



Visiting Hours

Opening Time: 08:00
Closing Time: 18:00
Ticket Office Closing Time: 17:30

Open everyday.

Address: Cuma Mahallesi, Akşemseddin Caddesi 14780 Göynük/Bolu

Please visit the web site for up-to-date information.

[f TurkishMuseums](#)
[i officialturkishmuseums](#)
[t TurkishMuseums](#)
[y TurkishMuseums](#)
[e TurkishMuseums](#)

www.turkishmuseums.com



www.muze.gov.tr



BOLU AKŞEMSEDDİN SHRINE

FINAL RESTING PLACE OF SPIRITUAL CONQUEROR OF İSTANBUL

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR CULTURAL ASSETS AND MUSEUMS



Spiritual Conqueror of Istanbul: Reverend Akşemseddin



Akşemseddin, one of the greatest scholars of the 15th century, is considered a versatile scientist, a master physician, and also a great spiritual leader. His real name is Muhammed Şemseddin Bin Hamza, his pseudonym was Akşeyh (White Sheikh). He is one of the descendants of Şihabüddin Sühreverdi, one of the great awliyas (Sufi mystics), and his lineage goes back to Ebu Bakr Al Siddik (RA). He was born in Damascus in the year 1390 CE (Hijri 792). He became a huffaz (memorizer) when he was very young and moved to Anatolia with his father and settled in Kavak (Samsun) when he was seven years old. After some time, his father, who was also an eminent scientist and Sufi master, passed away. Akşemseddin continued his education after his father's death and became proficient not only in Sharia sciences but also in medicine and became a müderris (professor) in the Osmançık Madrasa. He taught at certain times of the day and was busy training his ego and was in the presence of Hakk (Allah) with constant taqwa (piety). Those who observed and knew his condition suggested him to seek out Reverend Hacı Bayram-ı Veli, who was one of the greatest spiritual leaders of his time. Reverend Akşemseddin, who complied with these suggestions and was ready to ascend in tasawwuf (Sufi mysticism), gave up his teaching post as a muderris and went to Ankara, where he stayed for some time with Reverend Hacı Bayram and later settled in Göynük. One of the most important events in Akşemseddin's life is his appointment as the mentor of Mehmet II, who will be given the title of Conqueror by the conquest of Istanbul by Murat II who was the sultan of Ottomans in those years. He is known as the spiritual conqueror of Istanbul because he contributed to the conquest of Istanbul with his proposals. When they asked Reverend Akşemseddin, "How did you know the date on which Istanbul would be conquered?" he replied, "I and my brother Khizir deduced the date of the conquest of Istanbul with the help of ilm-i ledunniyye (a kind of occult knowledge specific to his Imminence Khizir). When the castle fell, I saw Khizir enter the Castle with an entourage of evliyas. After the castle was conquered, I saw my brother Khizir who had climbed to the top of the castle and was sitting there."

Respect from Fatih to his mentor: Akşemseddin Shrine



After the conquest, Akşemseddin did not stay in despite the urging of Sultan Mehmet, the Conqueror, but returned to Göynük and died here in 1459. In 1464, a shrine was commissioned to be built by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror in 1464 for the beloved and respected mentor. The shrine, built of cut stones, has a hexagonal ground plan, and is covered with a dome. On the sides of the building walls are rectangular windows in a pointed arched niche. The second rows of windows have pointed arches and plaster lattices. At the northeast corner of the shrine is the entrance door in a pointed arched niche with an inscription in the door pediment above. Inside the shrine are cists of Akşemseddin and his sons. The walnut coffin of Akşemseddin, decorated with relief letters, is a fine example of Ottoman wooden art.

