

Sharon Shane's Travel Journal

2003

Turkey

Istanbul, Izmir,
Didyma, Miletus,
Priene, Selcuk,
Ephesus and
Cappadocia

October - November 2003

Istanbul, Turkey

In 2003 I received an e-mail invitation to be a speaker at the "Call to World Peace" event in Istanbul, Turkey, with the Mevlana Foundation covering all of my travel expenses. Since they were flying us there, I decided to extend the trip and pay for my own further travel around the Turkish countryside along with my friend, Anna, who accompanied me as guest of the foundation. I kept a handwritten journal, and the following is typed directly from my journal of this trip, along with the many photos we took. While putting this together, I made a few notations not in my original journal, which I typed in parentheses.

October 29, 3003 - Wednesday

Met at the airport by the foundation members, Sayun, Oktai and Ali. Short bus tour on the way to the hotel. Heard the call to prayer. Showered and was taken on tour of archeological museum.

October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

View from hotel window



## October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

View from hotel window



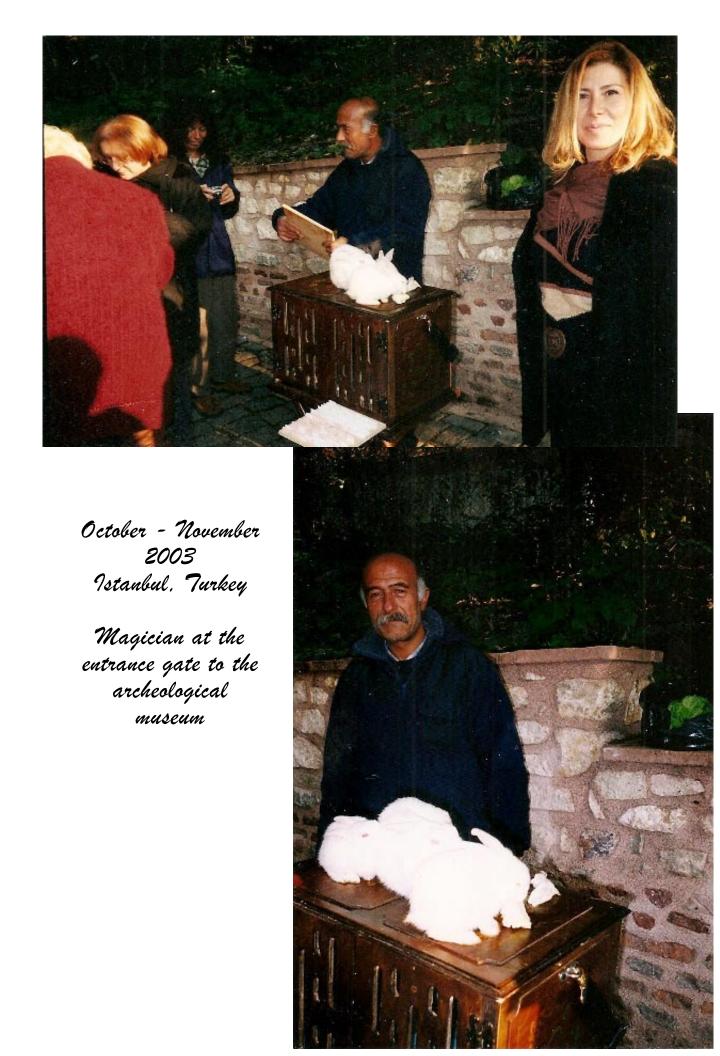
October 29, 3003 - Wednesday (continued)

(At the archeological museum) Saw sarcophagus, beautiful inscriptions, black soapstone with heiroglyphics so clear. Lillian and I were overwhelmed by the energy.

October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Entrance gate to the archeological museum







October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey
The Archeological Museum
Above - Anna with John Tenney and Lillian
Below - Inside the gate at the front entrance to
the archeological museum





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey The Archeological Museum Above - Tile mosaic of a horse Below - Sarcophagus from Egypt





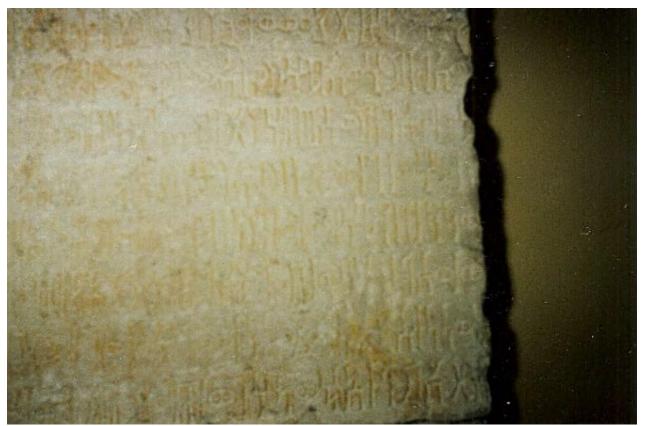


October - November 2003 Istanbul, Turkey The Archeological Museum

Above- Egyptian Statues

Right - Egyptian Cat Statues

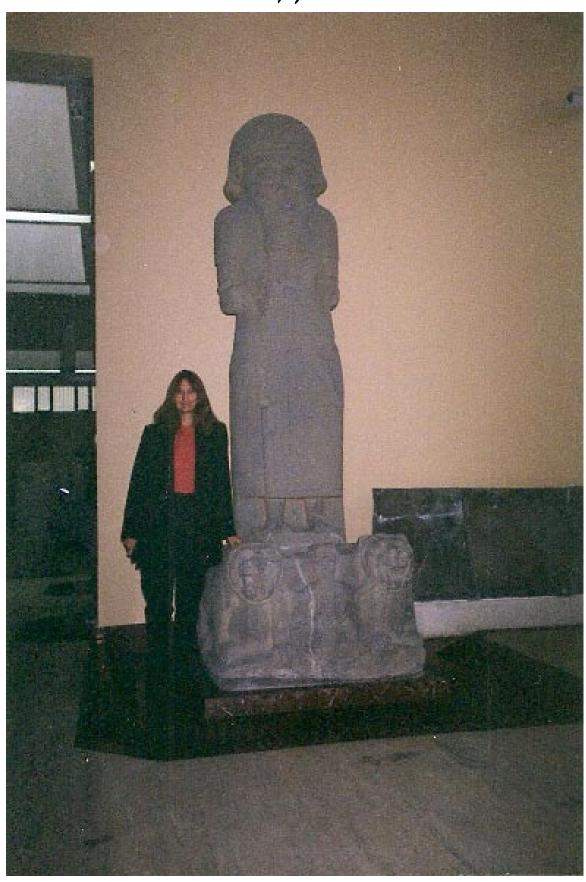




October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey The Archeological Museum



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey
The Archeological Museum
Me and "my girl" Artemis



## October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey The Blue Mosque

October 29, 3003 (continued)

Back to hotel - one hour nap - out to dinner to meet more foundation members and the Mevlana. Long, intense, cosmic conversations and magical connections. I wanted to hug everyone at the table, as I sat in silence looking around at all of them. There was so much light and love exuding that I thought the huge, long dining table could levitate. We met Ahmet, the man who would head up the panel of speakers, and he gave us a briefing of the event and our speaking line-up. He handed us a beautiful personalized invitation to the event.

Lillian told Ahmet she was seeing the sacred Tree of Life like a grid over his face and blue colors telling him he had some connection with the Knights of the Templars. This triggered the "Bill" connection for me, and I told Ahmet I would share some of Bill's geometry grid diagrams with him. (Bill was a man in Colorado, a sacred geometrist, that I met through e-mail and Anna, Michelle and I later met with on a road trip to his house)

The restaurant was beautiful and elegant and the food was delicious.

October 30, 2003 - Thursday

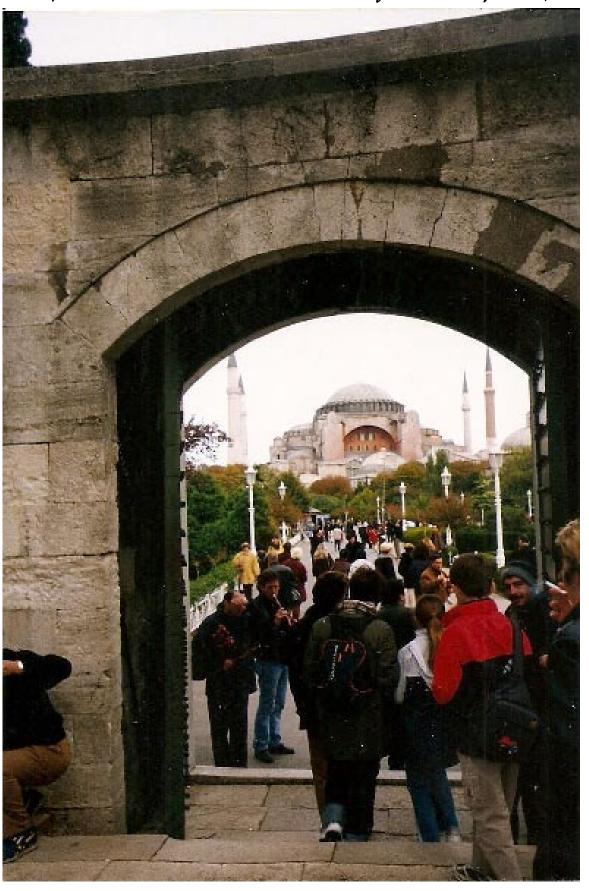
Woke up to the "call to prayer." Ate breakfast in the hotel and met with a few of our group.

Tour - Blue Mosque, Hagia (Aya) Sophia, Underground Cistern (into the soul), lunch at The Pudding Shop (hippie hangout in the 60's) and Topkapi Palace.

Blue Mosque - First mosque I ever entered. Learned about the prayer rugs on the floor. One for each person all for facing southeast Mecca to pray. Blue tiles line the ceilings in varying patterns.

## October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Courtyard entrance to the Blue Mosque Courtyard connects between the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia

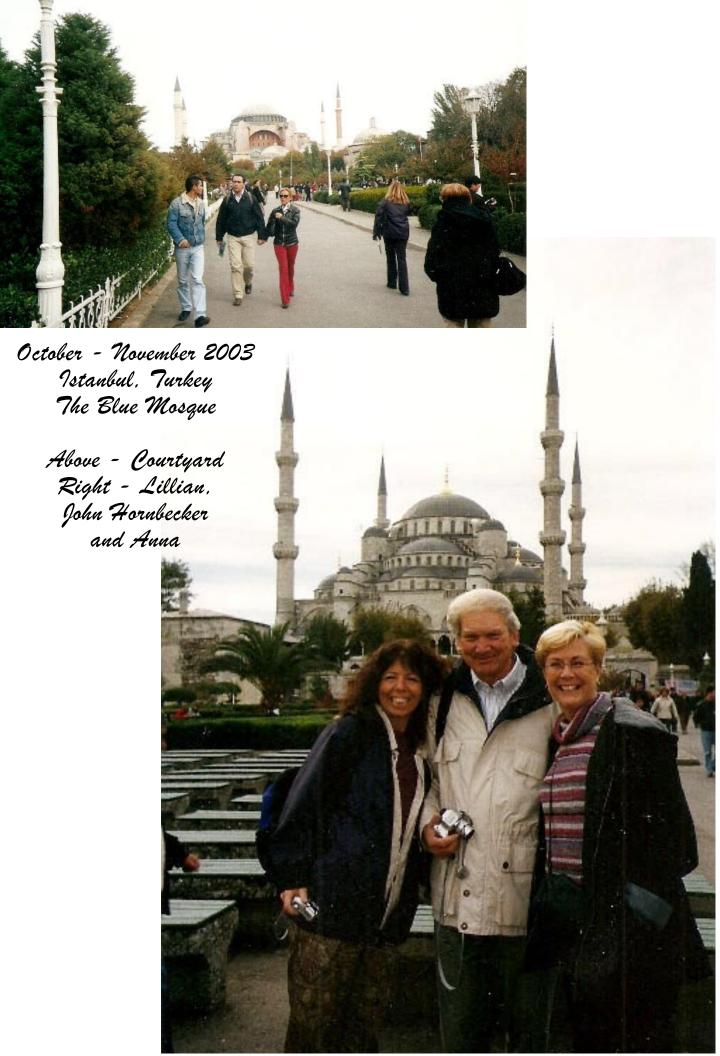


October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Me at the Blue Mosque

