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## Değişim Sürecinde Alevilikte Dini Otorite, Adıyaman Dedeleri Örneği, yazar Dr. Yılmaz ARI (Ankara: Berikan Yayınevi, 2020), 342 sayfa, ISBN: 976257049788

Religious Authority in Alevism in the Process of Change, The Case of Adıyaman Dedes, author Dr. Yılmaz ARI (Ankara: Berikan Publishing House, 2020), 342 pages, ISBN: 976257049788

### Makale Bilgisi | Article Information

Makale Türü / Article Type:  
Kitap İnceleme / Book Review  
Geliş Tarihi / Date Received: 18 Kasım 2023 / 18 November 2023  
Kabul Tarihi / Date Accepted: 20 Aralık 2023 / 20 December 2023  
Yayın Tarihi / Date Published: 30 Aralık 2023 / 30 December 2023  
Yayın Sezonu / Pub Date Season: Aralık / December

### Atıf | Citation

Rençber, Fevzi. "Değişim Sürecinde Alevilikte Dini Otorite, Adıyaman Dedeleri Örneği, yazar Dr. Yılmaz ARI (Ankara: Berikan Yayınevi, 2020), 342 sayfa, ISBN: 976257049788". *Darulhadis İslami Araştırmalar Dergisi* 5 (Aralık 2023), 320-324.

### Değerlendirme | Peer-Review

İki Dış Hakem / Çift Taraflı Körlleme  
Double anonymized - Two External

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### Yayıncı | Published by

Çankırı Karatekin Üniversitesi Darülhadis İslam Araştırmaları Merkezi  
Çankırı Karatekin University Darulhadis Islamic Studies Center

### Finansman | Grant Support

Bu araştırmayı desteklemek için dış fon kullanılmamıştır.  
The author(s) acknowledge that they received no external funding in support of this research.

## Öz

Dr. Yılmaz Ari'nin bu çalışması, Adiyaman'daki Alevi kültür ve inancını, dede ve taliplerin bakış açılarına odaklanarak incelemektedir. Yazar, dedelerin dini otoriteler olarak rolünü, önemini ve Alevi kültürüne nasıl katkıda bulduklarını araştırıyor. Çalışma, Alevi kültürünün Adiyaman'daki altı ocakta hala varlığını sürdürdüğünü ve dedelerin törenleri yürütmek ve çatışmalara arabuluculuk etmek gibi önemli rolleri yerine getirdiğini, ancak dedelik kurumunun sekülerleşmeden etkilenerek dini ve sosyal değerlerde değişikliklere yol açtığını kabul etmektedir. Çalışma ayrıca, kentleşme nedeniyle dede ve talip arasındaki ilişkinin zayıfladığını, bunun etkileşimleri ve dini ritüellere katılımları üzerindeki etkisini vurguluyor. Yazar, genç kuşakların modernleşme ve daha eğitilmiş bir zihniyet nedeniyle dedelerden uzaklaştığını öne sürüyor. Ancak çalışma, zorluklara rağmen Alevi kültürünün korunmasında dedelerin önemini ve işlevlerini sürdürdüğünü de vurguluyor. Sonuç olarak bu çalışma, Alevilik ve dedelik kurumu hakkında aydınlatıcı bir analiz sunmakta ve daha ileri araştırmalar için değerli perspektifler sağlamaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** İslam Mezhepleri Tarihi, Din Sosyolojisi, Etnisite, Din, Kültür, Alevilik, Dedelik, Ocak Kültü

## Religious Authority in Alevism in the Process of Change, The Case of Adiyaman Dedes, author Dr. Yılmaz ARI (Ankara: Berikan Publishing House, 2020), 342 pages, ISBN: 976257049788

## Abstract

This study of Dr Yılmaz Ari examines Alevi culture and belief in Adiyaman, focusing on the perspectives of the dede (dedes) and talip (followers). The author explores the role and significance of the dede as religious authorities and how they contribute to Alevi culture. The study acknowledges that Alevi culture is still present in six hearths in Adiyaman and that the dede fulfil important roles such as conducting ceremonies and mediating conflicts. However, the institution of grandfatherhood has been affected by secularization, leading to changes in religious and social values. The study also highlights the weakening relationship between the dede and talip due to urbanization and its impact on their interactions and participation in religious rituals. The author suggests that younger generations are distancing themselves from the dede due to modernization and a more educated mindset. However, the study also that the continued importance and functions of the dede in preserving Alevi culture, despite challenges. Overall, this study provides an insightful analysis of Alevism and the dedelik institution, offering valuable perspectives for further research.

