

**THE PETROGLYPHS AND INSCRIPTIONS SALIHLER VILLAGE
(ANKARA –GÜDÜL) AND THEIR HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***Necati DEMİR****Abstract:**

Rock - Art / petroglyphs, contoured by mankind in ancient times have some great importance due to their cultural and artistic products. There are no similar products that specified above. Many of the features, social and cultural history of humanity roots are found on these rock arts. If they are correctly be construed and read, they could explain the history of mankind and could come to light themselves with their hidden aspects. By the help of these; world history and civilization could be written again.

Turkey could be said to have a rich cultural heritage in terms of rock art/petroglyph. The village of Esatlı which is found in Ordu- Mesudiye, the caves which are found in Erzurum-Cunni, the valley which is found in Erzurum-Dilli, the Mountains which are found in Van-Catak borough, the Geyikli Hills which are found in Kars - Kagizman borough, the village of Salihler which is found in Ankara-Gudul are only the few of them. However, in some places of Turkey; for the fields of rock art, there are not so much inquiries.

UNESCO has taken approximately 80 areas about rock images and inscriptions (Rock- Art Petroglyph) which are found all over the world to the protection programme because of designation as a "World Heritage" but so far from Turkey any fields about rock images and texts are not taken to the "Cultural Heritage" programme.

We have been searching Rock-Art areas for 15 years. Until now, about 50 Rock-Art areas have been found. In this study, some information will be given about Salihler Village Rock Art area which is located near 90 km away from Ankara.

Key words: Turkey, Ankara, Rock Art / Petroglif, Cultural Heritage, Old Turkic Language.

1. THE GENERAL SITUATION

The Salihler village attached to Gudul district apeartianed to Ankara is located at the north-west of Central Anatolia and a point close to the border of Bolu. The Salihler village attached to Gudul is far from Ankara 82 km, and 13 km to Gudul. Its altitude is 937 meters. It remains the western side of

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the Ankara-Istanbul highway. The Location of it: is located at the intersection of 40° 8'57.40"C (40 degrees 8.57 minutes and 40 seconds), north (latitude) parallel, with 32°11'4.32"E (32 degree 11.4 minutes 32 seconds) the eastern meridian (longitude).

At the north part of Salihler village there are Adalıkuzu and Garipçe villages; at the east part there are Afşar and Kadiobası villages, Çağa town, at the west part there is Adaören village; at the south part there is Akkaya village.

Salihler village is in Turkey, the part of Central Anatolia, the north part of the peninsula of Anatolia, the north foothills of the Koroğlu Mountains. The village is a collective settlement. The land is very hilly. The flora of it is very weak. Within the boundaries of the Salihler village, there are many ancient ruins. The most notable one of these are korgans which is a kind of Turks grave in shape. There are soil-shaped masonry and stone-shaped masonry. There are also many ancient settlements. In Deliklikaya, Yandaklıdere, Yıkılankaya, Asmalıyatak, Kabahöyük, Sapuğunkaya which are within the boundaries of the village, there are very important historical heritages in means of rock pictures, figures, marks and inscriptions areas.

2. THE SITES OF ROCK PICTURES, FIGURES, MARKS AND INSCRIPTIONS (ROCK ART / PETROGLYPHS)

In the Salihler village there are two rock pictures, figures and marks areas which are in the south part of the center of and the north-west of the village. The rock art sites of Deliklikaya and Yandaklıdere are located at the south part of the village.

The areas of the rock pictures, figures and marks which are located in Yıkılankaya, Kabahöyük, Sapuğunkayası are fall to the north-west of the village.

