

Aiša Softić, *Obećani čas – Običaji bosanskohercegovačkih muslimana vezani za smrt*. Sarajevo: Zemaljski muzej Bosne i Hercegovine, 2016, 326 str.

Knjiga *Obećani čas* autorice dr. Aiše Softić, čiji je izdavač Zemaljski muzej Bosne i Hercegovine, izašla je iz štampe 2016. godine i predstavlja antropološku studiju koja se bavi analizom običaja vezanim za smrt koje provode bosanskohercegovački muslimani, i to u širokom rasponu koji obuhvata običaje i situacije kojima se pojedinac i njegova okolina pripremaju za smrt pa do sjećanja na umrle koja se provode također u porodici i u zajednici.

U pisanju ove knjige autorica je koristila više izvora kako bi na sveobuhvatan način predstavila ove važne običajne prakse kroz koje čovjek pokušava proniknuti u tajnu smrti koja mu je oduvijek bila nepoznanica. Prvi od izvora su radovi i istraživanja koji su objavljeni, zatim neobjavljena arhivska građa, te terenska istraživanja koje je provela autorica na prostoru cijele Bosne i Hercegovine.

Knjiga je koncipirana na način da kroz tri osnovne cjeline u kojima se razrađuje više tema autorica prolazi kroz sve spomenute izvore i razrađuje teme koje su obrađene u ovoj knjizi.

Prvi dio knjige govori o prostoru doma u kojem se ljudi pripremaju za smrt, i to na spiritualni način, ali i u materijalnom smislu. U ovom dijelu posebno se obrađuju običaji koji su vezani za pripreme za smrt, oglašavanje smrti, čuvare mrtvih i živih, darova i uzdarja, svijeća i svjetla, vode i vatre, hljeba i halve, novorođenih i još nerođenih i puteva živih i puteva mrtvih. Po svim ovim nabrojanim temama u knjizi su naslovljena i poglavlja u kojima autorica kroz svoje izvore razrađuje navedene teme.

Opisujući ove običaje autorica navodi i u kojoj se mjeri neki od običaja zadržao ili izgubio, pa tako imamo npr. običaj kupovanja

Aiša Softić, *Obećani čas – Običaji bosanskohercegovačkih muslimana vezani za smrt* (*Promised Hour – Death-Related Customs of Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina*) Sarajevo: National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2016, 326 pgs.

Knjiga *Obećani čas* (Promised Hour) by dr. Aiša Softić was published by the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2016, and it represents an anthropological study analyzing the death-related customs practiced by Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina, covering a wide range, starting with customs and situations with which individuals and their communities prepare for death, and finishing with the commemoration customs honoring the dead in their families or communities.

Working on this book, the author used multiple sources to comprehensively present these important customary practices through which people try to penetrate the mystery of death that has always been unknown to them. Her primary sources are published works and research, as well as unpublished archival materials, and field research conducted by the author throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Conceptually, the book is divided in three parts, each elaborating several topics, and author goes through all the aforementioned sources and elaborates on the topics covered in this book.

The first part of the book deals with the space of the home in which people prepare for death, both spiritually and materially. This part specifically addresses customs related to preparations for death, announcing death, guardians of the dead and the living, gifts and offerings, candles and light, water and fire, bread and halva, newborns and unborn, and the

ćefina koji je gotovo nestao, iako je opremanje mejta u ćefine nezaobilazni dio dženaze jer su u savremeno doba ćefini uključeni u uslugu koju pruža pogrebno preduzeće.

U drugom dijelu knjige koji nosi naslov Prostor groba autorica obrađuje više tema koje su također podijeljene u poglavlja pa tako imamo naslove poglavlja: Od zemlje si stvoren. U zemlju ćeš opet; Drvo, kamen, sjećanje – Bašluk od drveta i nišan od kamena, Drvo poslije smrti; Kamen koji govori, Smrt i svadba; Na baštini, i pred svojim pragom; Grobni prilozi.

Treći dio knjige pod naslovom Prostor sjećanja govori o običajima koji se provode nakon smrti i ovaj dio opisuje običaje koji se provode nekada i dugo godina nakon smrti i dženaze, a vezani su za groblja i njihovo održavanje, kurban koji se žrtvuje za mrtve, kao i obavljanje hadždža za osobu koja je umrla.