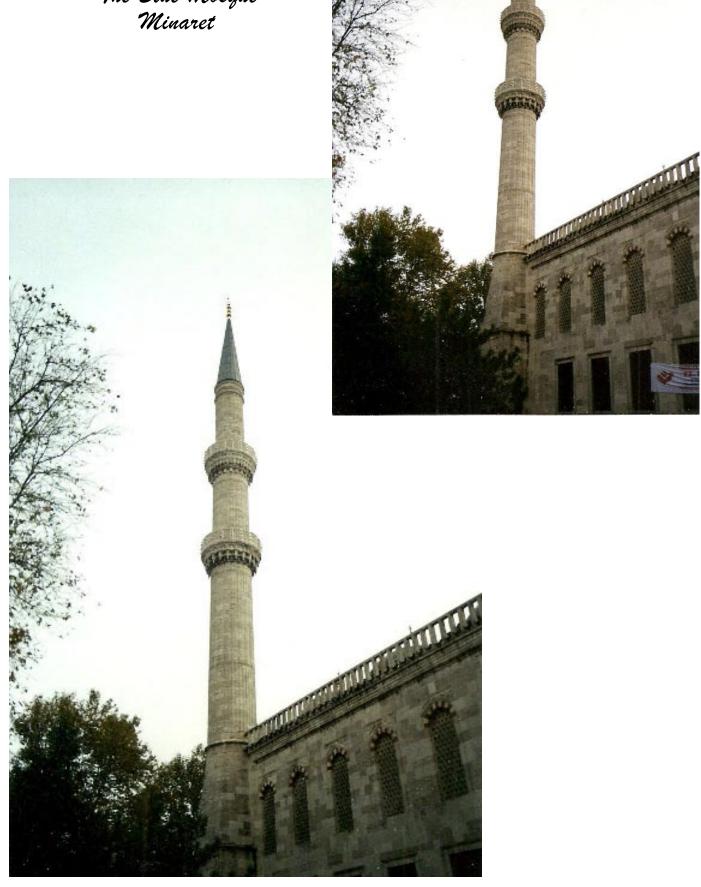




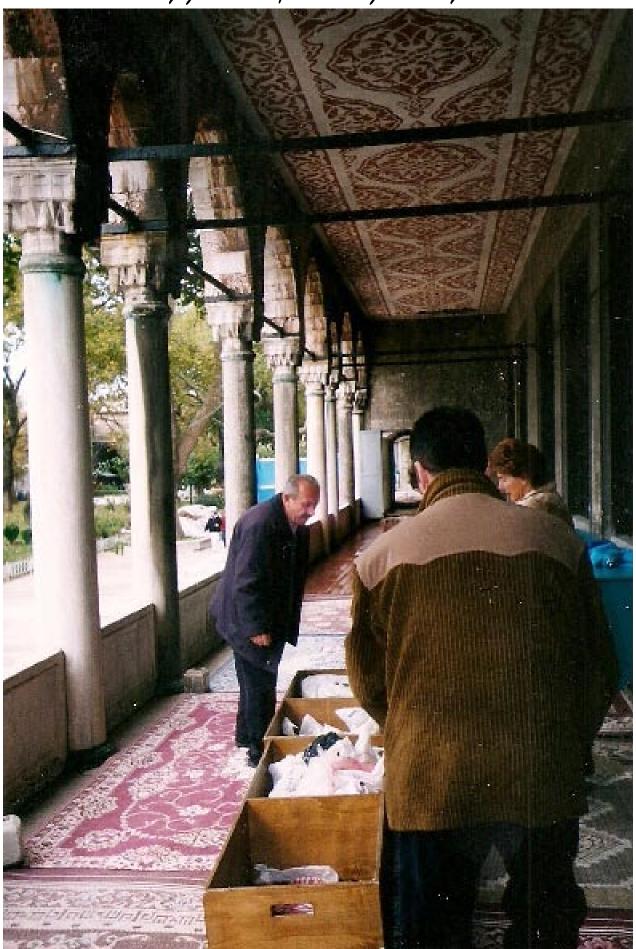


October - November 2003 Istanbul, Turkey

The Blue Mosque

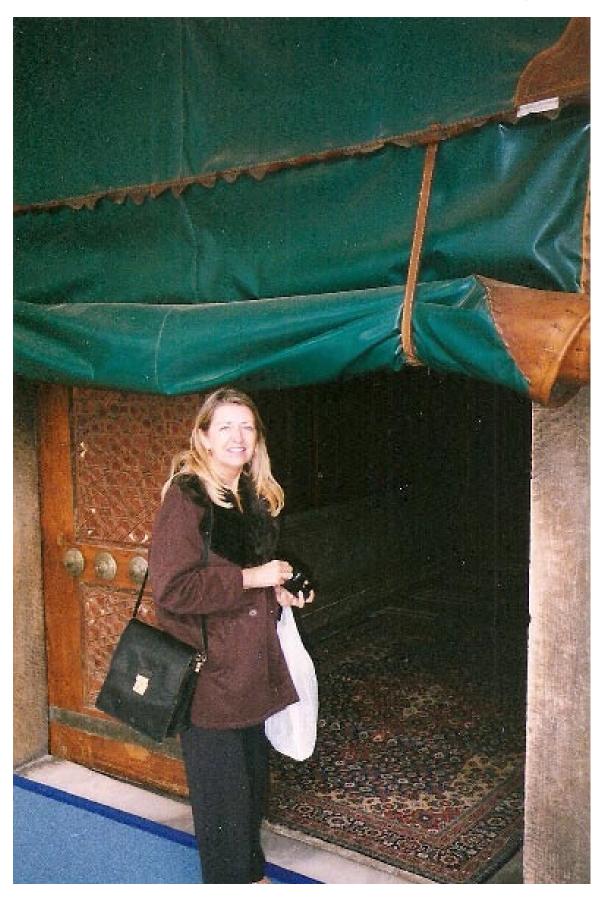


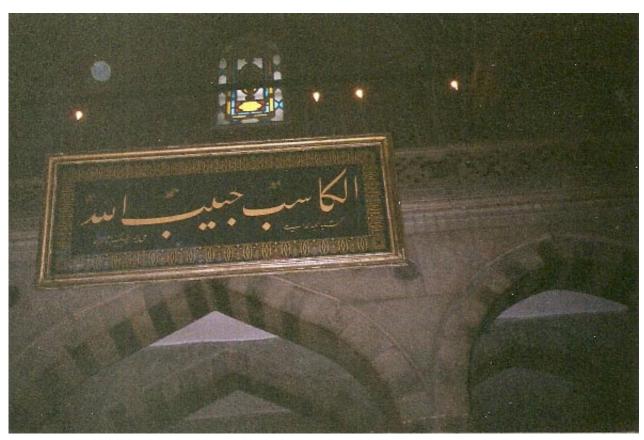
October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey At the entrance to the Blue Mosque, we took our shoes off and they gave us a plastic bag to carry them in.



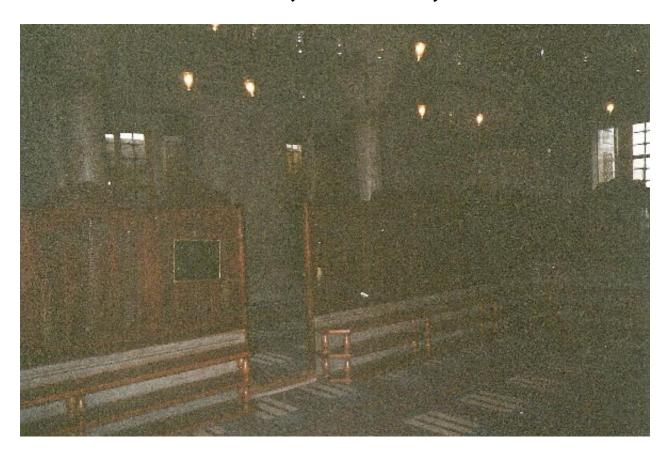
October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Maggie Eritokritou at the entrance to the Blue Mosque

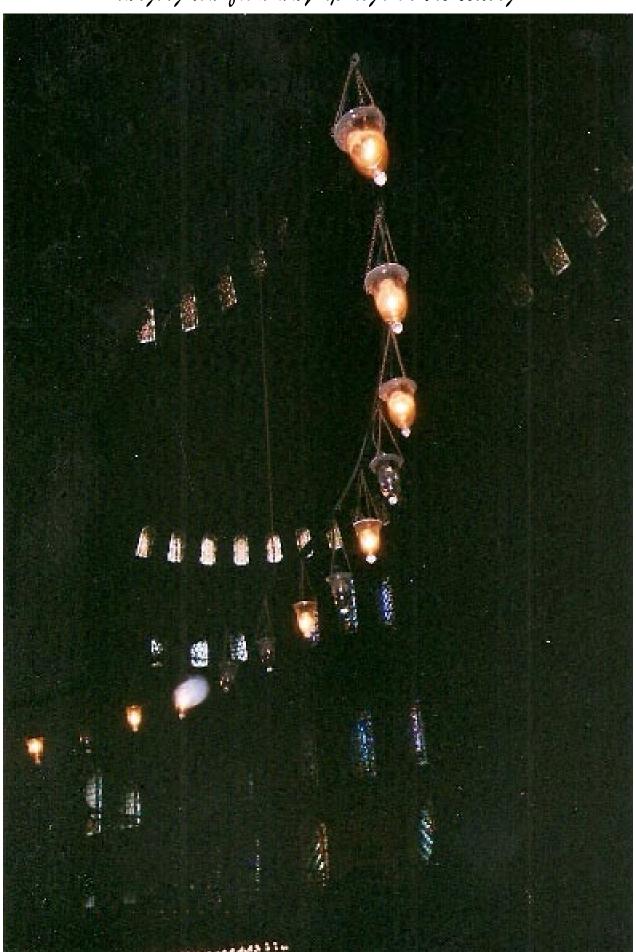




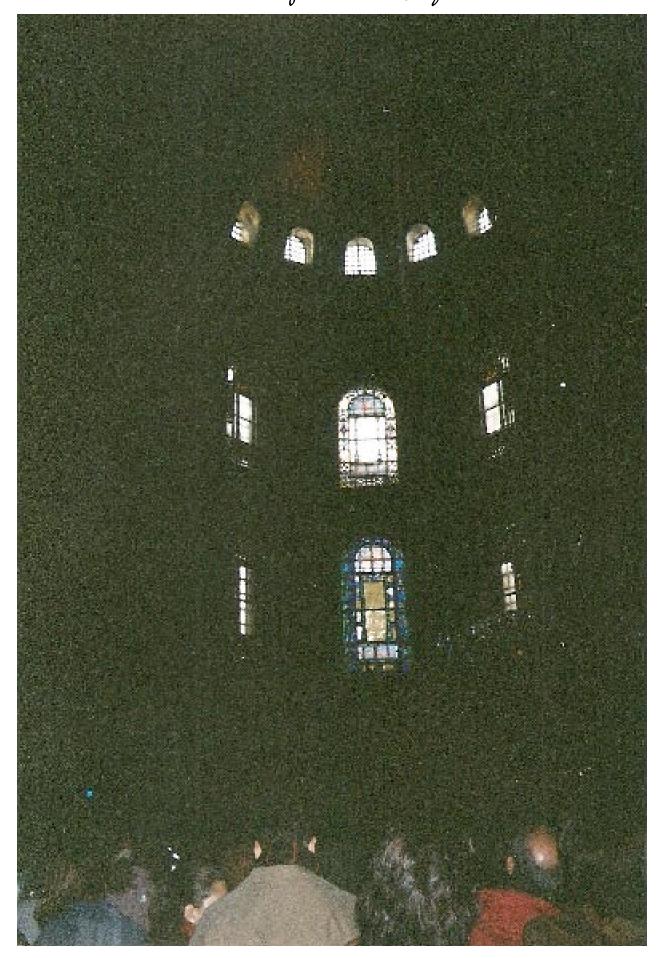
October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey
Interior of the Blue Mosque



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Interior of the Blue Mosque huge chandeliers hanging low from way up high on the ceiling



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey
Interior of the Blue Mosque



(We walked through the connecting courtyard from the Blue Mosque to ) Hagia (Aya) Sophia - was Christian church, turned into a mosque, turned into a museum.

October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey
On the walk in the courtyard from Blue Mosque to Hagia Sophia



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Tea vendors in the courtyard outside Hagia Sophia



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Cute dog sitting on wall outside of Hagia Sophia



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

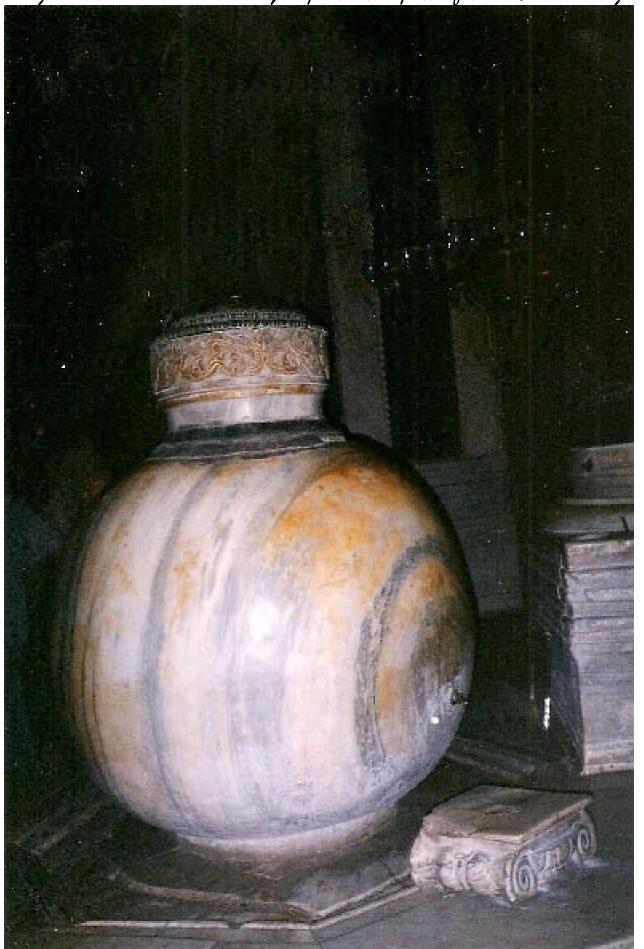
Another photo of the cute dog sitting on wall outside of Hagia Sophia



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Me at the ornate front door of Hagia Sophia



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Interior Hagia Sophia - Very large water jug almost as tall as me. Washing and cleanliness is a very important aspect of the Muslim religion.



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Interior Hagia Sophia - A much smaller water jug



October 30, 2003 - Thursday (continued)

(Speaking of water...we next headed to the ancient Roman underground cistern water system.)

Underground Cistern - had an art exhibit going on. Hi-tech light and video shows with music made it seem to overlap ages of man/time. Like a journey into "the underworld, the landscape of the soul." Water dripping from the celiings tapping out the rhythm of time like a gentle reminder of movement within the vast, still silence of the looming columns that fade like yesteryears distant into the darkness. Medusa laying on her side resting her weary head in the reflecting pool of time, only to be resurrected to the conscious time and time again. Sleep for now, Medusa, for someone will call on you again soon.

