

A letter from a Greek Friend, of FERTEK origin

Dearest Fehmi Dinçer,

My name is **Annika Tharropoulou**, and I am from **Kavala, Greece**. I am proud to say that I am of a Greek Karamanli origin, as both my father's parents were born in **Fertek**!!! My grandmother was born in 1900 and my grandfather must have been born a little earlier than my grandmother. His name was Christos Tharropoulos, and my grandmother's maiden name was Kyriaki Tsorbatzoglou. I have the name of my great grandmother;s name Annika Tsorbatzoglou.

Dearest Fehmi, you are a blessing to me!!! Because you are a proud child of **Fertek**, and because you love **Fertek** so deeply, you helped me trace my fatherland, too, through your love and work for your hometown!!! I feel so much grateful to you and your gentle feelings for the place you were born in!!! You have given me the unexpected opportunity and happiness to create a picture of my fatherland, too!!! Once I typed the word "**Fertek**" in the search box, I never expected that a whole world and its human history would appear alive before my amazed eyes!!! And there was your precious site, waiting for the **Fertek** long ago gone children to come back home, no matter whether Turkish, or Greek or whatever they might be, or have been!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! They are at least **Fertekians**!!!

My dear friend, and Brother, Fehmi, everything you write about our homeland people is almost exactly what my grandmother had told me about the village and the people of **Fertek** of those times!!! What she had inspired in me was the true and mutual love and respect of the local people among them, no matter the origin!!! What she told me was that they ALL lived like brothers and sisters!!!! Common people, plain people, sharing what their common land and their efforts and hard work offered them, and whatever their common feelings and love could build!!! My father's family, from his father's side, were skillful with stone and stonework. His mother's family were poor, and the men had moved to Istanbul. Annika and Kyriaki had been left back, and Annika worked at the local church until they met her son in Istanbul sometime before 1920, when and where my father was born.

<https://turkbibliography.com/fehmi-dincer/>

The precious pictures of **Fertek** you include in your site, touched me so deeply, as they represent the culture of the different - but so very much the same and incorporated - civilisations our ancestors had built for us to enjoy and be proud of!!! What can I say about the Karamanli language and poetry and all the other documents you include! It is a real pity that they are not properly translated in the English translation pages. But I try hard to get the best possible meaning.

Dear brother, I am sure you speak English, as I do not speak Turkish at all. I also hope you will take this message, and that you will send a message back so that I know you did receive this one. I will be more than grateful if you do reply!!!

I wish the best for you and your family. Give them all my affectionate love from a Greek - compatriot friend!

Your true friend

Annika Tharropoulou

29 Ekim 2009