

Perperikon (Hiperperakion, Perperakion) is in Eastern part of Rhodopes, 15 km from Kurdjali on rock peak with high of 470 m. Near it is the “gold” river - Perpereshka form fertile 10 km valley. Its mouth in a spring “Cold well” is very beautiful and its built-up as a resort. The comfortable river valley is created wonderful conditions for life from many years. In Perperikon is obtained gold. The mines have been developed in the last centuries of the old epoche. The name of the saint town is from byzantine epoche. "Perpera" has been called the most valued byzantine coin.



Many years the archeologists search the famous in the ancient sanctuary of God Dionis. It's consider that its founding is alike discovery of Troya and Mikena. It's known only that it has been in the Saint mountain – The Rhodopes. The main information give us Herodot. Translate of the Saint books of the language of the Besi - In 313 imperator Konstantin win Dioklecian with the help of the christians and he confirms his one- man power. The

Christianity is acknowledged for a main religion in the Roman empire. The christian missionary direct to the Rodopi. It begins on a



mass scale baptism to the alpinists which continue through the all V century. The saint books is translated to the language of the besi, in spite of they have been read only of Greek, Latin and Jewish. "The Bible besika" has been translated of thracian language in mountain monastery in Perperikon.

The Cross-relic with parts of Christ's Cross - In the foot of Perperikon is discover bronze cross-relic. This objects carry the name “Palestina’s crosses”. Laboratory tests discover small parts of wood in its. About this parts wood is believed that they are from Christ’s cross. According to the legend the cross where has been crucified Christ is diged in the beginning of IV century to command of mother of Imperator Konstantin the Great, Helena and they are protected it in Konstantinopol. In Bulgarian are discovered two similar relics. On 1 12 2002 the relic has been rested in a wood coffin and it has been moved in Kurdjali’s

church “The assumption”. Perperikon through the Middle ages - The Eastern Rhodopes has been conquered by the Bulgarian country after 1185 year. Through the war between King Kaloyn and the knights from the fourth cross march



(1205-1207) the eastern part of the mountain has been a main base of the bulgarians. King Michael-Asen begins rule in 1246 but his mother Irina rules instead of him. The byzantines imperator’s daughter back the south lands without war. In 1254 the potent king had



broken again a huge territory with big army near river Marica and Rhodopes. He had been appointed metropolitan director, archon in Perperikon.

After the procession of the Turkishthe stronghold has been destoryed. The christian population continue to live in the foot of Perperikon instead of the turkish register from 1626/1627. The big tirkish colonization and the massive moved of the local population changed the ethnic aspect of the region in XVIII-XIX c.



PERPERIKON

**KARDZHALI,
BULGARIA**