

## ADİYAMAN MÜZESİ'NDEN NEOLİTİK DÖNEME AİT BİR KADIN HEYKELCİĞİ

### A FEMALE FIGURINE FROM NEOLITHIC PERIOD AT ADİYAMAN MUSEUM

### ЖЕНСКАЯ СКУЛЬПТУРА ЭПОХИ НЕОЛИТА В МУЗЕЕ АДЫЯМАНА

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#### ÖZ

Çanak Çömleksiz Neolitik Dönem ve Çanak Çömlekli Neolitik Dönem'de sık sık karşımıza çıkan kadın heykelcikleri genelde taştan veya pişmiş topraktan yapılırlar. Güneydoğu Anadolu Bölgesi'ndeki Neolitik topluluklar, kadın heykelciklerini dönemin başından itibaren kalıplaşmış bir stilde tasvir ederler. Erken dönemden itibaren karşımıza çıkan bu tarz tasvir şeklinin en belirgin özelliği, kadın heykelciklerinin elleri ön tarafta birleştirilmiş şekilde ve oturarak tasvir edilmeleridir. Adıyaman Müzesi'nde bulunan kadın heykelciği de tasvir şekli itibarı ile benzer özellikler taşımaktadır. Bu çalışmada, Neolitik Dönem'de kadın heykelciklerinin genel özellikleri ile tasvir edilme şekli üzerinde durulacak ve Adıyaman Müzesi'nde bulunan kadın heykelciği hakkında bilgi verilecektir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Kadın Heykelcikleri, Göbekli Tepe, Mezraa Teleilat, Çanak Çömleksiz Neolitik Dönem, Çanak Çömlekli Neolitik Dönem, Adıyaman Müzesi

#### ABSTRACT

The female figurines often encountered at the Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period and Pottery Neolithic Period are predominantly made of stone or terra-cotta. The Neolithic societies in Southeastern Anatolia Region depict the female figurines in a stereotyped style starting from the beginning of the period. The most prominent feature for this form of depiction encountered in the early period is that the female figurines are depicted in sitting position with hands joined in the front side. The female figurine on display at Adıyaman Museum also features similar depiction characteristics. This study shall dwell on the general characteristics and the depiction style of the female figurines in the Neolithic Period and shall give information on the female figurine on display at Adıyaman Museum.

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**Key Words:** Female Figurines, Göbekli Tepe, Mezraa Teleilat, Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period, Pottery Neolithic Period, Adiyaman Museum

### АННОТАЦИЯ

При исследовании эпохи раннего каменного века и керамического века неолита часто встречаются женские скульптурные изделия, изготовленные из камня или обожженной глины. В юго-восточной части Анатолии найдены женские скульптурные фигурки, принадлежащие эпохе неолита. Следует отметить, что изделия этого периода отличаются особым стилем работы. Наиболее отличительной особенностью такого рода изображений, появившихся в ранний период, является то, что женские фигурки изображены в сидячем положении с соединенными руками перед собой. Женская статуя, которая находится в Музее Адьямана, выдержана в таком стиле. В данном исследовании сделаны попытки выявить общие характеристики женских скульптурных фигурок неолитического периода, хранящие в Музее Адьямана.

**Ключевые слова:** статуя женщин, Гёбекли Тепе, Мезраа-телеалат, ранний неолитический период, керамический век, Музей Адьямана.

### Introduction

The Neolithic period female figurines in the Near East appear for the first time at 10 thousand B.C. as made of stone and depicted in a schematic manner (Lesure 2011, 161-162). Terra-cotta female figurines depicted in sitting position, on the other hand, are encountered at Netiv Hagdud at 9 thousand B.C. (Bar-Yosef et al. 1991, 416-417, fig 13). The female figurines depicted in sitting position are then encountered at the centers in all regions after this period. In particular, terra-cotta figurines have been acquired in large quantities at Tell Aswad in Syria (Contenson 1995: fig.126.12,17,20,22; fig. 127. 2.5.15; fig. 128.1,4,9,10). The female figurines also appear at Mureybet in Syria at early Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period (Cauvin 2000, fig.7-8). Another similar find has also been discovered in Iran from early layers of Jarmo settlement (Morales. 1982, 378, Fig. 156.2-4; Fig. 160.8a-b). In the Southeastern Anatolia Region that offer similar finds with the Syria region, on the other hand, plenty of female figurine depictions are available at the Neolithic Period societies that emerge as the first settled societies in the region. The female figurine on exhibit in the collection of Adiyaman Museum and indicated to be discovered near Besni presents identical characteristics with the female figurines we encounter in the Neolithic Period. This figurine is an artifact that we came upon commonly at the last phase of the Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period in terms of style characteristics. The most identical counterparts of the figurine are encountered in Mezra-Teleilat settlement.

