

ALİ PAŞA (AH-lee PAH-shah) = General Ali

CROSS-INDEX TERMS:

Ali Pasha - the romanized spelling

Arpa Ektim - first line of the song

BACKGROUND:

A true folk dancer's dance, *Ali Paşa* has figures also found in Serbian, Mexican, Greek, and Israeli folk dances. Count this 5/4 meter dance in 4: 1 (quick), 2 (quick), 3 (quick), 4 (slow). You may call the figure changes telepathically as we do, verbally with "geç, geç" (= change, change), or with their numbers. Bora Özkök, a Turk, choreographed this dance and presented it to us in 1971.

FORMATION:

Mixed line of M and W in an open circle, leader at R end. Little fingers joined at shoulder height. Persons at ends of line wave handkerchiefs in free hands.

BARS ACTION

5/4 Introduction.

1-16 Stand there and wiggle your toes and bob your hands in time to the music. Start dancing when the singing starts.

1. Bir (= One). Walking. Face slightly to R.

1 Walk forward and CCW around the circle 3 steps onto: R ft, L ft, R ft (cts 1,2,3), touch L toe beside R ft, no weight (ct 4).

2 Walk backward and CW around the circle 3 steps onto: L ft, R ft, L ft (cts 1,2,3), touch R toe beside L ft (ct 4). Face center at the end of bar 2.

3-4 = 1-2, moving into and out of circle. Face slightly to R at the end of bar 4.

5-8 = 1-4.

2. İki (= Two). Grapevine. Remain facing center.

9 Step to R onto R ft (ct 1), step behind R ft onto L ft (ct 2), step to R onto R ft (ct 3), step in front of R ft onto L ft (ct 4).

10 = 9, but close L ft to R ft, no weight (ct 4).

11-12 = 9-10, but with opposite footwork and direction.

13-16 = 9-12.

3. Üç (= Three). Brush and touch. Remain facing center.

17 Brush R toe inward to L across L ft (ct 1), brush R toe outward to R (ct 2), step to R onto R ft (ct 3), step beside R ft onto L ft (ct 4).

18 = 17.

19 Step slightly forward onto R ft (ct 1), step in place onto L ft (ct 2), step beside L ft onto R ft (ct 3), touch L toe forward (ct 4).

20 Step back onto L ft (ct 1), step beside L ft onto R ft (ct 2), step forward onto L ft (ct 3), close R ft to L ft, no weight (ct 4).

21-24 = 17-20.

Dance bars 1-24 to the end of the music.

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Ali Paşa (concluded)

Arpa ekdim, biçemedim, bir düs gördüm, seçemedim. 2X
Alışmışım soğuk suya, dissiz (ıssığ?) sular içemedim. 2X

Üç atım var, biri binek, arkadaşlar kalkın gidek. 2X
Ali Paşayı vurdular yavrusuna haber vererek. 2X

Paşa giyer iki kürkü, biri samur biri tilki. 2X
Ali Paşayı vurdular, harab oldu Van'ın nurdu (mülkü?). 2X

Karavanaya vurdular, yüzbaşılar darıldılar. 2X
Darılmayın yüzbaşılar, Ali Paşayı vurdular. 4X

I planted barley, never harvested it, I had a dream, didn't recognize it.
I am used to cold waters, I do not drink hot water.

I have 3 horses, one very good one, come on friends, let's get up and go.
General Ali has been shot, let's take the news to his kin.

The General wears 2 fur coats, one is mink, the other is fox.
General Ali has been hit, the wonder of Van (a town in east Anatolia) is gone.

When he asked to eat in the mess hall, captains got mad after all.
You need not get mad, oh captains, General Ali has been hit (shot).

In case you're curious, the *Encyclopedia of Islam* lists 13 people named Ali Paşa, six of whom died at the hands of Ottoman troops or Ottoman paramilitary forces.

The most likely subject of this song is Ali Pasha of Van, a military and possibly civil administrator who died by an assassin's bullet, possibly in connection with a mutiny.

The song most likely does NOT refer to General Ali, the Albanian-born governor of the southwest Balkans under the Ottoman Turks in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. That Ali was an exceptionally cruel vice-sultan of an exceptionally cruel empire; sort of a depraved Darth Vader. This guy was so bad that even the Sultan couldn't tolerate it and had him murdered; so bad that some historians credit resistance to his reign for eventually driving the Turks from Greece and then Europe. Actually, the Turks still hold a sizable part of Greece and Bulgaria, but you know what I mean. No, this song probably refers to the General Ali from Van in eastern Anatolia.

End of **ALİ PAŞA**.