## October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Police station across the street from the Underground Cistern entrance



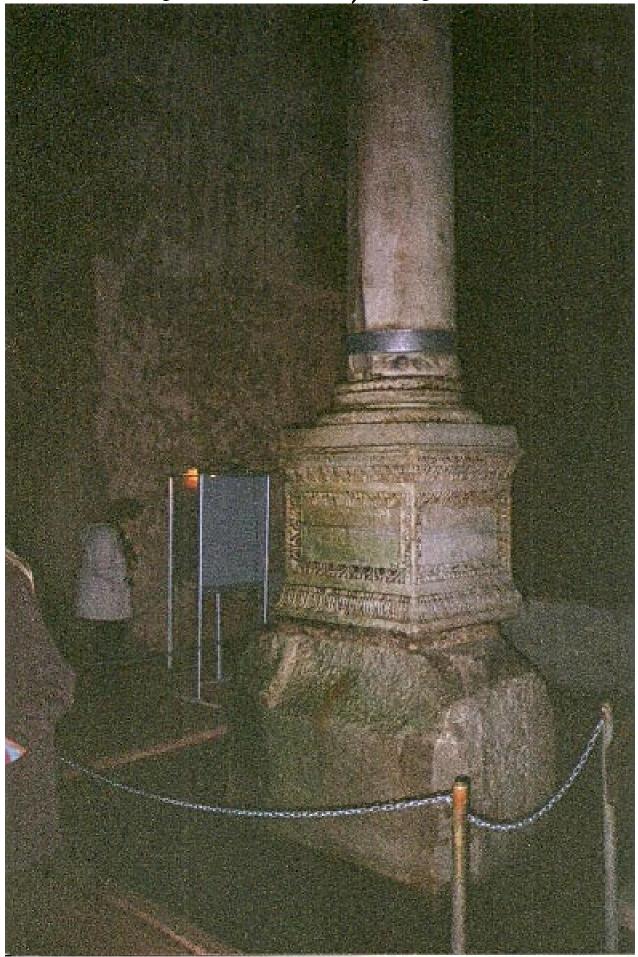
October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Column in the Underground Cistern



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

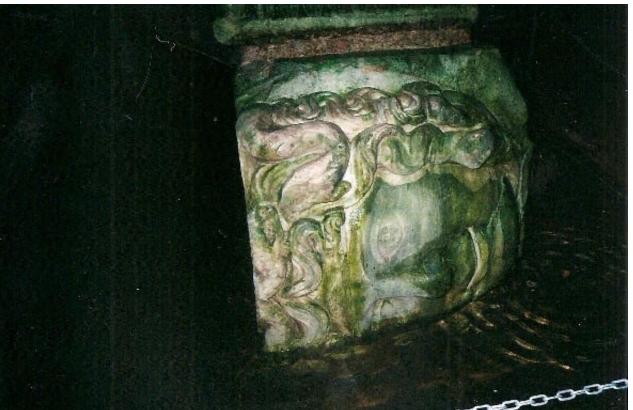
Column in the Underground Cistern

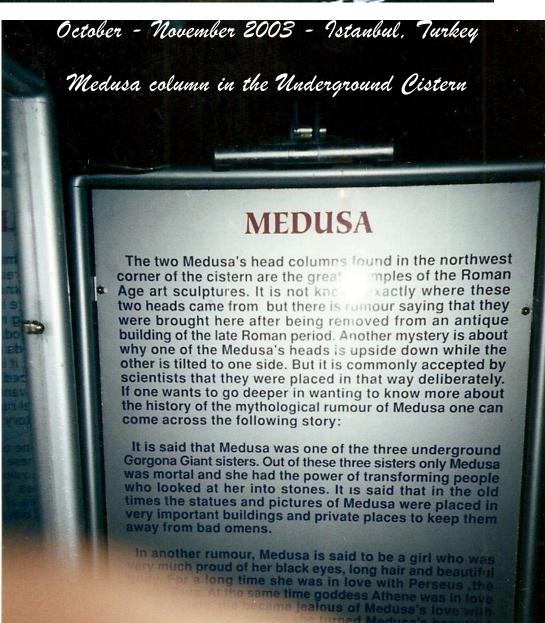


October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Medusa column in the Underground Cistern







October 30, 2003 - Thursday (continued)

Lunch - Anna tasted Turkish coffee = mud, while a few of us sampled the local Cay (pronounced chai - Turkish word for tea).

Topkapi Palace - Saw the remains of the arm and head of John the Baptist, which was severed and displayed in jeweled encasements. Eerie-the barbarism.

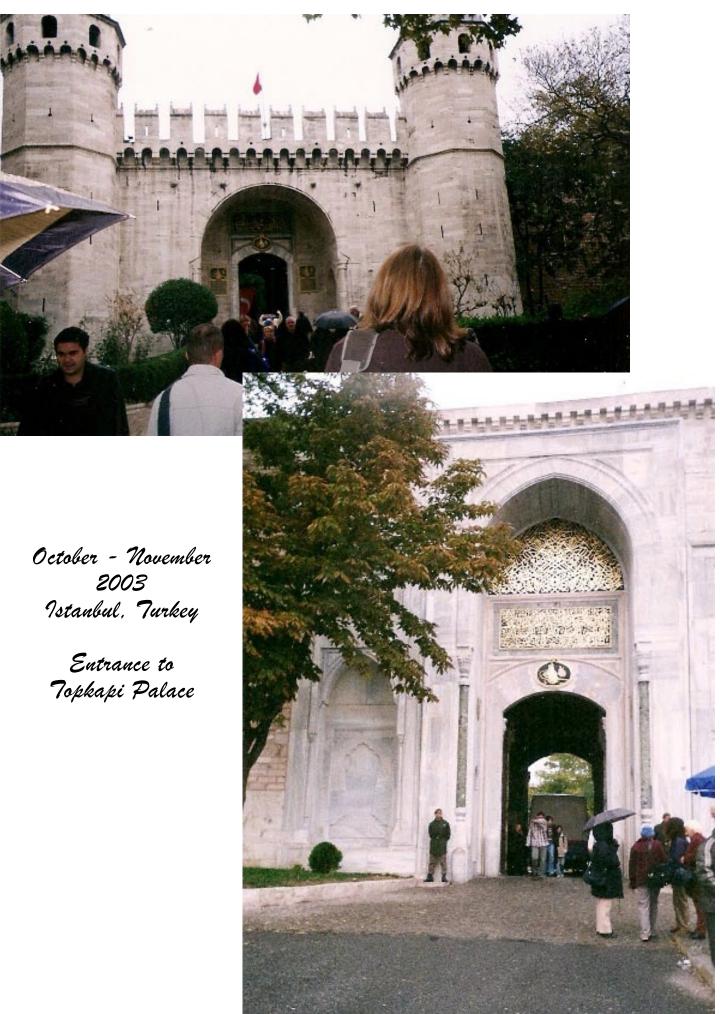
Exhaustion set in, as lightworker syndrome hit my body hard. Too much vibration of the 13 million people living in Istanbul plus tourists assaulting my sensitivities.

Napped at the hotel. Woke to join John, Lillian, Anna, Meredith, Dave and Maggie for a stroll in the light drizzle to fnid a restaurant. More cosmic talk, sharing psychic phenomena personal accounts, good food, laughter. Ended with a group hut and a "spaceship" toning chant.

October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Entrance to Topkapi Palace





# I'm not sure if this was Topkapi Palace or somewhere else

October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey



Arrived at the Mevlana Supreme Foundation offices. We were greeted graciously and cordially by the staff and led into their conference room. The Mevlana spoke to each one of us in an incredible spiritual exchange of higher knowledge, love and laughter. She asked if they could take passages from my latest book and translate them into Turkish for their people to read. There were many confirmations of the work we are all doing shared on many levels.

We were led into an adjoining room where they had laid out a table of homemade food for our lunch. After eating, we were given gifts of mugs, T-shirt, keychain and a beautiful plaque in caligraphy with a quote from *The Knowledge Book*. We then continued with her speaking to each of the rest of the people. We all added our own insights. At one point I read a channeled message that I had received the night before from Thoth.

Even though we were served much food for lunch and not hungry, they took us all to an elegant restaurant for another lengthy feast of a 4-course meal. More talk, cultural exchange with people from Turkey, USA, South Africa, Russia and Israel.

Back to the hotel and fell into bed.

October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Lunch at the Mevlana Foundation office





October - November 2003 Istanbul, Turkey

Evening dinner at an elegant restaurant

Above - Me waiting to go upstairs to our private dining area

Right - Ornate glass doorway to dining area





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Evening dinner at an elegant restaurant Below - Hazel, Dave, Ali, Anna and Wim





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Evening dinner at an elegant restaurant Lillian, John Hornbecker, Me, Oktai





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Evening dinner at an elegant restaurant Below - Leon and Menorah Cherny, Bulent and Seyun Corak





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Evening dinner at an elegant restaurant Below - John and Meredith Tenney in the middle







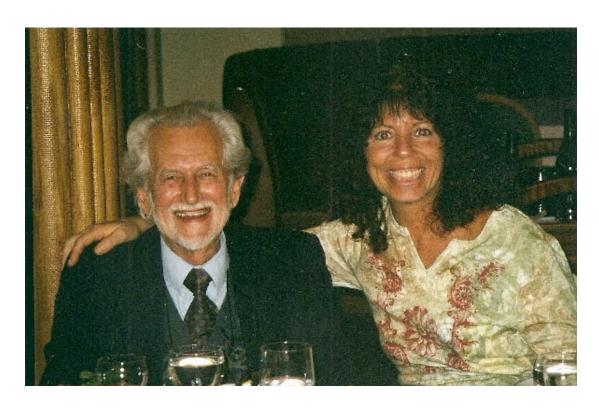






October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey
Evening dinner at an elegant restaurant
Above - Leon and Menorah Cherney
Below - Lillian and Oktai





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Evening dinner at an elegant restaurant Above - Wim and Lillian and Below Meredith Tenney on the left





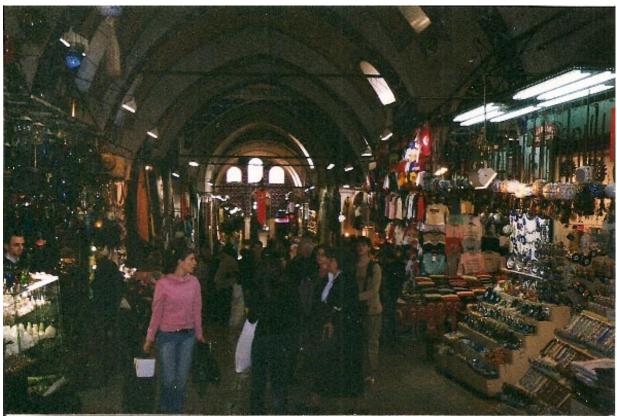
October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Evening dinner at an elegant restaurant Above - Maggie on the left and Below - John Tenney on right



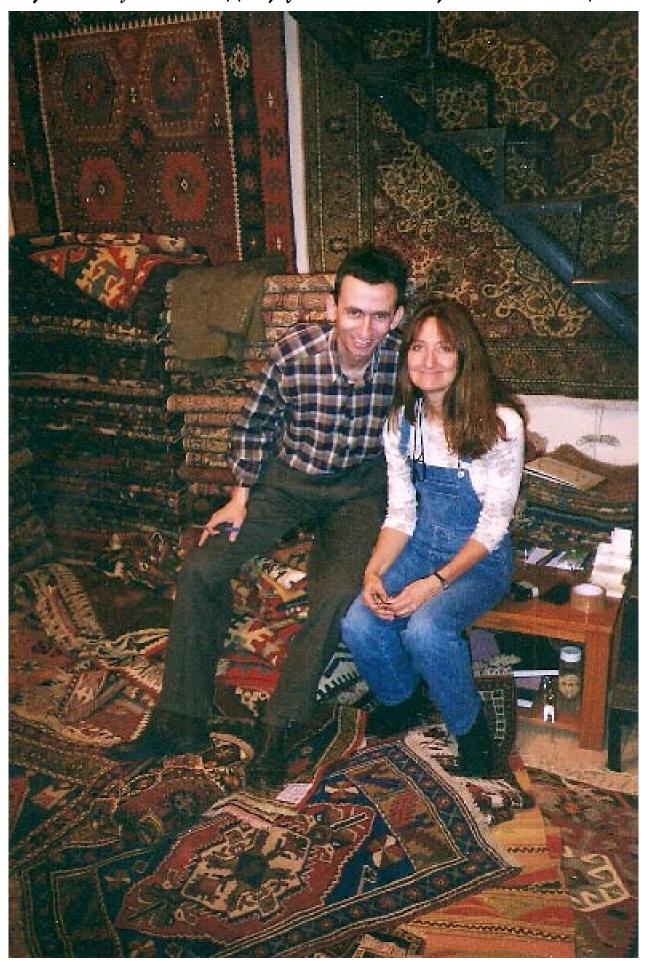
10:00 AM - Depart for shopping at The Grand Bazaar and Egyptian Spice Market. We spent too much time at the bazaar, so we had to skip the Spice Market. Bought souvenirs and sat in a restaurant with Mevlana picture on the wall.

October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey The Grand Bazaar





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey The Grand Bazaar - Shopping for a Persian rug - Me with shop owner





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey The Grand Bazaar -Above - Shopping for a Persian rug - Me and Maggie Below - Tea in the Cafe



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey The Grand Bazaar - Mevlana - Whirling Dervish picture on cafe wall.



November 1, 2003 - Saturday (continued)

Lunch at the Orient Express restaurant. Once again we were lavished with many courses = too much food! (The famous Orient Express train station was converted into a restaurant.)

The Orient Express Restaurant



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey
The Orient Express front exterior

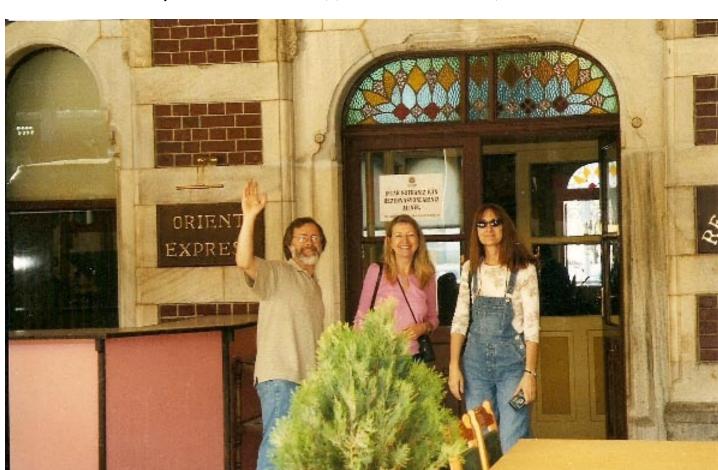


October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey
The Orient Express front exterior





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Above - The back of the Orient Express restaurant-trains no longer run Below - John Tenney, Maggie and me leaving the restaurant



Returned to the hotel just in time to shower and meet again in the lobby to be driven to the opera house for the symposium.

Elegance is the word to describe this event. Each speaker was assigned their own personal assistant, one of the members of the Universal Brotherhood Union. We were briefed by our assistant how to use the headphones to listen to the translations from Turkish to English. There were three translators backstage doing simultaneous translating during the event. We were seated in the front row. Introduction video by the Mevlana-Bulent Corak. As the event began, we were each introduced and led on stage by our assistant to our seats on the panel. I was the fourth speaker. In my opening when I stated how honored I was to be there, I got choked up and everyone applauded. It was a joy to be applauded for my sincere feelings of gratitude. I gave my speech and also as I concluded with my statement of feeling gratitude, I welled up in tears and the audience was moved. Many people came up to me afterwards returning such gratitude and love during the intermission. My assistant got us refreshments, and I spoke with many in the audience. One young woman thanked me for she was able to see how her fear was keeping her clinging to her anger in her life. She said my speech helped her see that. Another Turkish husband and wife couldn't speak English but kept telling me "Good, good!" with emphasis. Everyone gave me the kiss on each cheek that is their custom. Before intermission the speakers were awarded beautiful plexiglass awards and certificates.