Only one figurine depicting a woman has been acquired from the excavations at Göbekli Tepe until today (Schmidt 2006, 235-237; 2010, 246-247, fig. 13). Rather male figurines were unearthed from Göbekli Tepe and similar cult centers (Çelik 2011,242-243, fig.16; 2007, fig.4; 2000, fig.2). Nevertheless, female

figurines are also discovered in addition to the male figurines at Nevalı Çori, a center that feature both a cult area and a civilian settlement (Morsch 2002, Pl.1 – Pl.2). There is a generally accepted notion that the role of the male members of the society is more significant in the society than the role of the women during the Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period due to intensive hunting-gathering activities. One of the most prominent factors in support of this notion is the presence of human or animal figurines or reliefs depicting the male organ. The male statues with phallus discovered at Göbekli Tepe, Yeni Mahalle, Karahan Tepe and Harbetsuvan Tepesi also supports such notion. Another problem is that the female figurines are depicted with similar style since the early period. The female figurines with identical features rather encountered at the Neolithic settlements in Syria, Iraq, Iran and Anatolia suggest that such figurines might belong to a mother goddess.

### **Adıyaman Figurine**

The female figurine at Adıyaman Museum is a figurine made of pebble commonly found in Adıyaman region (Figure 1a-f). The figurine is almost 12 cm in height, 13 cm in length and 8 cm in width. The figurine is discovered as intact. The head, shoulder and back of the figurine in sitting position is slightly inclined backwards, thus allowing the hip to protrude outwards. There is no hip separation line at the hip of the figurine, but the backbone is depicted by carving a slightly leftward curling groove on the back. The feet are integrated in cylindrical form and bears no details. The ears, nose and chin details are prominent at the head part of the figurine. At the body part, the arms are twisted from the elbows and combined at the front side of the figurine, and the hands and the breasts are depicted as joined together. However, a deep groove is carved in order to distinguish the hands and breasts.

The most important find spot with direct resemblance to the Adıyaman female figurine is Mezraa-Teleilat settlement. Most of the female figurines discovered at this settlement are depicted in sitting position with arms folded to the front side of the body (Özdoğan et al. 2001, Pic. 14). These figurines present great similarities with Adıyaman figurine in terms of dimension and depiction style (Özdoğan et al. 2004, 240-241, Pic. 5, Drawing 1-2). Mezraa-Teleilat figurines are also made of stone, depicted in sitting position and with feet depicted in cylindrical structure as is the case of Adıyaman figurine. Their head section feature only the nose, ears and chin details. Some of the figurines' eyes have not been hollowed or don't have arms (Özdoğan et al. 2004, Drawing 1.1).

### **Evaluation and Conclusion**

In conclusion, female figurines depicted with similar characteristics appear throughout Near East. A figurine similar to these female figurine is in Adıyaman Museum and it's been acquired through purchase by Adıyaman Museum with inventory number 2106. The most important feature of Adıyaman figurine is that the figurine is made of stone and is acquired as intact. Therefore, it is possible to observe all details of the figurine. With respect to its style, Adıyaman figurine should be dated to 7800-8000 B.C. due to its similar characteristics that resemble

the female figurines acquired from layer IIIC, one of the transition phases of Merzaa-Teleilat between Pre-Pottery Neolithic and Pottery Neolithic Period. The settlement where this figurine is discovered most probably accommodates culture layers from Neolithic period. This very detailed figurine from Neolithic Period is a significant find as it indicates existence of settlements from Pottery and Pre-Pottery Neolithic period in Adıyaman region.

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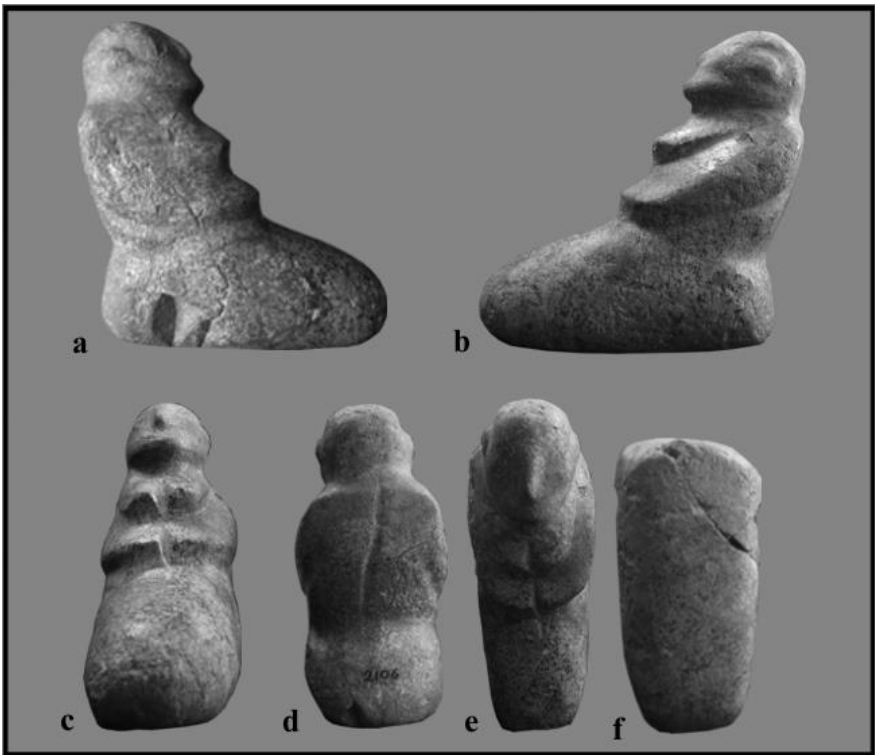


Figure 1: The female figurine made of pebble at Adıyaman Museum.