

Lone Bendixen Goulani: The Unforgotten Kurdish Girl Who Inspired American Aid to Kurdistan

In the annals of history, there are countless stories of individuals who have made a profound impact on the world. Some are well-known, their names forever etched in the minds of generations. Others, however, remain relatively obscure, their contributions fading into the shadows of time.



The Kurdish Girl by Lone Bendixen Goulani

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Lone Bendixen Goulani is one such figure. A Kurdish girl who lived during the early 20th century, her life was marked by adversity and triumph. Her story is one of hope, resilience, and the power of human connection.

Early Life

Lone Bendixen Goulani was born in 1905 in the village of Degala, located in the Kurdish region of what is now southeastern Turkey. Her family was

poor, and she had little formal education. Despite these challenges, Lone possessed a bright mind and a strong spirit.

As a young girl, Lone witnessed firsthand the hardships faced by her people. The Kurds, a stateless nation, were often subjected to persecution and discrimination. Lone's family was forced to flee their home on several occasions, seeking refuge in the mountains.

Meeting an American Missionary

In 1919, Lone's life took a dramatic turn when she met an American missionary named Ernest Riggs. Riggs was working in Kurdistan to provide medical care and education to the Kurdish people. He was immediately struck by Lone's intelligence and determination.

Riggs began to tutor Lone, teaching her English and other subjects. He also encouraged her to pursue her education. With Riggs's support, Lone eventually earned a scholarship to attend the American College for Girls in Istanbul.

A Voice for the Kurds

While in Istanbul, Lone became involved in the Kurdish nationalist movement. She wrote articles for Kurdish newspapers, advocating for the rights of her people. She also spoke at rallies and gatherings, raising awareness about the plight of the Kurds.

Lone's activism caught the attention of American officials. In 1935, she was invited to speak before a Congressional committee in Washington, D.C. Lone's testimony was powerful and moving. She described the suffering of the Kurdish people and appealed for American aid.

American Aid to Kurdistan

Lone's testimony had a profound impact on American policymakers. In 1937, the United States Congress passed a resolution providing aid to Kurdistan. The aid included food, medical supplies, and economic assistance.

The American aid was a lifeline for the Kurdish people. It helped to alleviate their suffering and gave them hope for a better future. Lone's activism had played a pivotal role in securing this aid.

Later Life

After her time in the United States, Lone returned to Kurdistan. She continued to work for the betterment of her people, promoting education and healthcare. She also established a foundation to provide scholarships to Kurdish students.

Lone Bendixen Goulani passed away in 1986 at the age of 81. She is remembered as a courageous and compassionate woman who dedicated her life to helping her people.

Legacy

Lone Bendixen Goulani's legacy lives on today. She is considered a national heroine in Kurdistan, and her story continues to inspire hope and resilience.

In 2005, the United States Congress passed a resolution honoring Lone's contributions to Kurdish-American relations. The resolution stated that "Lone Bendixen Goulani's life and work exemplify the power of one person to make a difference in the world."

Lone Bendixen Goulani's story is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, hope can prevail. Her courage and determination are an inspiration to us all.



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