October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium Opera Hall Lobby





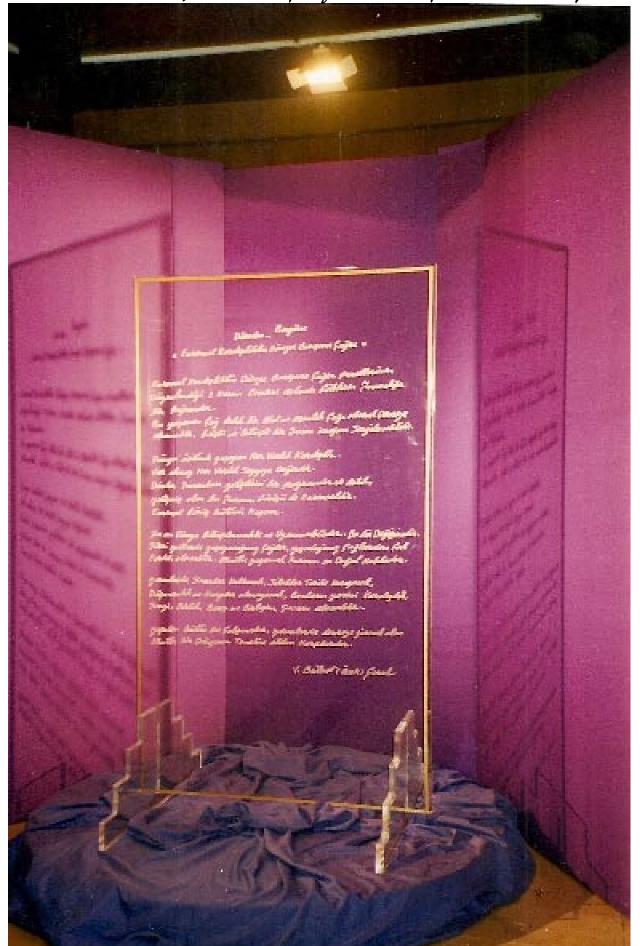
October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

Call to World Peace Symposium

A trio of musicians playing classical music in the Opera Hall Lobby



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium A Mevlana Foundation plague in the Opera Hall Lobby





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium The audience of over 800 people







October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium Above - Me and the other speakers in the front row of the audience Below - Me being escorted by my assistant and seated on stage



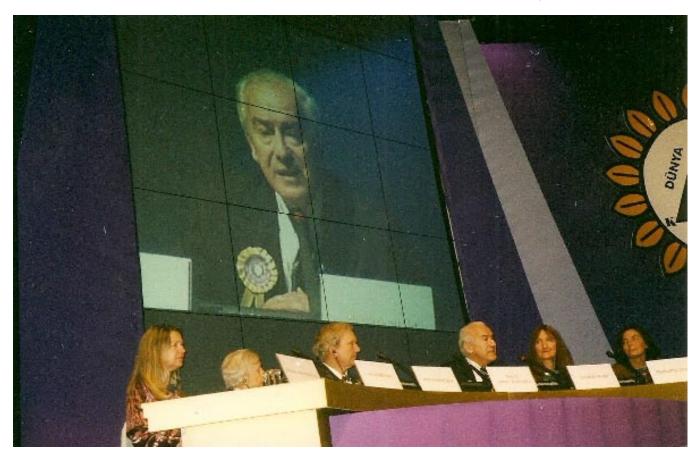
Me and my personal assistant on stage.





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium

Me and and the other panel members on stage



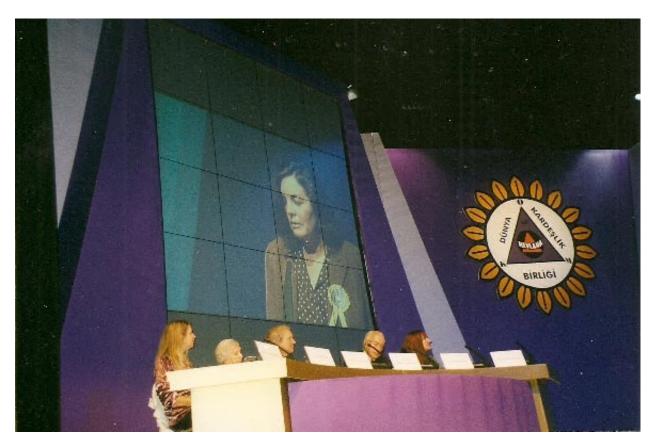


October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium Me and and the other panel members on stage

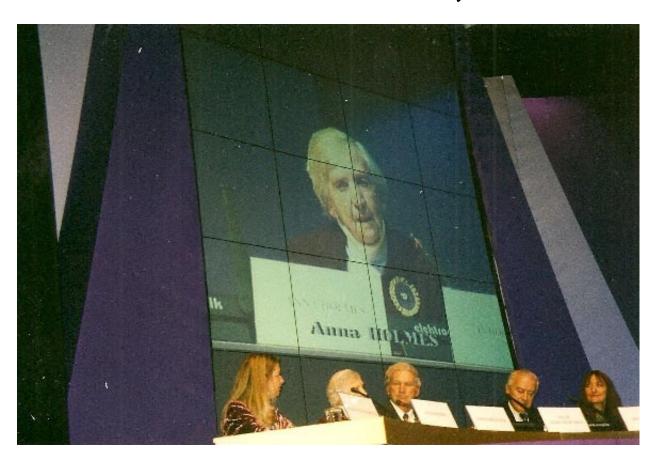


Me on stage





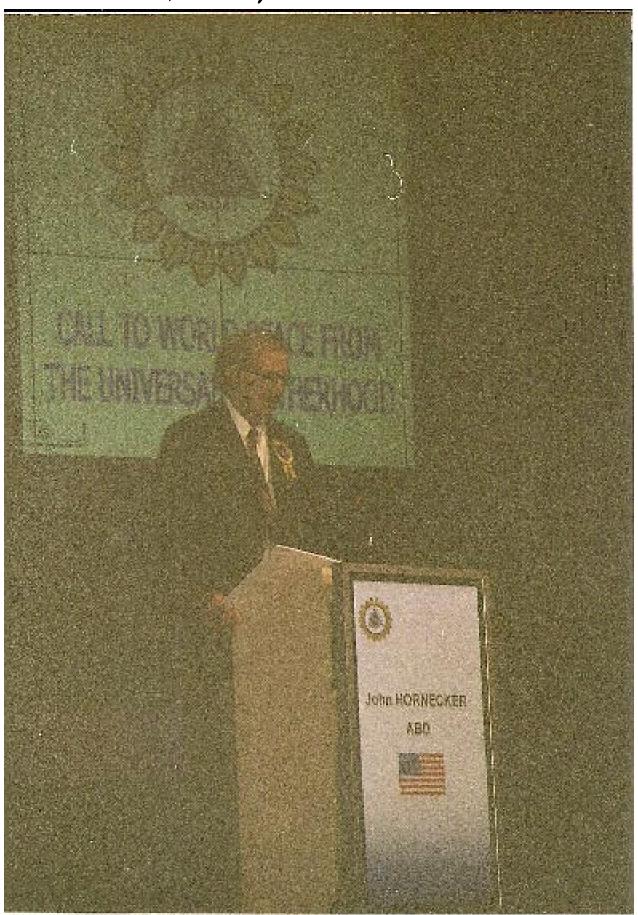
October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey
Call to World Peace Symposium
The panel and speakers on the overhead big screen
Above - Meredeth Tenney - USA
Below - Anna Holmes-South Africa



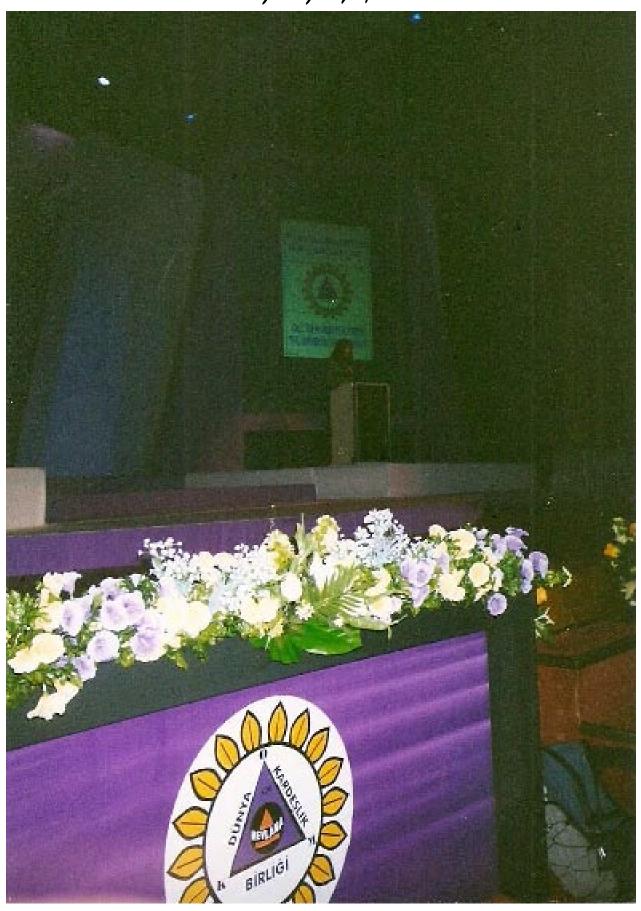
Speaker - Maggie Eritokritou (British but from Cypress)



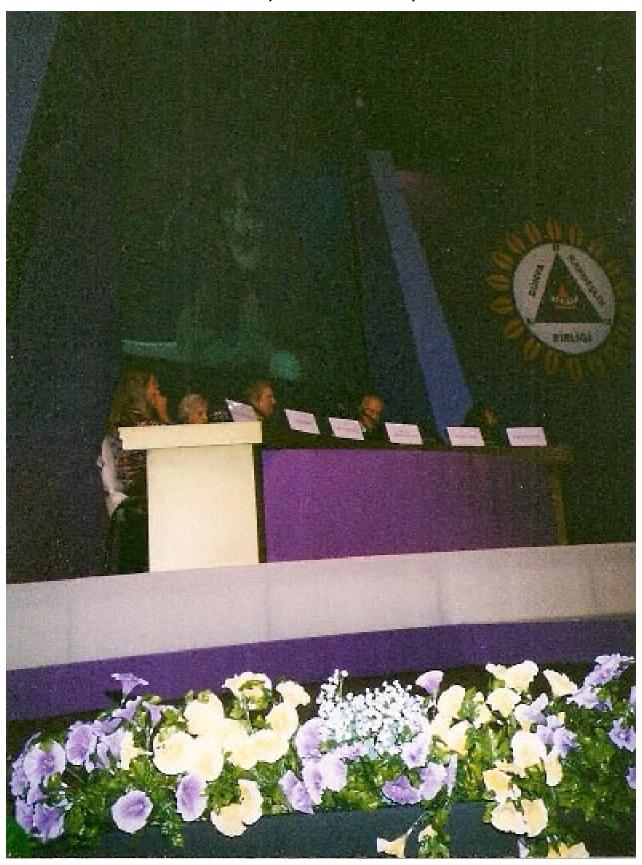
Speaker - John Hornbecker -USA

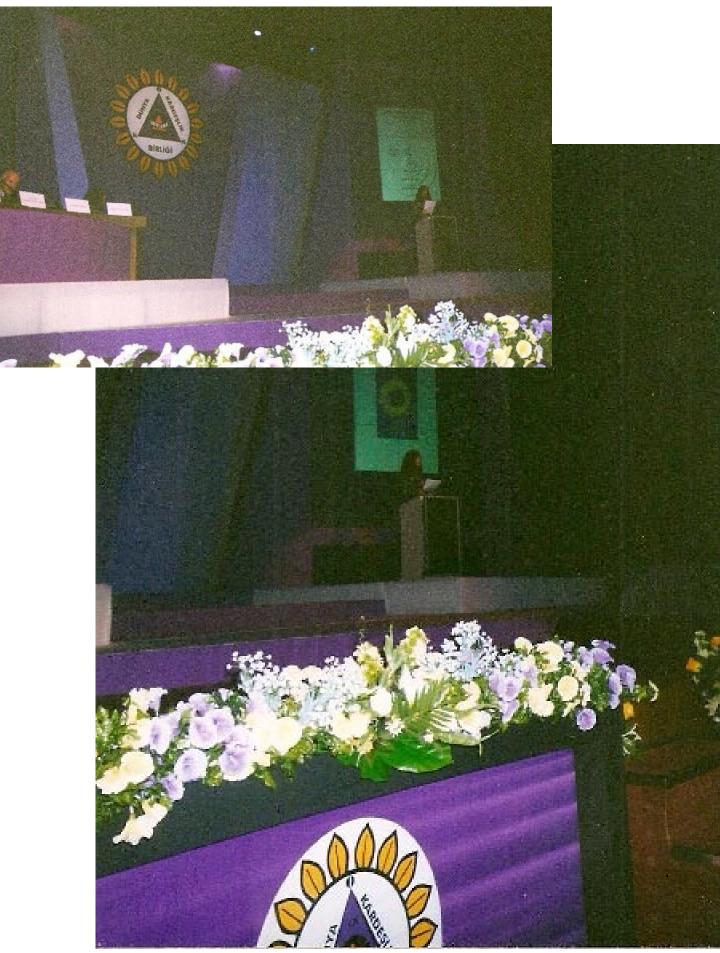


Me giving my speech



Panel on stage and me on big screen



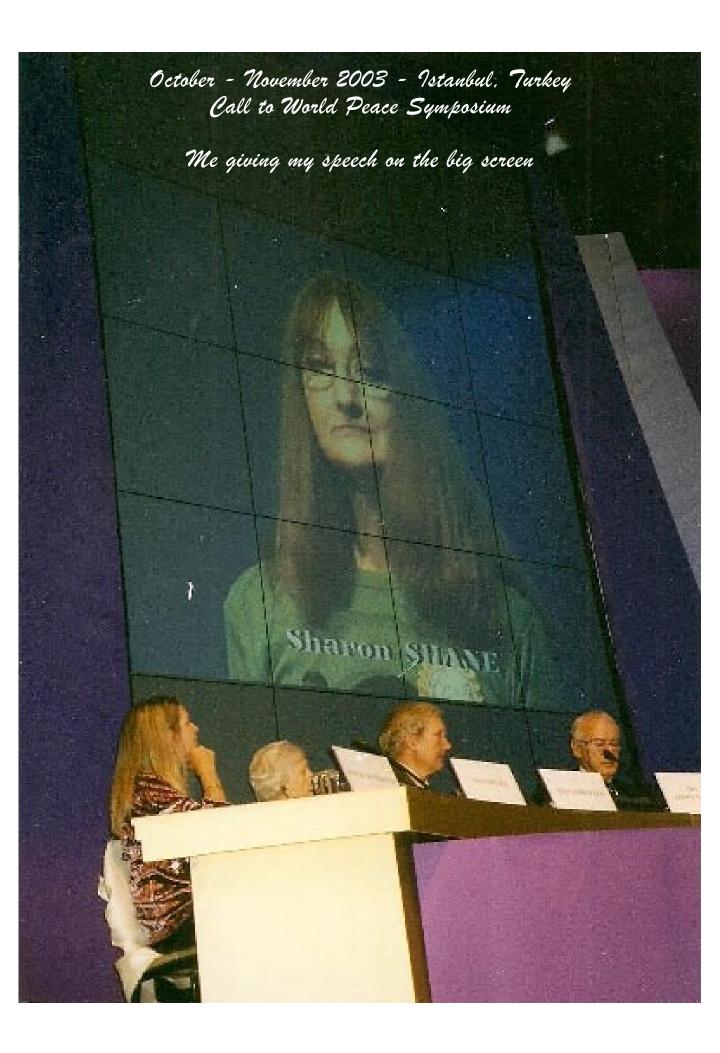


October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium Me giving my speech

