

**SARAKAZ NEAR THE VILLAGE OF BOTEVO, YAMBOL REGION:
INHERITING A CULT**

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Abstract

Compared to other data, the name Sarakaz of a shrine near the present Bulgarian village of Botevo, the region of Yambol, shows that it has permanently functioned as a holy place for Turks professing Heterodox Islam (Alevi, Alians). In the 19th century (and even earlier) Turks and Bulgarians lived together in the village. Despite the two mass exiles – of Bulgarians in 1829 and Turks in the end of the 19th century – the cult at this place is preserved and continues its existence. The article examines the mechanisms of formation and functioning of mixed shrines.