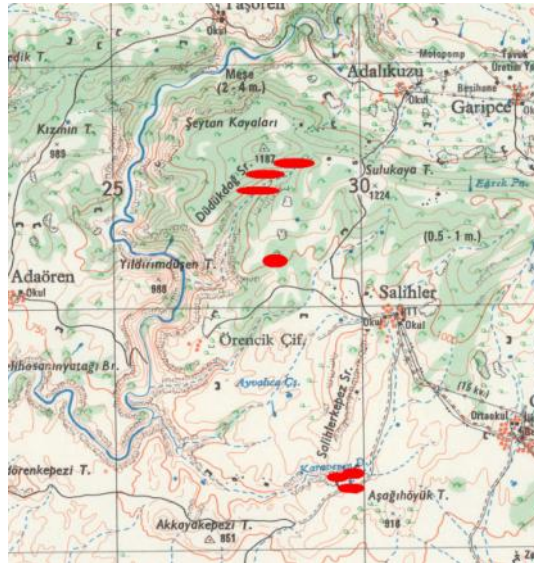
It could be safely said that the weighted part of the rock pictures and writings which are found in Salihler village attached to the district of Güdül, Ankara province are left from Turks who settled Anatolia before Oguzs and have a belief of the Land of Eternal Blue Sky (Demir, 2009a, p. 5-19). The most important evidence of this, *ongun* which were beset on the rocks.

The rock pictures and writings which are found in the north-west of the Salihler village are on a high point that remains in possession of the environment.



Map 1: Ankara City, Güdül Town

It is also identified that there are some old settlements and some old graves that were in Turkish grave style at the nearest parts of the regions of rock pictures and inscriptions. These places await the attention of some scientists who are making some studies about old settlement places and kurgan (tumuli).



Map 2: The Spots which are marked with Red Ink are the Areas Which are Found Rock Pictures, Figures, Mark and Inscriptions



Figure 1: One of the five areas which are found Rock Pictures and Inscriptions in Salihli: Asmalıyatak (Photographed by: Necati Demir) (The Pictures and inscriptions are mainly on the rocky ledge which are at the middle of the photograph.)

There are hundreds of pictures and figures, a few of inscriptions at the southern parts of the rocks which are found in Salihler village. In this study we will only focus on the pictures and figures.

In Salihler village we consider that there are also some marks of Oghuzs which were beset from Seljuks. Presence of a large number of Oghuzs marks bring this place in a special case.

On the rocks there are some various meaningless writings which were scratched in Arabic letters. The dates of these inscriptions' writings do not go back more than a few centuries.

3. THE PICTURES AND FIGURES WHICH ARE FOUND ON THE INSCRIPTIONS IN SALIHLER VILLAGE

As noted above, rock pictures, figures, marks and inscriptions which are found in Salihler village almost all of them are the elements of the Turkish culture. Because of finding on the high places not in the dark caves and have the same features with the elements of Turkish world betrays this clearly.

The other thing is briskness. When looking at the pictures and figures, it is clearly seen that there is nothing standing. All these pictures and figures refer to the movement. If it is considered that throughout history Turkishness is the symbol of movement, the root of the issue arises spontaneously.

The rock pictures, figures, marks and inscriptions which are found in the Salihler village are very different in terms of their issues. Their components are in various sizes. It is understood from the clues in the components; they were composed in different procedures and tools from time to time during the thousands of years. Some pictures were composed

with a great skill with the metals; some of them were composed by rubbing a stone against a stone.

Assuredly, there are no modern understanding and perspective on the rock pictures and figures. However, the animate and inanimate things were expertly symbolized, remembering of them could not be difficult. It is also a worthy issue that has to be deliberated in means of a different picture technique.

Types of pictures, applications in drawings, spontaneously and originality of them are remarkable. Although these works of arts are from very old ancient times, proficiency in art is so amazing. Forasmuch as a simple drawing of a goat, the size of the goat, the construction of its body, the drawing of back and front legs, being showed, its toenails format, the shape of the horn, the status of its tail are clearly shown on the pictures. It really requires a great skill to reflect these details on a rock.

It was used some various styles for the creation of the pictures. By using some metal tools, the rock was carved, some of the figures were created in this way. Some of them are made with some tough tools. Some of them were pictured by painting. The created drawings by carving in the pictures, the depth is 1-30 mm, the drawings which were made by drawings, the depth is 3-45 mm. Mainly, the pictures and figures are like this:

a. Human: The human in the fields of petroglyphs is always breezy in Salihler village. Its appearance is dynamic, straighten up, haughty and brave. The pictures and figures appear as man and woman. It could be immediately understood if it is man or woman with the structure of its chest, the structure of its thin or thick waist. They are often hanged out armed and on a horseback, sometimes fighting scenes, sometimes walking of a human.