Me giving my speech

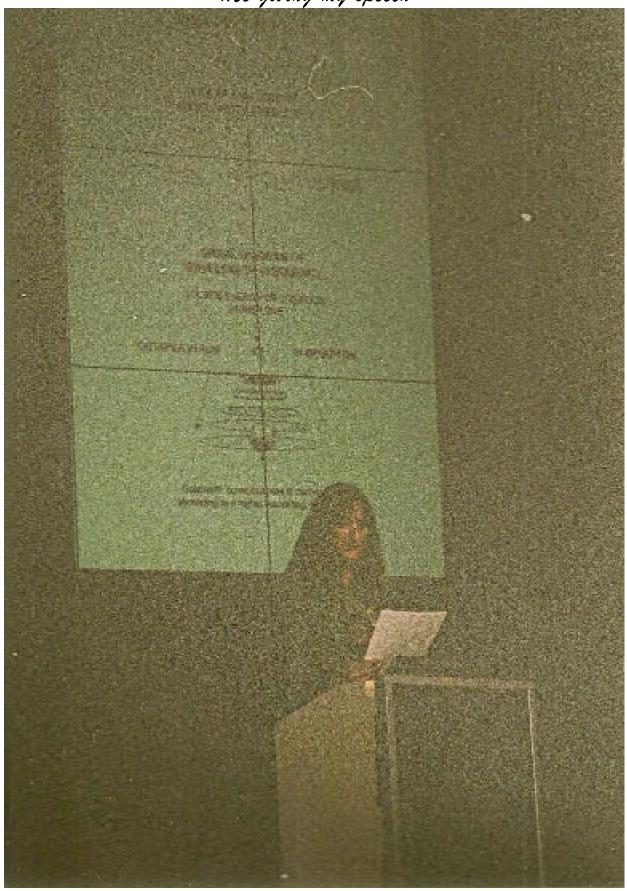




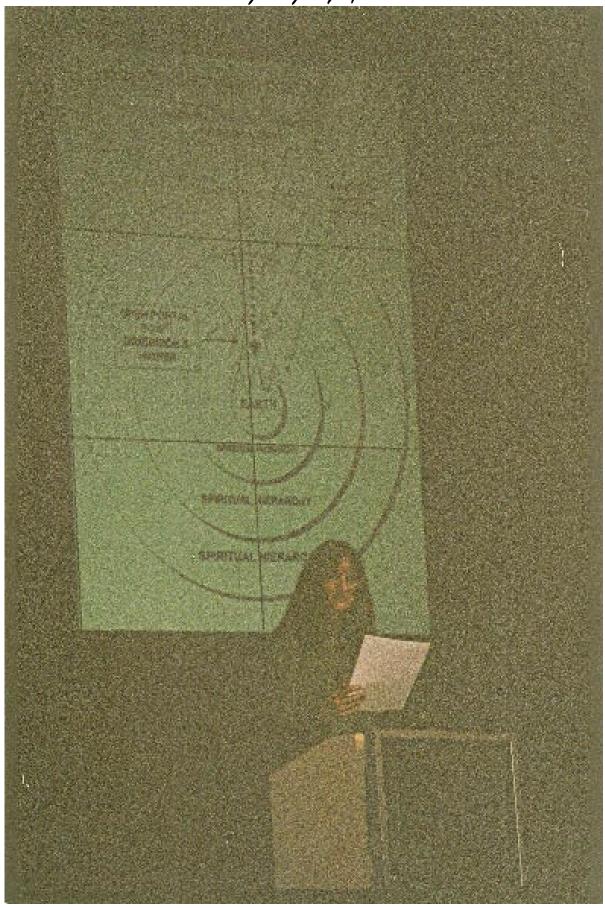


## October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium

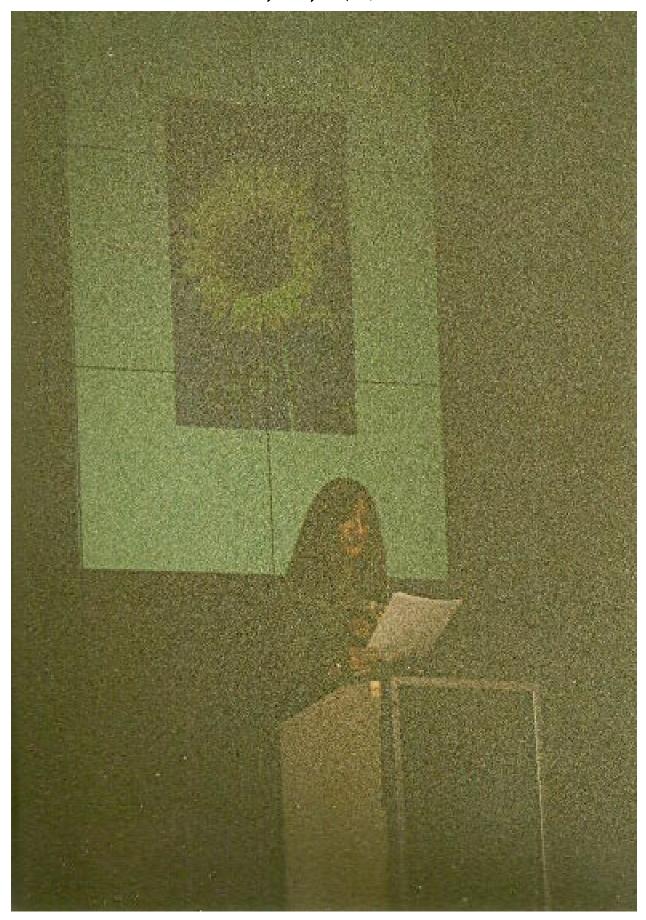
Me giving my speech



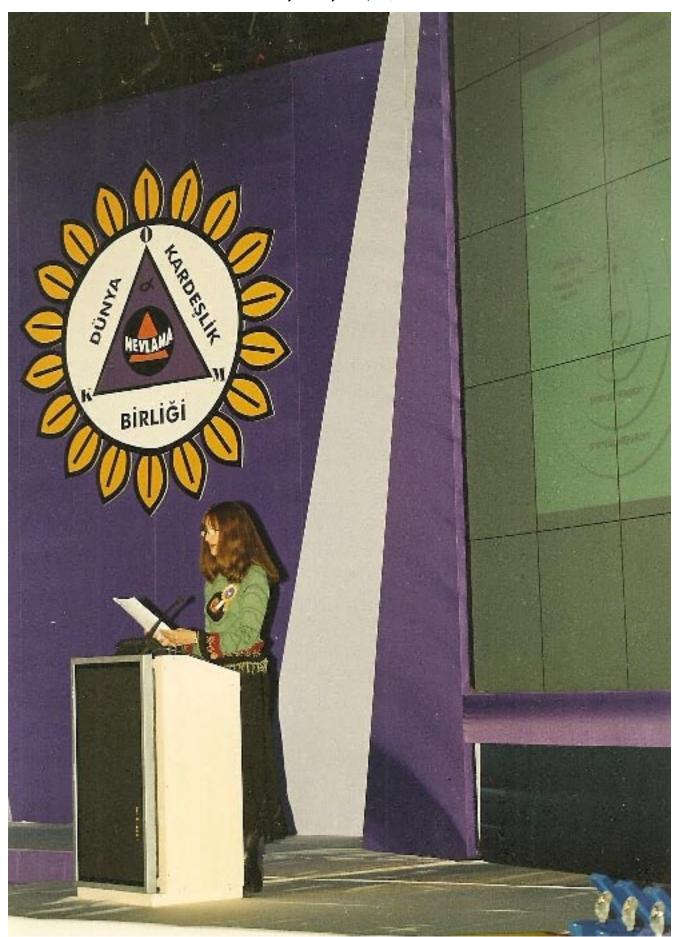
October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium Me giving my speech



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium Me giving my speech



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium Me giving my speech

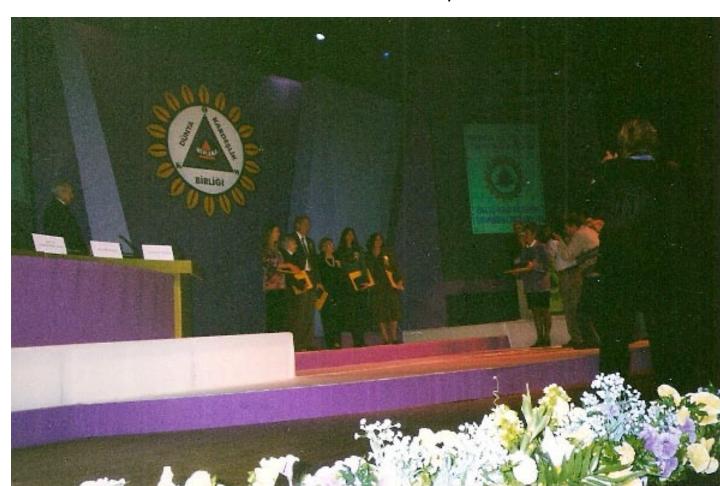


October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium Me giving my speech





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium The awards ceremony





October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium The awards ceremony



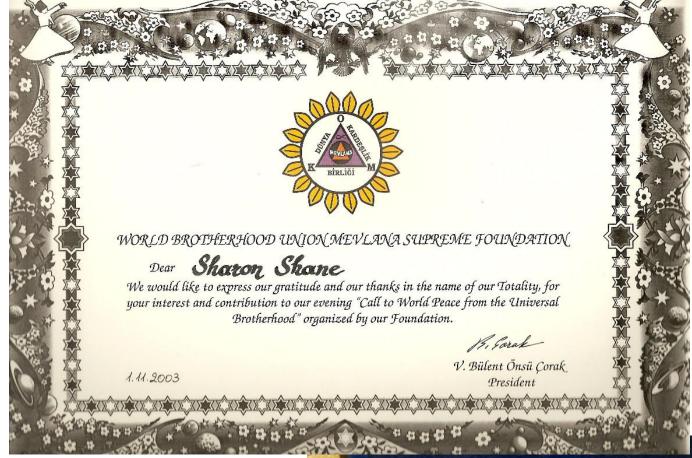


October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium The awards ceremony



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Call to World Peace Symposium The awards ceremony





October - November 2003
Istanbul, Turkey
Call to World Peace
Above - My certificate
Right - My award in its
velvet lined case

November 1, 2003 - Saturday *(continued)* 

Before intermission the speakers were awarded beautiful plexiglass awards and certificates. The award is a world being held by two loving hands. There was a concert by some young people with beautiful operatic voices and classical musicianship. Then the awards ceremony. At the conclusion we took pictures on stage with the Mevlana and her daughter, Seyun. The Mevlana personally invited me back next year as their guest. Seyun told me I had to come back and stay longer.

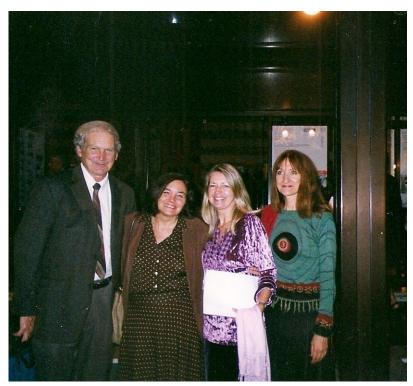




October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey
Call to World Peace Symposium
Exiting the Opera Hall on the outside steps
John, Meredith, Maggie and Me

November 1, 2003 - Saturday (continued)

On the bus waiting to return to the hotel, a young man jumped on the bus to thank me and ask for my contact info saying he will e-mail me.



The Foundation gave us so many gifts and so much love. I am coming to witness that there are indeed two worlds of extreme. For the past four days I was in a world of enlightened and awakened beings emanating so much love, generosity and peace, all the while we moved in our group among the consensus world locked in their fear and ignorance. For the first time I felt to be among my true spiritual family.

## October - November 2003

Izmir, Didyma, Miletus, Priene, Selcuk and Ephesus Turkey

## November 2, 2003 - Sunday

9:00 AM - Mike and Karen from Amber Tours met us at the Izmir Airport. They drove us to Didyma where we had tea at a restaurant overlooking The Temple of Apollo. Mike took us on the tour of the temple and explained the history, religious traditions and architecture. Such beauty among the ruins. Afterward we had lunch at the same restaurant.

October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey

Arriving at Izmir Airport.



