



THE LEGEND of MAIDEN'S TOWER

Maiden's Tower (KIZ KULESI) is one of the romantic symbol of Istanbul. It constructed first in the 12th century and present building get dates from 18th century.

KIZ KULESI is on a tiny bit islet at the entrance to Bosphorus, İstanbul. Islet's nearest land point is İstanbul's Üsküdar district at Asian side of the city, near Marmara Sea. This tower is part of famous İstanbul silhoutte and it catches everyone's eyes passing through Bosphorus by boat.

This miniature tower has been in service as a lighthouse, a watchtower, a traffic control center and a prison in its lifetime and after its restoration now it is open as a several flats tower for tourist attraction... an observation terrace, gift store, a small Bosphorus Museum, tea/coffee house and restaurant.

According to the most widespread Turkish legend, a sultan has a daughter and he gets very happy. The Sultan appoints the scholars for growing the daughter of the country's knowledge. However, one of the soothsayers predicts the princess' early death by a snake bite and says that when his daughter comes to the age of 18, she would be poisoned by a snake.

The Sultan is affected by the prophecy of the soothsayer and decides to build a tower located on a small islet in the middle of the sea. He places the girls in the tower where only her father goes to visit her regularly. So he thinks he would protect his daughter from the snake.

18 years pass, on the 18th birthday of the princess, a basket of exotic lavish fruits is sent to the princess as a birthday present. Despite of all the precautions taken by, a snake that hides among the fruit, poisons the young

princess and she deceases in her father's arms, just as the soothsayer predicted. The Sultan can not escape the fate .

The Sultan doesn't want his daughter to bury in the ground just to protect her from the snakes. So ,he asks his daughter 's body to be put as the mummy in the coffin on the high walls of Haghia Sophia. In this way he thinks, at least his daughter 's body would be protected from the snakes . It is said that there are two holes seen on the coffin and it is believed that the snake doesn't let her daughter leave alone there, either.