Figure 2: Human figure at Salihler Village Rock Art Area (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

The humans appear sometimes hunting, sacrificing a victim, sometimes praying, and sometimes breeding. Pictures and figures reflect the status of the society that are living with hunting and supporting themselves with animal husbandry. It could not be identified that they laboured with agriculture. It is noteworthy that some human figures with the head of them in sun, moon and star. These figures which are the common values of the Turkish world make Salihler village significant.



Figure 3: Human figures at Salihler Village Rock Art Area (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

b. Animal: The animals are always breezy elements. Mainly, the figures appear such as goats and horses. Rarerly, deer, roe deer, lion, dog, monter, snake, pig are encountered. Notwithstanding, the wolf figure which is rarely appears in Turkish world petroglyphs stands out in Salihler village. Some dyeing out animals could be seen. The animals were expertly drawn loom large with their dynamics, elegance and significancies. The meaningful postures, movements, moving slowly and runnings of the animals were reflected to the lines. The drawing of their naturalness about their horns, ears, legs, nails and tails are very astonishing. In the petroglyp sites, there are some types of animals which are unable to be identified.



Figure 4: Animal Figure in Salihler Village Rock Art Site (Photographed by: Necati Demir)



Figure 5: Animal Figure in Salihler Village Rock Art Site (Photographed by: Necati Demir)



Figure 6: Animal Figure in Salihler Village Rock Art Site (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

c. Plant: Sometimes a tree, sometimes a branch of a tree and also sometimes a flower. Various pictures of plants may be encountered.



Figure 7: Plant figures at Salihler Village Rock Art Site (Photographed by: Necati Demir)



Figure 8: Plant figures at Salihler Village Rock Art Site (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

d. Tools and equipments: arrow, bow, bayonet, sword, knife, eating utensils, religious and casual clothes, clothings, banner, flag.



Figure 9: Tools and Equipment Figures (Photographed by: Necati Demir).

e. The Pictures and figures about the world of faith: Understanding from the signs which are found in the pictures and figures, they are made by the people who live with the belief of Land of Eternal Blue Sky. Sun, moon and star are the important prominent icons of the world of the Turkish faith. Religious ceremonies, the scenes of sacrificing a victim, rituals and dances are the common figures which are often come upon in the Salihler village.

f. Marks: Within the petroglyphs of Salihli village three pieces of marks were ascertained which belong to Kayı clan that established the Ottoman Empire. In addition to that, there are also the marks of Bayat, Yazır, Avşar, Begdili, Karkın, Peçenek, Çavundur and Salur clans. Otherwise, it appears some unidentified marks.



Figure 10: Mark of the Kayı Clan that established Ottoman Empire (Photographed by: Necati Demir).



Figure 11: Mark of the Kayı Clan that established Ottoman Empire (Photographed by: Necati Demir).

g. Some elements about outer space and earth since: There are some attractive figures about guidance and direction signs. Some elements about primitive calenders and time measuring elements are also encountered on the rocks.

h. Unresolved elements: Some icons created with the Arabic alphabet and some writings written with the Arabic alphabet. Some undefinable or too worn pictures and figures were found.

There are some very tiny caves which are in the fields that have some pictures, figures, marks and inscriptions. It is understood from these caves that people were living here and continuing their daily lives. They scratched their dreams, prayers, successes, advantages on the walls in order to perpetuate them. In the areas which are found some rock pictures and inscriptions in Salihli village, there are some carved pits. It is understood that, they made them for collecting some water of the rain, accumulating the blood of victims, collecting some milk that was milking from the animals.

The issue of when the pictures, figures and marks were drawn is quite confusing. We would like to underline we are far from giving an exact date. However we would like to specify that these pictures and figures were created in a period of centuries. It is thought that the figures of three walking goats in a row were drawn in a period that was near the years of zero. The

marks of Yazır, Avşar, Karkın, Salur and Peçenek must be beset at the time when Seljuks made Anatolia as their fatherland.