October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey

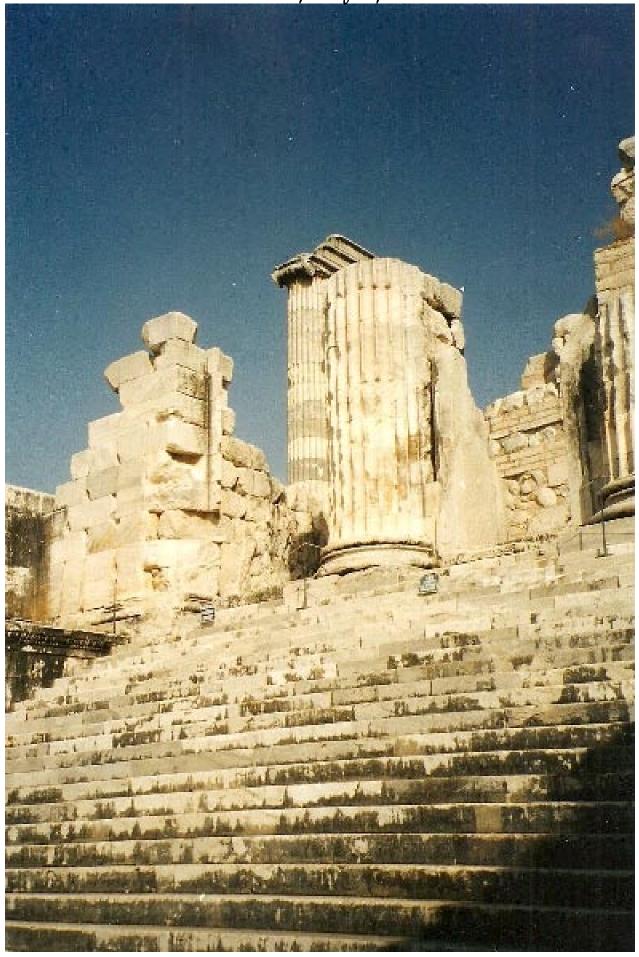
Cat sitting next to
Anna in the restaurant
Across the street we
could see this view of
the Temple of Apollo



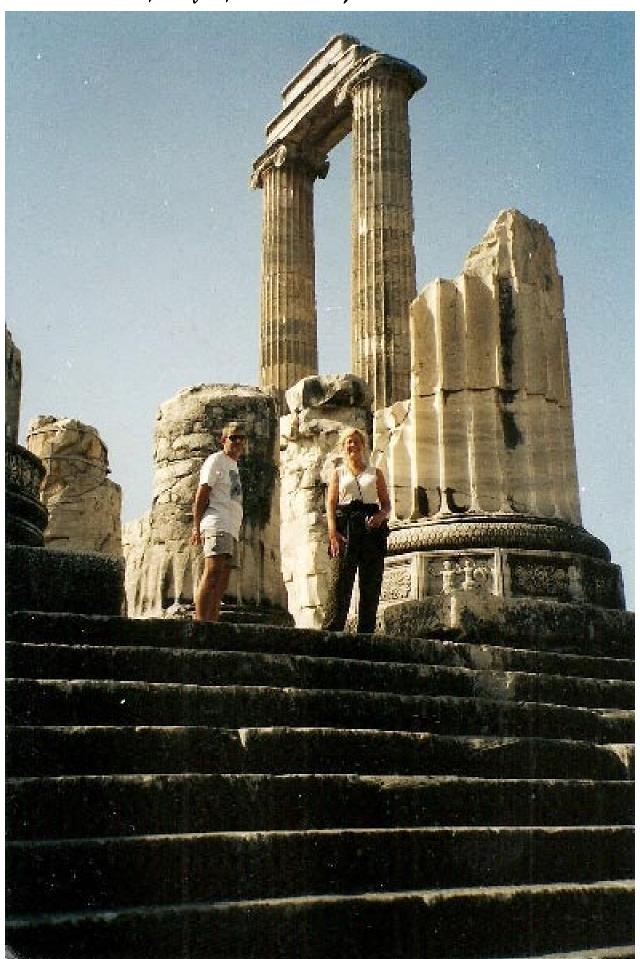


October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey

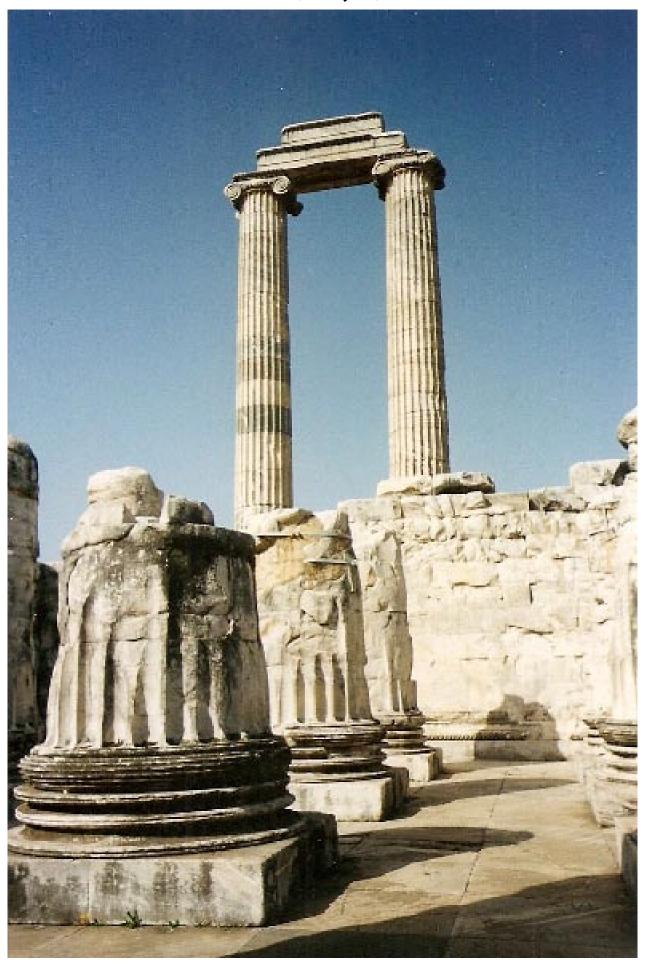
The Temple of Apollo



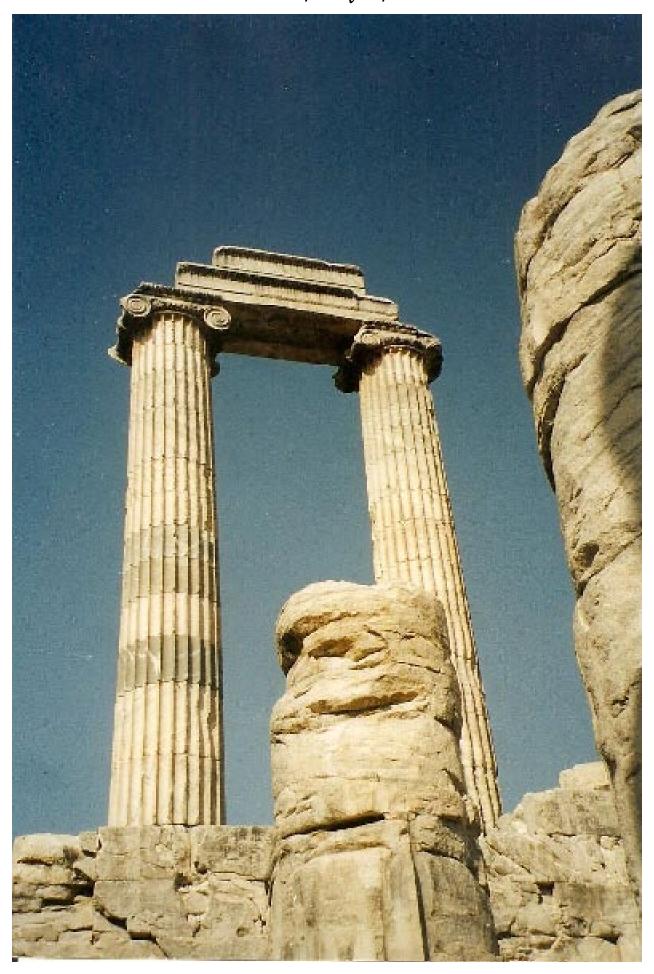
October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey The Temple of Apollo - Our guide, Mike, and Anna



October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey The Temple of Apollo



October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey The Temple of Apollo



October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey The Temple of Apollo



October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey The Temple of Apollo





October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey The Temple of Apollo



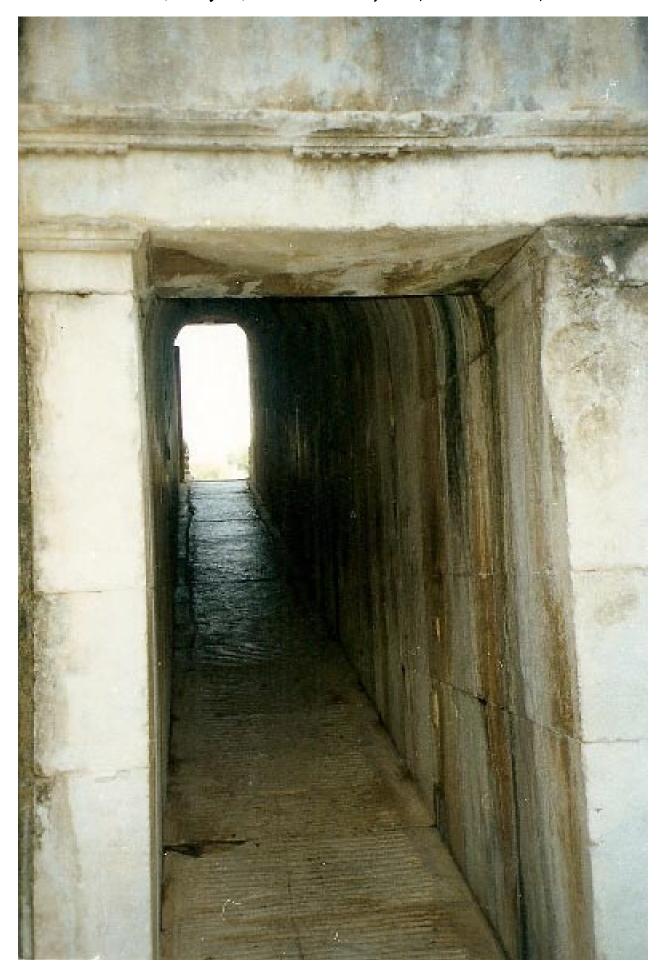
October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey The Temple of Apollo



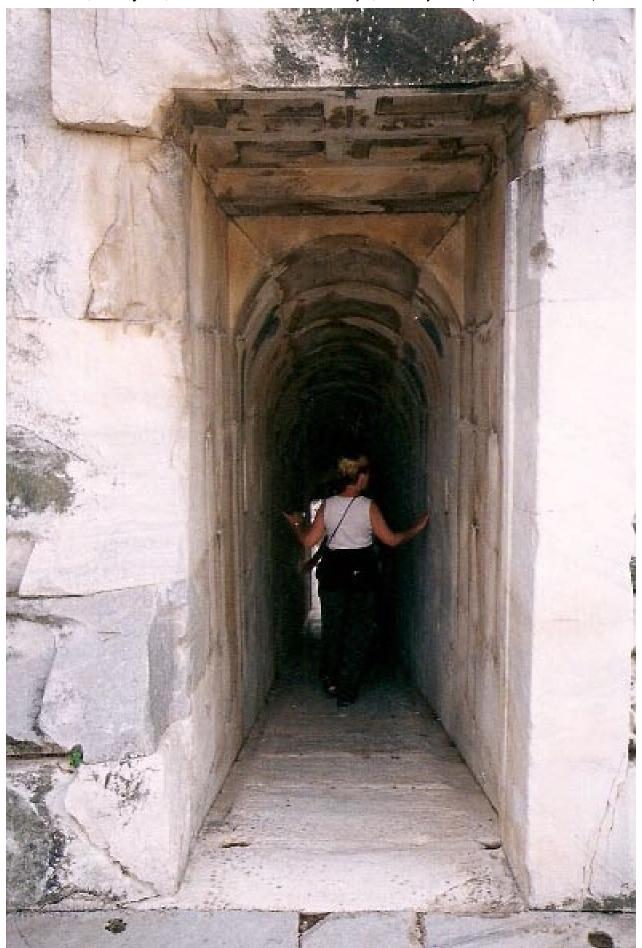
October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey
The Temple of Apollo - Passageway to the courtyard



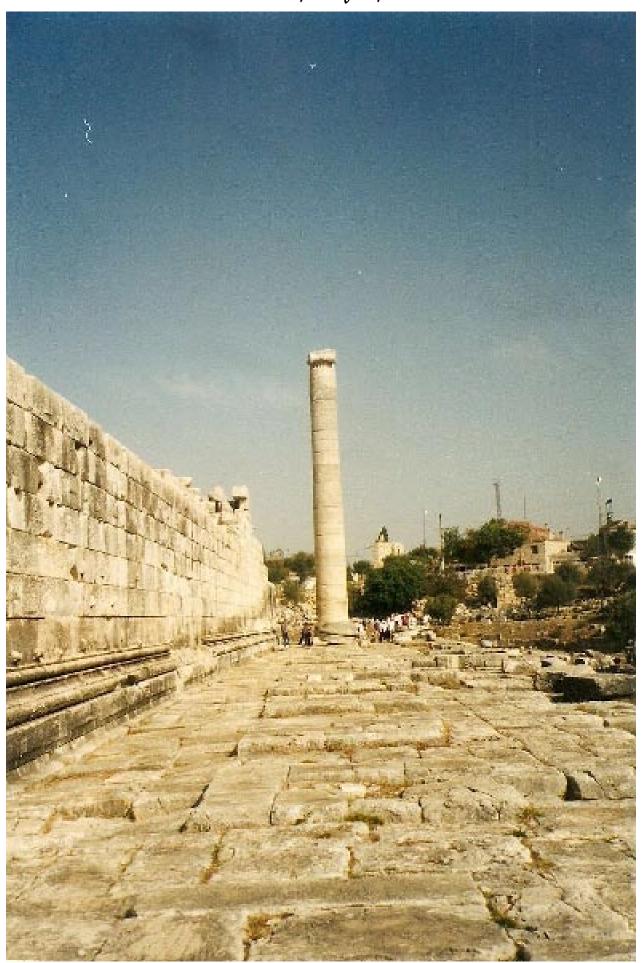
October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey
The Temple of Apollo - Passageway to the courtyard