Alevism is a unique culture and belief living in Anatolia and the Balkans. Alevis have their lifestyle, traditions, values, and beliefs. This culture and belief attract the attention of many local and foreign researchers and is being analysed.

**Keywords:** History of Islamic Sects, Sociology of Religion, Ethnicity, Religion, Culture, Alevism, Dedelik, Ocak Cult

This study, written by Dr Yılmaz ARI, describes how Alevi culture is lived in Adıyaman and the characteristics of this culture based on the views of dede and talip. The fact that the religious authority of Alevis, the “Dedes”, represents the institution of grandfatherhood and the functions and changes of this institution are also examined in this study.

This study examines how Alevis living in Adıyaman accept their dedes as religious authorities and what role and contribution dedes have in Alevi culture and belief. This study also reveals the change and continuity of the influence of the dedes in the religious and cultural lives of Alevis.

The author states that Alevi culture is still alive in six hearths in Adıyaman. Alevi’s dedes fulfil roles and functions such as conducting religious and cultural ceremonies, reconciling the disgruntled, healing the sick, and declaring those who violate religious rules as fallen. However, the Alevi institution of grandfatherhood has been affected by the process of secularization and there have been functional and qualitative changes in religious and social values. The author argues that as a result of these changes, the importance of the grandfathered has been diminished, superficialized and relegated to the background.

Based on the words of the grandfathers and his observations, Dr Ari explains that Alevis were loyal to their beliefs, culture, and dedes until the transition to urban life, the strength of the relationship between the dedes and the talibs, and that rural Alevi talibs tried to solve their problems by consulting the dedes. Dr. Ari states that the level of education and literacy of the talibs increased with urbanization, which weakened the religious authority of the dedes, and that the dedes appealed more to the rural areas.

This study shows how the relationship between the dede and the talibs is weakened by the impact of urban life. The fast and time-dependent flow of work, habits and social networks in the city breaks the contact between dede and talibs. This reduces the number and participation in religious ceremonies.

The author determines that young Alevi generations are distancing themselves from the dedes due to the influence of urban life. He states that the dedes are unable to adapt to modern life and the level of knowledge, whereas young people are a more educated and free-thinking generation. In addition, transport, access, and communication problems in big cities weaken the bonds between the dede and the talibs. The author also cites the fact that dedes and talibs do not regularly participate in religious and cultural rituals. However, even though the Alevi culture is losing power, the planned continuation of religious-cultural rituals, the efforts of Alevi talibs to preserve their identity, and the organisation of trips to places such as visits and shrines show that the authority of the dedes continues to maintain some of its functions. This emphasizes the importance of the culture and belief of Alevism and the importance of the dedes.

This study, written by Dr. Yılmaz ARI, gives the reader the opportunity to look at the culture and beliefs of Alevism and the institution of grandfatherhood from the perspective of Alevi talibs. This work is original and valuable in this respect.

This study conveys the basic issues of Alevi culture and belief and an effective religious institution such as dedelik from the point of view of those who live in it. This study makes a new contribution to the literature on the culture and belief of Alevism based on oral culture. In this respect, this study fills a very important gap and adds great value to the scholarly literature in the field.

This study analyses the past and present of Anatolian Alevism and the institution of dedelik based on existing literature and field experiences. It evaluates the changing and continuous aspects of Alevi culture with various examples. By presenting the narratives of the dedes and their talibs in significant sections, it conveys to the reader the perspectives of the followers of this culture. In addition, with his comments and evaluations, he allows his readers to examine and understand Alevism, the hearth, and the institution of dedelik in Adiyaman in detail. In this study, the author has used a simple and understandable language.

As a result, this study offers a deep analysis of Alevism, the hearth system, and the institution of dedelik in terms of change and continuity. The author personally recognizes these issues and gives detailed ideas, preparing the ground for further research. This study is an important source of data not only for academics, researchers and think tanks but also for anyone interested in the adventure of Alevism, its basic institutions, and Anatolian Alevism. The author's unbiased, impartial, and empathetic field experiences, external and internal observations, visits, and interviews provide readers with a pleasant reading experience.

### **Kaynakça | References**

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