One of the clues when the pictures and marks were drawn is based in religion. Acceptance of Islam, because of the religious anxiety, Turkish pictures and sculpture were getting weaker or eliminated completely. Therefore, it could smoothly say that the rock pictures and figures in the Salihler village were drawn by Turks of non-Muslims before Islam.

One of the hints about the period are the contents of the pictures. There is not a single point about making agriculture of the society. Thus, the society that made these pictures was a society that made their living by hunting. This situation leads us again to the early years of Christ. Hunting lost its importance after turned into entertainment. Therefore, it was given up beseting on the rocks as an important event.



Figure 12: Figures in Salihler Rock Art Site (Photographed by: Necati Demir).

Some of them which are important in the Turkish world must be examined in a row respectively:

3.1. Wolf:

One of the most important rock pictures, figures, marks and inscriptions (rock art) which are found in the spot of Land Deliklikaya in the Salihler village is wolf. The wolf figures which are here are very clear and identified. When it is looked some petroglyphs that are in Turkish characters, wolf is not a figure that is often come upon. It is interesting to be found in the field of petroglyphs which is in the Salihler village.



Figure 13: The Wolf Figure in the slot of Deliklikaya in the Salihler Village (Photographed by: Necati Demir).



Figure 14: The Wolf figure in the slot of Yıkılankaya in the Salihler Village (Photographed by: Necati Demir).

3.2. Goat:

One of the most marked figures of the rock pictures, figures, marks and inscriptions which are found in the slot of Yandaklıkaya in the village of Salihler is goat. The appearances of three goats which are walking in a row give someone pause to think that it is a sacrificial ceremony. Forasmuch as; we know that for closing the violence and wrath, Turks sacrifices a victim in order to make a wish to God, to be purified from their sins, to repent (Demir, 2010, p. 5-23). The overview of the goats as follows:



Figure 15: A Goat Figure which is located on the Field of Rock Pictures and Figures in the Slot of Yandaklıdere in the Salihler Village (Photographed by: Necati Demir)



Figure 16: A Goat Figure which is located on the Field of Rock Pictures and Figures in the Slot of Yandaklıdere in the Salihler Village (Photographed by: Necati Demir)



Figure 17: Goat Figures in the Salihler Village (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

3.3. Deer:

One of the most important figures between the petroglyphs in the Salihler village are goats. It takes a place between the rock pictures in the Yandaklıdere slot. The high horns, even bigger than the size of a deer is attracting the attention.



Figure 18: The Deer Figure which is located in the area of the Salihler village (Photographed by: Necati Demir).

3.4. Sun, Moon and Star:

One of the most important pieces of the rock pictures which are found in the Salihler village Kabahöyük slot is the sun, the moon and the star man figures. All three of them are together and found side by side. These figures which are found in the Salihler village may be one of the most important figures which belongs the Turkish world of rock art. The sun, the moon and the star are found within the most important figures in the societies which have a belief of the Lord of the Eternal Blue Sky. These figures show that the rock pictures and figures that are found around the Salihler village were created by Turks before the admission of Islam.

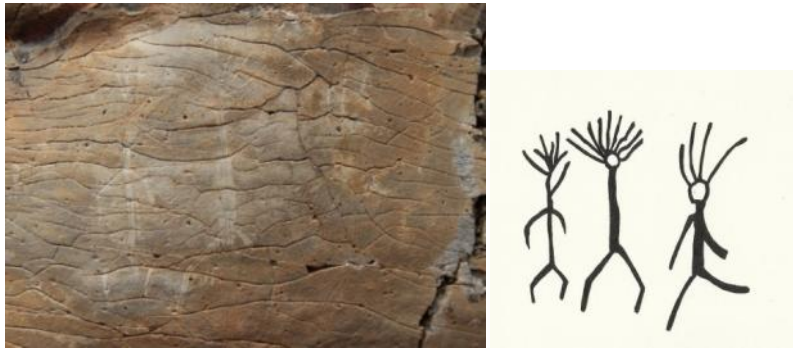


Figure 19: The Sun, The Moon and The Star Rock Picture which are located in the field of the Salihler Village (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

