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Summary

The interview is conducted with two women, Sabre Mamytova and Zovirax Derdarova, mother and a daughter born in 1957 were interviewed.

Mamytova and Zovirax Derdarova.

Place called Solochok was a very special Tatar place, there were many Medicasters/ charlatans who were helping people and treating people as doctors, they were Muslims, they read Karan. In old days grandmothers read Karan and they read Arabic language.

The family always had Karan in their home, it was given to newly married couples. Karan was kept in a special place.

In 1944 Tatar people were deported from Crimea. Father's family was deported to Ural and from there they moved to Caucasus.

Their family was deported to Uzbekistan. They were met with great hostility by local people, they were called betrayers, they had to go to school but did not know any Russian language. They lived first in dugouts in pure poverty. They worked hard and slowly rebuilt their life.

In 1993 the mother and daughter returned back to Crimea, that they always considered their homeland. They had to sell everything as they wanted to come to Crimea.

When they came back they were met with hostility again, as nobody wanted to sell them a house, but they settled in the home that was in the family, although it was divided by Soviet Government into smaller apartments.

Tatar people had difficult life, but they are hard working people. Tatar were considered bad people, because Russians thought that during the war Tatar people would join forces with Turkey, that was on a German side.

They remember that Karaim people used to live in the area, they spoke Russian. There are three people she knows who are Karaims at the present time.

Before the war they called themselves Russians, and in their passports the nationality was Russian. The daughter believes that Karaim people have Jewish religion, but they celebrate Tatar holidays.

She also reported that local Gypsies lived in the area before the war. Their Gypsies were jewelers, they were rich and cultured and they used to receive high awards in Moscow. They looked like Tatar. Gypsies had darker skin, dark hair and eyes, but they had jobs unlike Gypsies that always moved from place to place. Now all mixed with different nationalities.

Both the mother and the daughter are involved in rebuilding Tatar cultural institutions, they support building Religious center in the historical place, that is now occupied by bazar.