

Karagöz & Hacivat

Karagöz & Hacivat is a traditional Turkish shadow play taking its name from its main character Karagöz.

The origin of the shadow plays is accepted as southeastern part of Asia. Turkish traveller Evliya Çelebi says that the play was first performed in the Ottoman palaces in the late 14th century. Some others say that this play came into Anatolia after Yavuz Sultan Selim, who had conquered Egypt in 1517, had adopted shadow theatre and blended it into their culture and developed the first Karagöz in 17th century.

According to a legend, they were working as construction workers in a mosque in Bursa. Their satiric jokes entertained other workers. After they had died, the construction of the mosque was completed without them, but their friends did not forget them and kept their jokes alive, telling them over and over. In time, the adventures of Karagöz and Hacivat gained a new dimension and the traditional Turkish shadow puppet theatre was born. Their monumental tomb stands in Bursa today.

Karagöz & Hacivat was the most enjoyed entertainment of the Ottoman Period and it was widely performed for the public and in private houses between the 17th and 19th centuries especially during Ramadan, and at circumcisions, feast festivals, coffee houses and even in gardens.

The subjects of Karagöz plays are funny elements with double meanings, exaggerations, verbal plays, and imitating ac-

cents. There is always satire and irony.

Karagöz represents the public morals and common sense, the ordinary man in the street, and he is straightforward and reliable. He is almost illiterate; usually unemployed and he embarks money on earning projects that never work. He is often kind of nervous.

Hacivat is the opposite of him; he is educated in a theology school. He speaks Ottoman Turkish and uses poetical and literary language. He's very clever as well.

The plot of the play:

- *Everyday life*
- *Humorous*
- *Playing with words*
- *Making practical jokes*
- *Quick-witted speeches*
- *Always an argument between Karagöz and Hacivat*
- *Public morals*
- *Common sense*



KARAGÖZ

BLACK EYE

THE TURKISH SHADOW PLAY



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KARAGÖZ / BLACK EYE

THE TURKISH SHADOW PLAY

SOME CHARACTERS IN HACIVAT VE KARAGÖZ PLAY



TUKSUZ DELİBEKİR



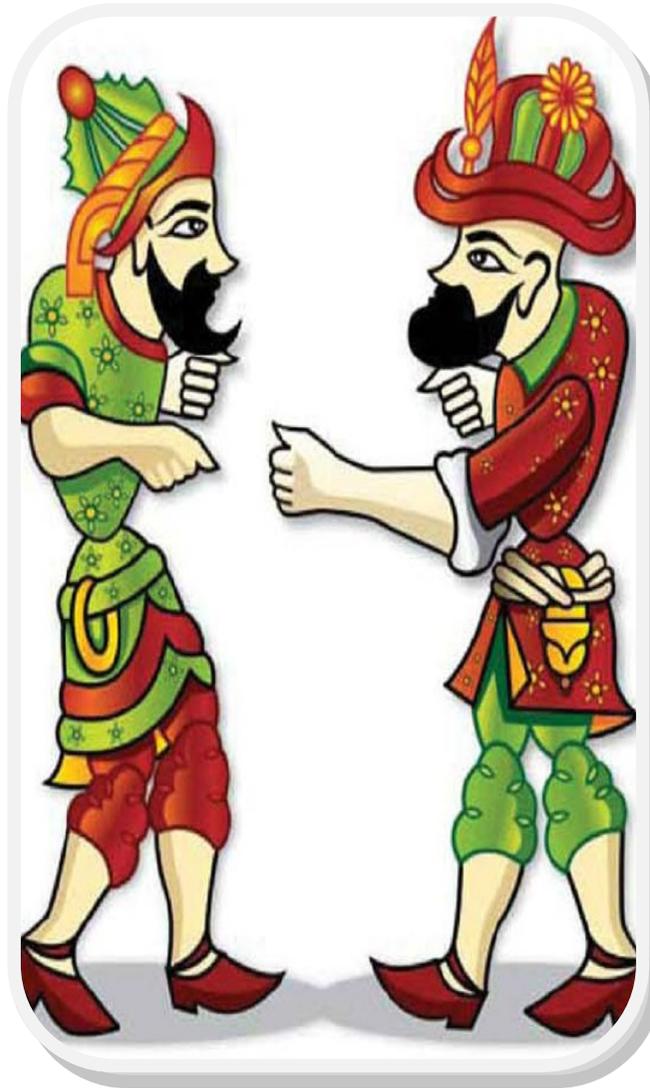
ZENNE



ÇELEBİ



FRENK



HACIVAT

KARAGÖZ

SOME CHARACTERS IN HACIVAT VE KARAGÖZ PLAY



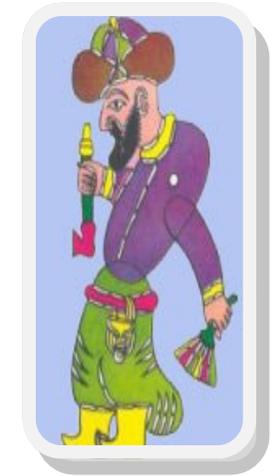
ARAP



ZEBEK



ARNAVUT



TİRYAKİ

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