Kroz izneseni sadržaj autorica analizira posmrtno običaje i zaključuje kako su upravo običaji koji su vezani za smrt zadržali najviše starih, arhaičnih elemenata koji sežu čak u prethrišćansko i predislamsko doba na ovim prostorima. Za neke od običaja je ustanovljeno čak da sadrže tragove koji se povezuju s ilirskim naslijeđem. Također, autorica pronalazi mnoge sličnosti u ovim običajima između muslimana, katolika i pravoslavaca u Bosni i Hercegovini. To potvrđuje činjenicu da običaji koji su vezani za smrt nisu isključivo vezani za vjerske rituale, što nam daje nedvosmislene potvrde o kontinuitetu i trajanju te o tome da je domicilno stanovništvo prihvatilo i usvajalo neke običaje iz raznih kultura s kojima je dolazilo u doticaj.

Običaji vezani za smrt predstavljaju važno obilježje identiteta svakog naroda, pa tako i bosanskohercegovačkih muslimana. Veliki broj običajnih praksi preživio je do našeg doba upravo zbog toga što su ljudi imali posebne emocije kada je u pitanju smrt, a između ostalog značili su i potvrdu pripadnosti kulturi i civilizaciji islama, pa čak i kada ti običaji nisu imali uporišta u islamskom učenju. Također, radnje koje se poduzimaju nakon smrti vrlo često su povezane i s prostorom u smislu zavičaja, te nije rijedak slučaj da se i stvarno

paths of the living and the paths of the dead. The book also has chapters titled after all of these listed topics, in which the author elaborates on the aforementioned topics through her sources.

Describing these customs, the author also states to what extent some of the customs have been preserved or lost, so we have, for example, the custom of buying shrouds that has almost disappeared, although wrapping the dead in shrouds is an inevitable part of the funeral, because in modern times, the shrouds are included in the service provided by the funeral companies.

In the second part of the book, entitled *The Space of the Grave*, the author covers several topics that are also divided into chapters, so we have the following chapter titles: You were made of earth. To earth you shall return; Wood, stone, memory – A wooden marker and a headstone; A tree after death; A talking stone; Death and wedding; On one's own land and doorstep; Grave offerings.

The third part of the book, entitled *The Space of Memory*, tells about customs that are carried out after death, and this part describes customs that are sometimes carried out many years after the death and funeral, and are related to cemeteries and their maintenance, the qurban animal sacrificed for the dead, as well as performing the hajj pilgrimage for the person who has died.

Through the presented content, the author analyzes posthumous customs and concludes that it is precisely the customs related to death that have retained the most old, archaic elements that go back as far as the pre-Christian and pre-Islamic times in this region. Some of the customs have even been found to contain traces that are associated with the Illyrian heritage. The author also finds many similarities in these customs among Muslims, Catholics and Orthodox Christians in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This confirms the fact that customs related to death are not exclusively related to religious rituals, which gives us unequivocal confirmation of continuity and duration and that the native population accepted

i simbolično zatvori životni krug u mjestu u kojem se umrli rodio.

Knjiga *Obećani čas* autorice Aiše Softić rasvijetlila nam je na sveobuhvatan način običaje oko smrti uzimajući u svoje središte običnog čovjeka koji se na različite načine pokušavao pripremiti za smrt, bilo ličnu, bilo za smrt neke bliske osobe. Bez obzira na to, smrt se uvijek doživljavala dramatično upravo zbog toga što se nikada nije ticala samo pojedinca nego je na različite načine pogađala i zajednicu, koja je poduzimala brojne običajne radnje kako bi se lakše nosila s gubitkom. Sve spomenute cjeline i teme koje su obrađene u ovoj knjizi obuhvatile su prostor cijele Bosne i Hercegovine i na taj način nam omogućile potpuni uvid u običaje bosanskohercegovačkih muslimana koji su vezani za smrt.

and adopted some customs from various cultures with which it came into contact.

Customs related to death are an important part of the identity of every people, including Bosnian and Herzegovinian Muslims. A large number of customary practices have survived to our time precisely because people attached special emotions to death, but also because they represented a reaffirmation of belonging to the culture and civilization of Islam, even when these customs had no basis in Islamic teachings. Also, actions taken after death are very often connected to space in the sense of homeland, and it is not uncommon for the circle of life to close both actually and symbolically in the place where the deceased was born.

The book *The Promised Hour* by Aiša Softić sheds light on the customs surrounding death in a comprehensive way, focusing on an ordinary person trying to prepare for death in various ways, whether their own death or the death of a beloved one. Nevertheless, death was always experienced dramatically because it never concerned only the individual, but also affected the community in various ways, which undertook numerous customary actions to cope with the loss. All of the aforementioned chapters and topics covered in this book cover the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, thus providing us with a complete insight into the customs of Bosnian and Herzegovinian Muslims related to death.