

ABSTRACT

Saint Kosmas of Aitolia (1714-1779), also known as the Saint of Slaves, is considered one of the greatest spiritual figures who lived and acted during the years of the Turkish occupation upon the Greek nation. His morals, education, action and martyrdom gave him a place in the Greek calendar. His name is deeply rooted in the hearts of the Greek people for whom he fought and finally sacrificed.

He acted as a religious missionary and at the same time as an apostle of national ideas. He was the voice of the Orthodox religion and the founder of the Greek-Orthodox education. He was a priest who picked on the conquerors and those in power, while also inciting the nation to rebellion. Last but not least, he was the symbol of the Orthodox Church and the spiritual founder of the Greek nation; a person who continues to be a subject of study by many historians and researchers.

It is claimed that his major mission was the interception of Islamization at certain areas of Greece such as West Macedonia, Epirus, Central Greece and Thessaly. Others claim that his fight was characterized by his strong beliefs in Greek and Christian ideals, thus being considered as an elucidator of the Greek nation and a national revolutionary.

Opposing views and lack of trustworthy sources is the reason why an unambiguous view of the role that Saint Kosmas played during those years cannot be obtained.

The aim of this study is to present the teachings and the letters of Saint Kosmas as well as highlighting his role in the revival of the Greek culture. Also, his fight for the founding of schools and the preservation of the Greek language during the years of the Turkish occupation is displayed. Our sources originate from the texts of historians and his biographies.