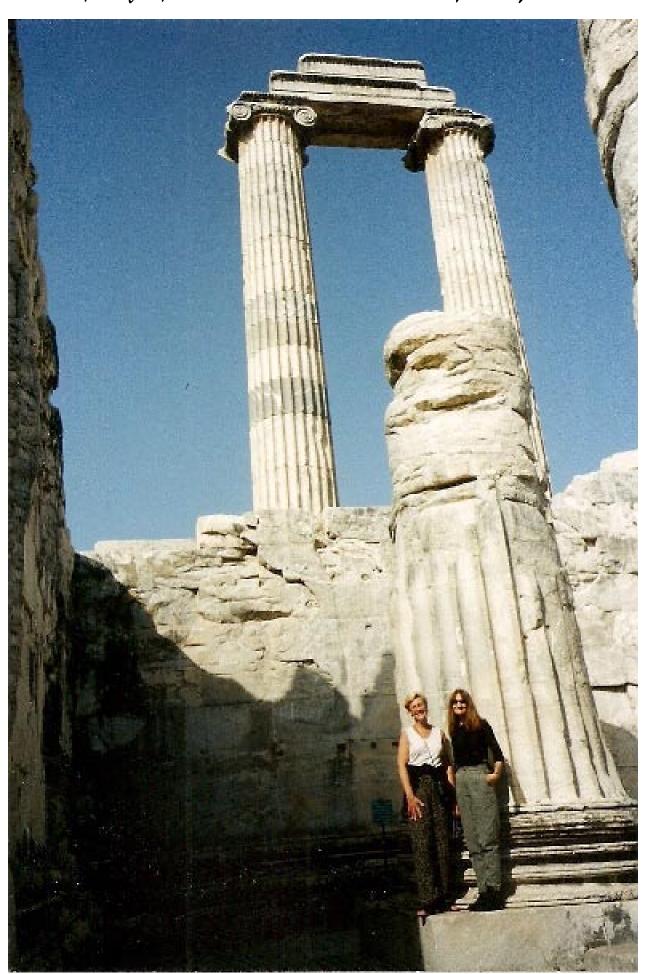
October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey
The Temple of Apollo - Anna entering passageway to the courtyard



October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey The Temple of Apollo



October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey
The Temple of Apollo - Anna and Me - "Beauty among the ruins"





October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey
The Temple of Apollo
Above - Christian symbols like our modern day graffiti
carved on the pagan temple floor
Below - The courtyard area of the temple

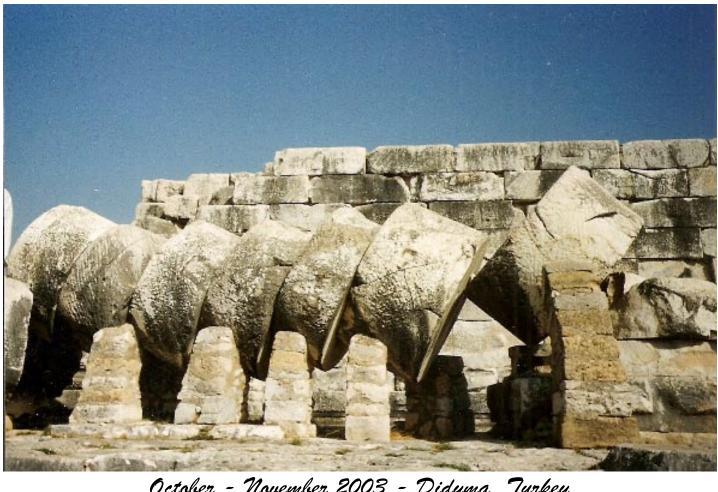


October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey The Temple of Apollo - Courtyard

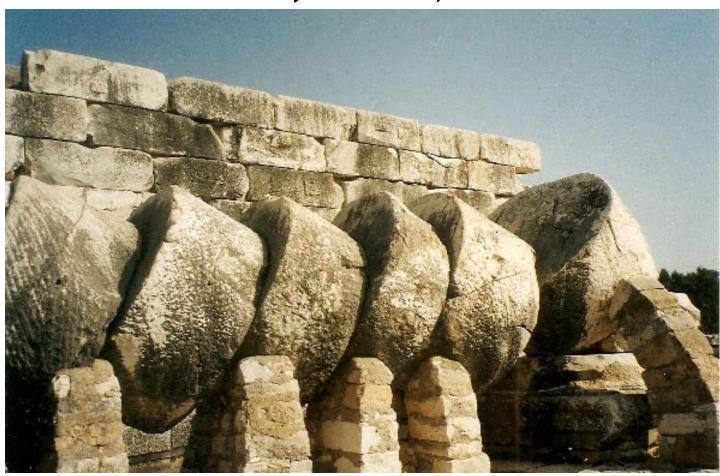


October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey The Temple of Apollo - Me on the steps and our guide, Mike, behind



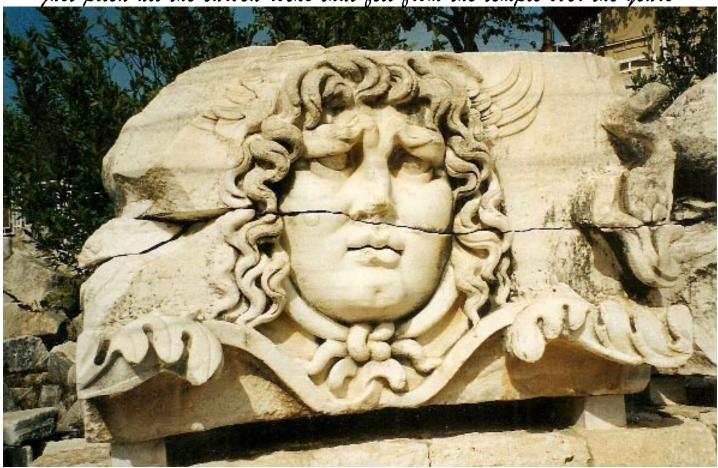


October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey
The Temple of Apollo
A column that toppled during one of the many
earthquakes in the region

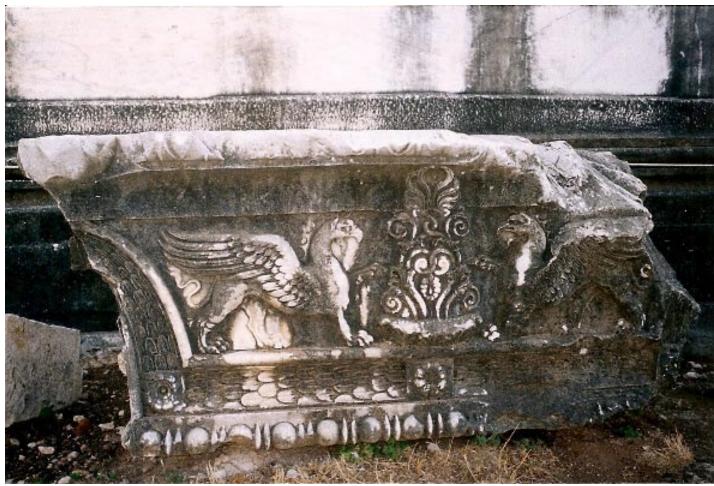


October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey
The Temple of Apollo

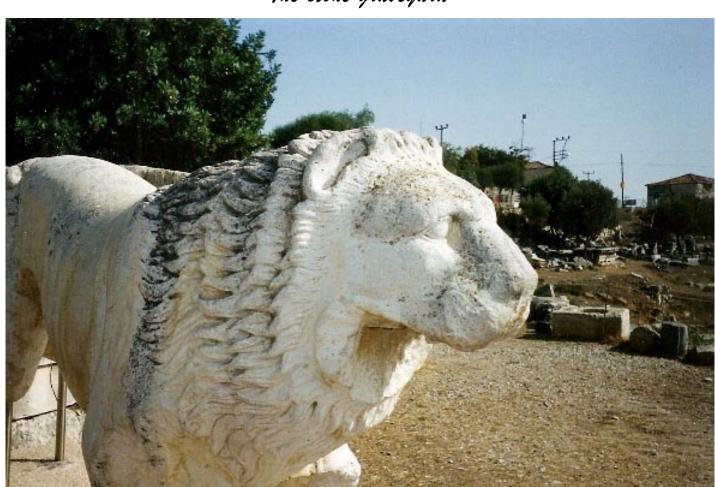
The stone graveyard - a section next to the temple where they just piled all the carved rocks that fell from the temple over the years







October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey The Temple of Apollo The stone graveyard





October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey
The Temple of Apollo
The stone graveyard - Me sitting under the angel carving



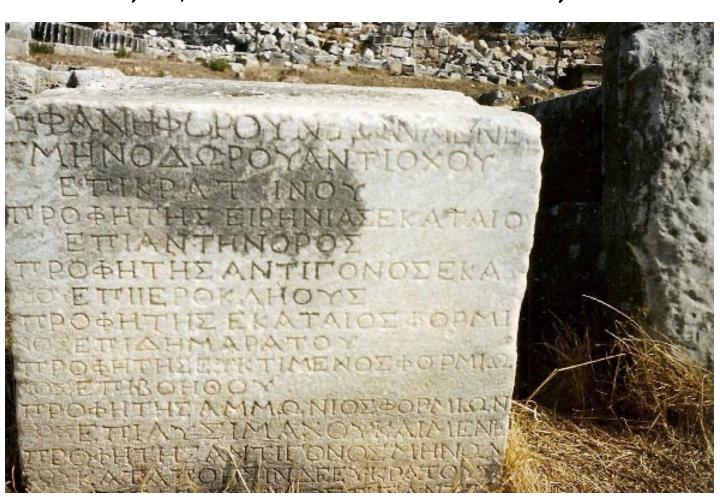


October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey
The Temple of Apollo
The stone graveyard





October - November 2003 - Didyma, Turkey
The Temple of Apollo
The stone graveyard - Above me and Below - "It's all Greek to me!"



November 2, 2003 - Sunday (continued)

Then drove back up along the coast of the Aegean to the ruins of the ancient city of Miletus. We saw a theater, a bath house and a very sacred feeling old mosque. All of us felt revered in it, and Mike and Karen said it was one of their favorite places. Perhaps we all worshipped in it when it was once new.