In Turkey, the figures of moon and sun are also found between the figures of rock pictures and figures in Ordu-Mesudiye the village of Esatlı (Demir, 2009b, p. 3-30)



Figure 20: The Sun with The Moon which is in the field of rock pictures in Esatlı (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

3.5. Falcon and the Man with the Falcon:

One of the pictures and figures on the rock inscriptions which is found in the beginning on the Salihler village is the Man with a Falcon. This figure is about the hunt and hunting.



Figure 21: The Man with Falcon and a Hunting Dog which is located on the field of Rock Pictures and the Inscriptions in the Salihler Village Esatlı Town (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

Almost the same figure is found on the field of rock pictures and inscriptions in the Ordu Esatlı village (Demir, 2009b, p. 3-30):



Figure 22: The Man with Falcon on The Rock Pictures and Inscriptions which is located in Esatlı (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

3.6. Horse and Hunting:

One of the most noteworthy rock pictures which is found in the Salihler village is the stages about horse and hunting. The four ones that we think they are important are as follows:



Figure 23: The Horses and Hunting Rock Pictures and Figures in the field Salihler Village (Photographed by: Necati Demir)



Figure 24: The Horses and Hunting Rock Pictures and Figures in the field Salihler Village (Photographed by: Necati Demir)



Figure 25: The Rock Pictures and figures of Horses and Hunting in the field Salihler Village (Photographed by: Necati Demir)



Figure 26: The Rock Pictures and



Figure 27: The Rock Picture of Horse

figures of Horses and Hunting in the field Salihler Village (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

and Hunting in the field Salihler Village (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

3.7. The Elements about Space Science and Earth Science:

We also come across with some elements about the sky and the earth in the field of petroglyphs in the Salihler village. Each one of these have linked with the Turkish history and their fatherlands. In the field of Yandaklıdere petroglyphs, the signs which show the directions were drawn in some circles. The sign of directions in Deliklikaya are not drawn with some lines around them. The figures which are about the sky and the earth that are found in Yandaklıdere and Deliklikaya are as follows:



Figure 28: The Figure Which Shows the Four Directions in Yandaklıdere (Photographed by: Necati Demir)



Figure 29: The Figure Which Shows the Four Directions in Yandaklıdere (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

The figure which shows the four directions are different from the others in the region of Asmalıyatak. The sign arrows at the end of the line on the South are two, on the other line are three. The direction of the arrows, except the North, are introverted. The direction of the arrow which is on the North is extraverted.



Figure 30: The Figure Which Shows the Four Directions in Asmalıyatak Region (Photographed by: Necati Demir).

There are three figures which show the four directions in the region of Deliklikaya. The middle of them has one line. The end of the line there is an arrow sign. This arrow sign is introverted, i.e. it shows the center. At the bottom, there are sixteen lines which are connected and parallel to the line of being drawn from the middle. Eight of them are in the East, eight of them are in the West side. These figures suggest that they are a solar clock. The line which shows the South part was not completed at the part of the arrow sign. The line was lengthened at the bottom of the rock and a thought was given as infinity. In fact, the meanings of them have not been solved yet.



Figure 31: The three Figures which show the Four Directions in Deliklikaya (Photographed by: Necati Demir)



Figure 32: The three Figures which show the Four Directions in Deliklikaya (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

In Deliklikaya region, the other figure which shows the four directions are smaller than the figure in the middle. The figure at the left part was shaped like one of them is on the middle and the others are at the edges of it. The arrows which are at the end are in inward position and point the center. The figure at the right part was shaped with the two lines. The sign of the arrows are outward position. Only the ones which are faced to the West and

the South, cross(x) sign was put. It means if it is not carelessness, these points were pointed out either the inner part or the out part. At the southern end of both figures were not finished at the end of the arrow are lengthened at the bottom part of the rock. By this drawing a thought which is about eternity must be given.



