own Hollywood. Just as Hollywood has subjected us to its own hegemony for years, now we find ourselves in a place. We subject ourselves to hegemony. For example, we do not

recognize them as Turks. We say this as TRT Turks. We've talked about this before, so I don't think it's healthy for it to spread so quickly. While we will also have someone work on behalf of our own team, we have conditions if anyone wants to join us. In other words, it is not just a matter of reading or publishing; first, you will choose your clothes in accordance with reality. If you want to live that life, you will gain information about the attitude and style there. In other words, these things cannot be done without reading, you will have to read these things once, it is not something that can be done by just listening and hearing from those around you, the action will happen automatically after you first create the information infrastructure. When it happens like this, my observation is that those who enter this business in this way are already moving away without needing them, but those technologies will also be included in this somehow. A few of our friends from Turkey also created applications and wrote about this. Of course, these are more interactive applications, not just the ones you will use digitally, but you actually shoot your arrow, you enter your score there, you follow it from there, you see others, like a football manager, etc.

Irfan Mehmet :

We did something, but after two weeks in our course, the parents came in person. "Sir," he said, "can we talk about something?" Oh God, please, yes, I thought something negative would happen. He said, "What did you do to my children? They don't buy phones or tablets." I said, if you put your phones and tablets away from your hands, your hands will not shake. If your hand doesn't shake, the arrow will go more smoothly, that's all left to the child. Now, if I hold my phone in my hand too much, if I hold my tablet in my hand too much, then I won't be able to shoot arrows. Now my boys Ali is 12 years old and Mert is 7 years old. They are already throwing messages in the garden and at home. Now I always say "Mert, come here, did you get a phone call this week?" Dad, I bought very little, Ali, did you buy it? No, look, they are already good at shooting arrows, but to encourage you, say Mert Ya Hak, draw and shoot and shoot to the belly, Ali is the same, they are all the same next week, I left the phone between them, I reduced it that much. I mean, look, this was a method, but from the 2nd and 3rd week onwards, the parents came to me and said, 'What did you do,' they reduced the number of calls to our children. That's all we say, quit, quit, quit, it doesn't work. I mean, the benefits of this sport are truly endless and we are happy to hear these things. So, look, if I was able to take that phone or that tablet away from 5 students, I'm happy. It doesn't matter whether they threw it or not. But let's raise the children healthy, hopefully, this is just about morality and sports, my teacher just said. Yes, he can be a very good shooter. He may be a very good archer, but if he has bad habits at work, we do not respect him, we do not want him. First, we say morality. In fact, were those 1,000 days spent in the Archers Lodge during the Ottoman period just for shame? No, they were given moral lessons,

manners, love for parents, obedience to elders, so yes, I became a very good athlete. But not here and there in bars or gambling. He doesn't suit us and we don't see him as an archer anyway.

PRESENTER:

Thank you, does anyone have any other questions? Thank you, my dear professors, I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of myself, my institution and all participants for your valuable contributions and participation. I hope that this and similar projects will continue in the coming period, and I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to our president Mahmut and other participants, brothers and friends from different countries who came to North Macedonia today to honor the son of Fatih. Thank you, thank you, thank you.