

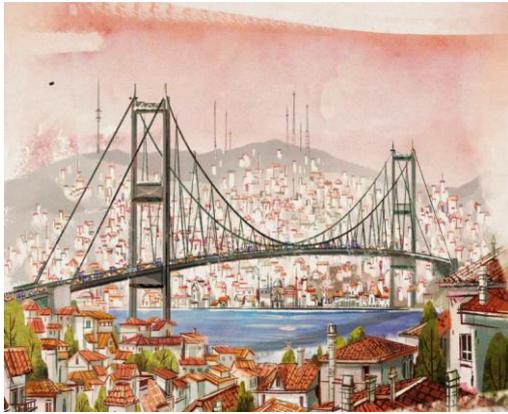
Do MICE LIKE TURKISH DELIGHT?

Sweets have always been an important component of Turkish cuisine. The origin of Lokum -Turkish delight- dates back to the time of the Ottoman Empire. Turkish delight was unveiled to the West in the 19th century. During his travels to Istanbul, an unknown British traveller became very fond of the Turkish delicacies, purchased cases of "rahat lokoum" and shipped them to Britain under the name "Turkish delight". No wonder it is called "Turkish delight" in English as it comes with so many different flavours, nuts and dried fruits. In Turkey, we still serve Turkish delight to our guests especially on Bayram holidays or we still have the habit of buying a huge box full of these little gems and serve them anyone around us when something really great happens to us.

Even if I am really used to this kind of traditions, I was astonished to come across with Turkish delight in the Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. In the series Edmund Pevenise, one of the siblings that are at the centre of the story, is addicted to Turkish Delight and the author of the series C.S Lewis depicts the sweets in such a way that you want nothing but to eat them in an appetent way as Edmund does. It is also a known fact that sales of Turkish delight rose following the theatrical release of the 2005 film version of The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.



Edmund and his famous addiction: "Turkish Delight" from Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.



Still this is not the only example of this kind of a delightful effect of our culture on foreign literary works. A short Mickey Mouse cartoon which takes place in Grand Bazaar, Istanbul was aired on the 18 March 2016. The short cartoon is in Turkish and it is the 11th short to be spoken in another language in the whole Mickey Mouse cartoon series. The cartoon mainly takes place in Grand Bazaar and its Nuruosmaniye Gate. Furthermore, other famous landmarks such as Bosphorus Bridge, Blue Mosque and Galata Tower can be spotted in the background. We see different kinds of exotic animals in the streets of Istanbul such as kangaroos, giraffes, crocodiles throughout the short which depict people from all over the world that our famous city attracts.

Donald and Goofy both have moustaches. Donald sells plates and Goofy sells and plays various stringed instruments such as Turkish yayli tambur and lute. They also wear traditional Turkish street vendor garb that we hardly see on any street vendor nowadays. And on a scene, a “flying carpet” can be clearly seen, which is obviously a reference to the well-known Disney movie Aladdin and has nothing to do with our own culture. So the word here should be “stereotypical”.



Goofy sells and plays various stringed instruments such as Turkish yayli tambur and lute.

Aside from my criticisms of Europeans’ cliché stereotypes about Turkey, it was good and surprising to see our city in a famous and deep-rooted cartoon series from Disney.

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