Figure 33: The Figure Which is Show the Four Directions in Deliklikaya (Photographed by: Necati Demir)



Figure 34: The Figure Which is Show the Four Directions in Deliklikaya (Photographed by: Necati Demir)

In the Kabahöyük region which is at the Nourth-west of the Salihler village, there are two figures which show the directions.



Figure 35: The Figure Which shows the Four Directions in Kabahöyük (Photographed by: Necati Demir).



Figure 36: The Figure Which shows the Four Directions in Kabahöyük (Photographed by: Necati Demir).

A similar figure in four directions is identified in Ordu Esatlı as in Yandaklıdere (Demir, 2009b, p. 3-30).

4. CONCLUSION

It is clearly open that the rock pictures, figures, marks and inscriptions in the Salihler village are created by Turks and these are the parts of the Turkish culture. Because, first of all pictures, figures and inscriptions were not made on hollow places and dark caves, they were made on some open places and some peaks that are placed on high hills.

As we identified until now, about the rock pictures and inscriptions there has not been an archaeological research so far. However, it could be understood from the pictures, figures and marks, it is thought that they could have been drawn in I-II. Century A. D. Thus, the inscriptions were processed, much earlier than the Orkhun Monuments, nearly five centuries ago.

It is understood from the figures in the pictures and texts which were found on the rock pictures and inscriptions in the Salihler village, they must have been from Pechenegs or Hun Turks which were settled before Oghuzs in the Central Anatolia and living with the faith of the Lord of the Eternal Sky.

As extremely natural the pictures and figures were drawn expertly, meaningful and by giving depth. This mastery, spontaneity and meaningfulness require being a master artist. It is being curious that at that ages the people who drew them at which education they were educated and became a master artist. In addition, we could not get ourselves to say that these pictures and figures were shaped by some shamans and priests.

In the areas which are found the pictures, marks and inscriptions there are some tiny caves. The first that come to mind, it is understood that the people lived their lives here and they continued their daily lives here, too. While they were living in these tiny caves, they scratched their dreams, prayers, successes, advantages in order to perpetuate them.

The rock pictures, figures and marks in the Salihler village have got a very important position. Because, the rock pictures and figures have a binding position through west to east and north to south. It is noteworthy that the figures among the rock pictures in Salihler do not have any similars in some large areas like from Portugal to Siberia, from the Scandinavian countries to the deserts of Arabia.

Another important feature of the rock pictures and inscriptions of Salihler, it could be followed up the journey of the motifs and figures through *petroglyphs, ideogram, pictogram, mark, syllables, half-syllable* and *letter*.

So, it could be come across the many stages of the journey of the petroglyphs through letter.

Expertly drawn pictures, the descriptions that were made is pointed out how Turks are liability and skilful about the fine arts in the past.

Except the rock pictures and figures in the Salihler village, there is a short text which was written by the Köktürk Alphabet. From the frame of letter like figures the texts which are found here play a key role in the Turkish World. In addition, it is extremely important in the frame of the development of Turkish language and in the dark parts in terms of the remaining issues.

While the rock pictures, figures, marks and inscriptions are being evaluated by the different branches of science, the knowledge about Turkish history, culture and language are needed to be reconsidered.

In almost every province of Turkey that we encountered the rock pictures and inscriptions have led the world in wonder in the world of science. The rock pictures and inscriptions which are in the borders of Turkey for immediately being read and eliminated the dark parts, an institution should be established for this issue in the capital of Turkey Ankara.

Some items of the rock pictures, figures, marks and inscriptions were damaged because of some natural events. The others were damaged because of the works which were made by some unconcious people. Some pictures were destroyed so ugly by a deliberate manner, on some of them some different pictures were tried to be drawn. By many ways, lots of pictures, figures, marks and inscriptions were damaged.

In the field of rock pictures and inscriptions of the Salihler village, there are some pits which were carved in stone. It appears that they are created for collecting rain water, accumulating of the blood of victim and collecting dairy milk from the animals.

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