October - November 2003 - Miletus, Turkey

View of a section of the ruins





October - November 2003 - Miletus, Turkey

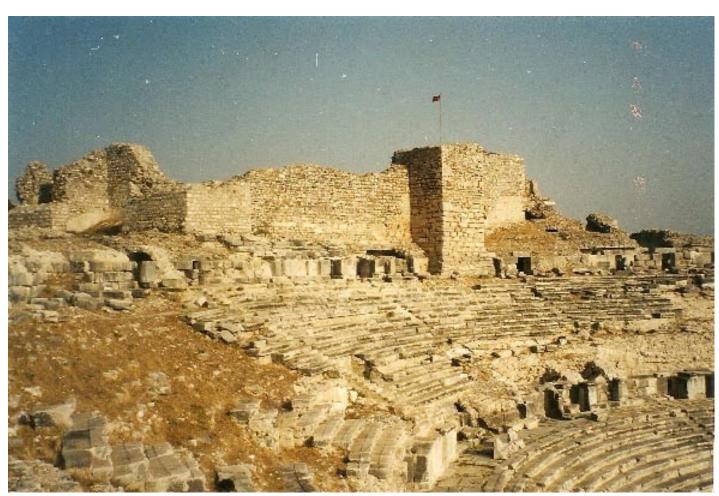
## The ruins at Miletus

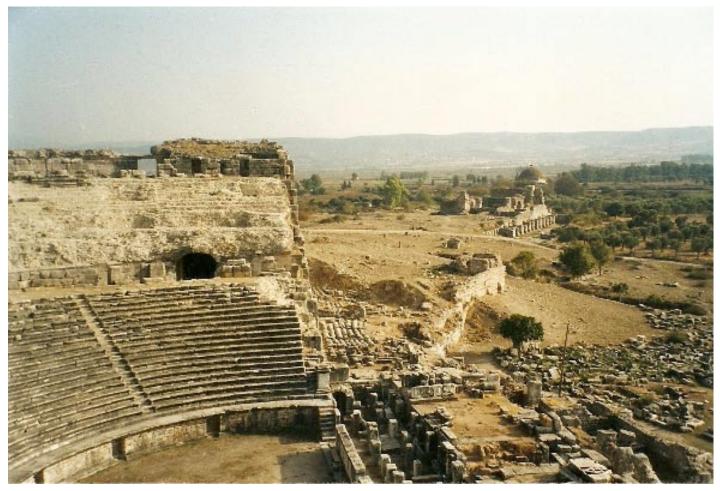




October - November 2003 - Miletus, Turkey

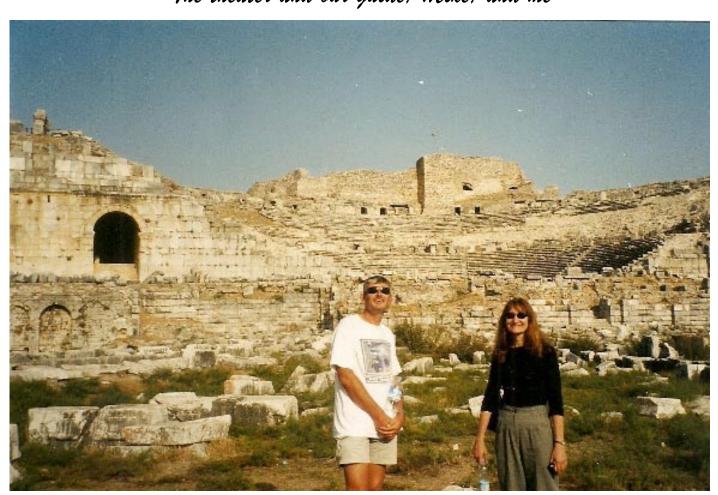
## The theater

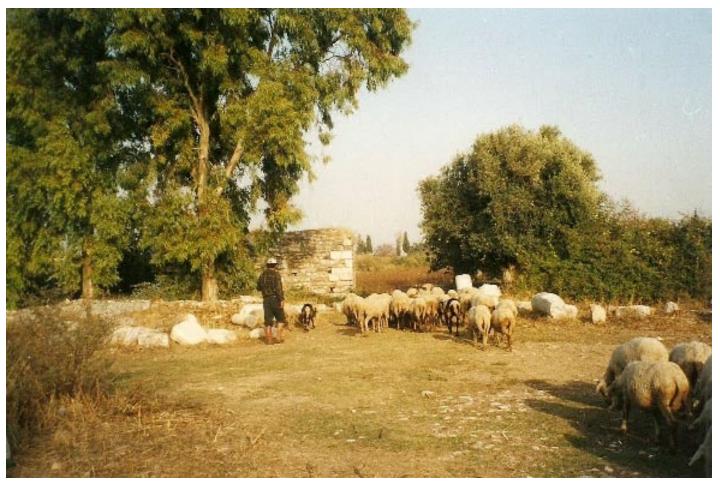




October - November 2003 - Miletus, Turkey

The theater and our guide, Mike, and me

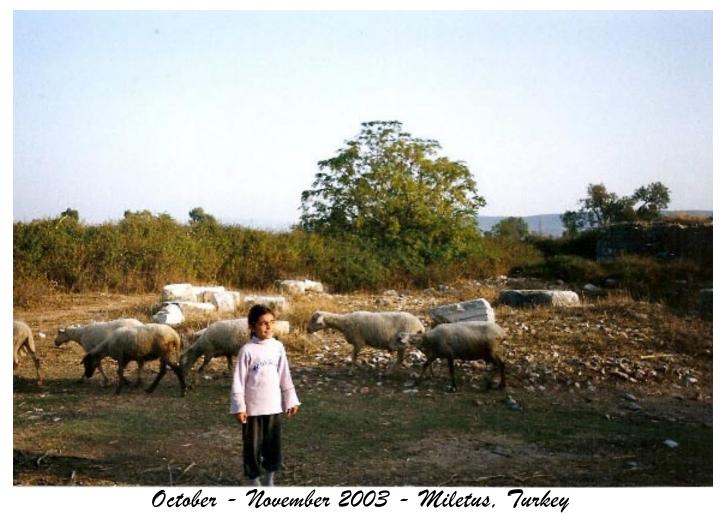




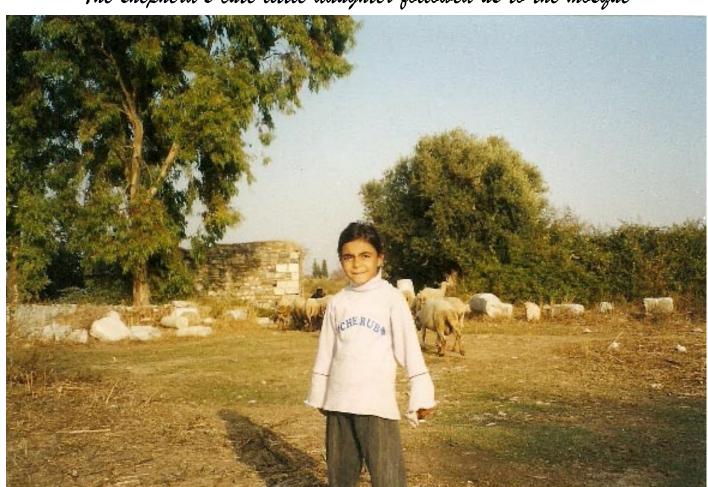
October - November 2003 - Miletus, Turkey

A shepherd on our walk from the ruins to an old mosque

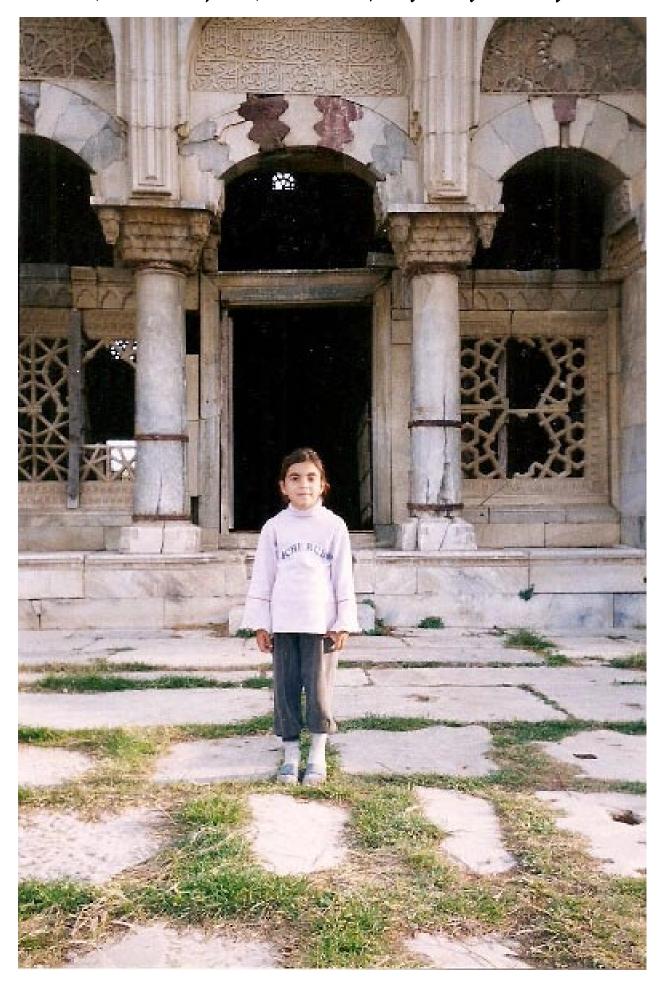




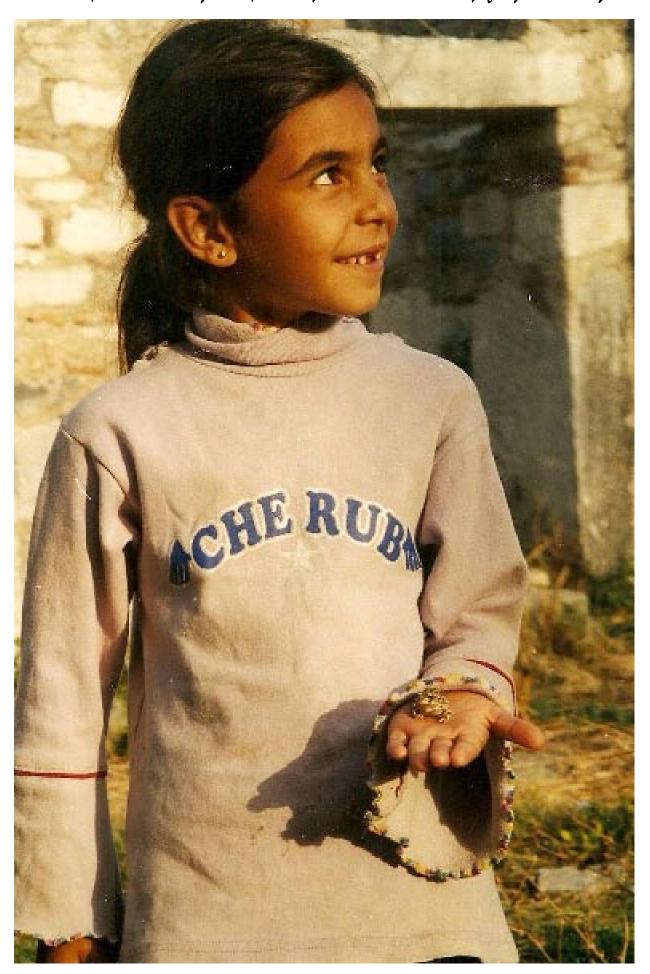
The shepherd's cute little daughter followed us to the mosque

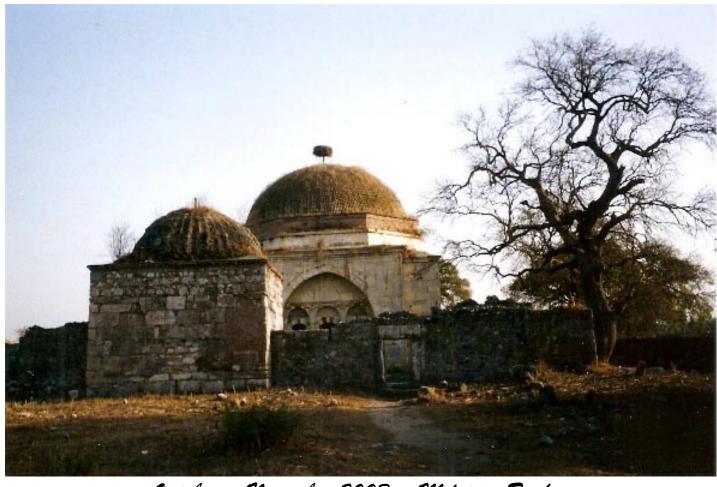


October - November 2003 - Miletus, Turkey The shepherd's daughter posed sweetly in front of the mosque ruins

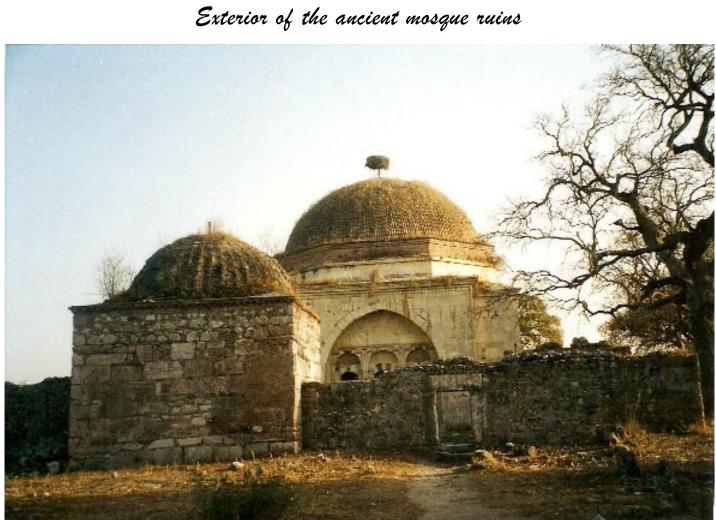


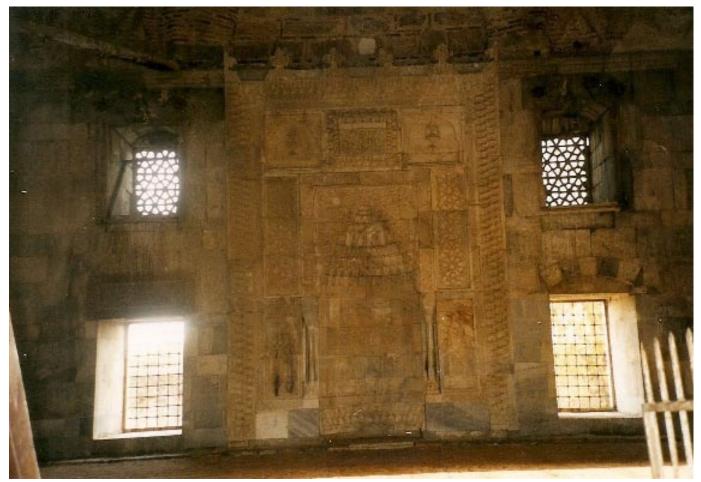
October - November 2003 - Miletus, Turkey The shepherd's daughter proudly showed us a tiny frog she caught





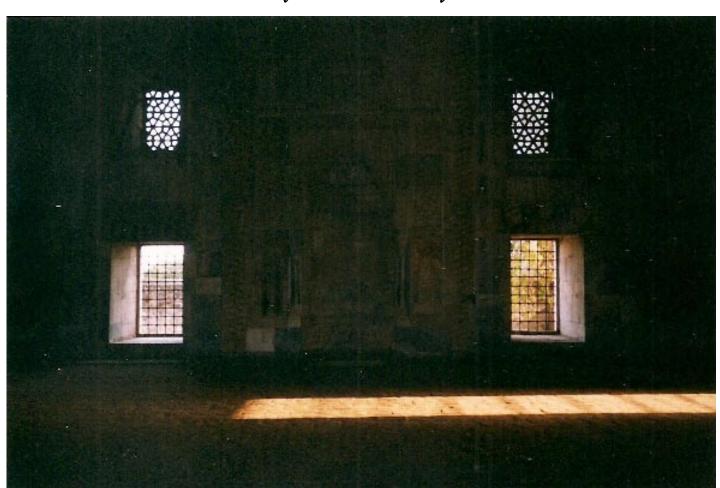
October - November 2003 - Miletus, Turkey



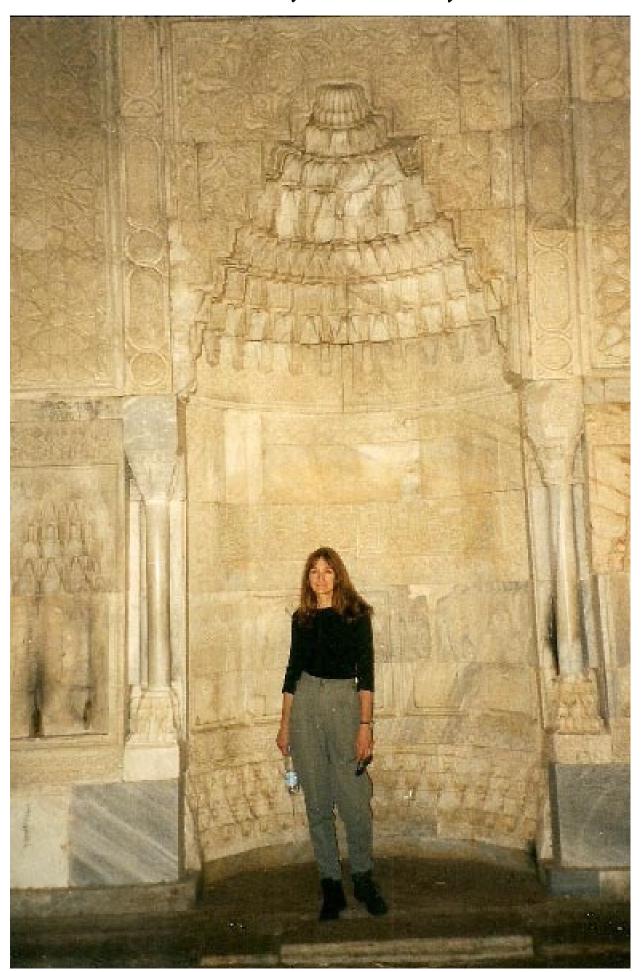


October - November 2003 - Miletus, Turkey

Interior of the ancient mosque ruins



October - November 2003 - Miletus, Turkey We in the interior of the ancient mosque ruins



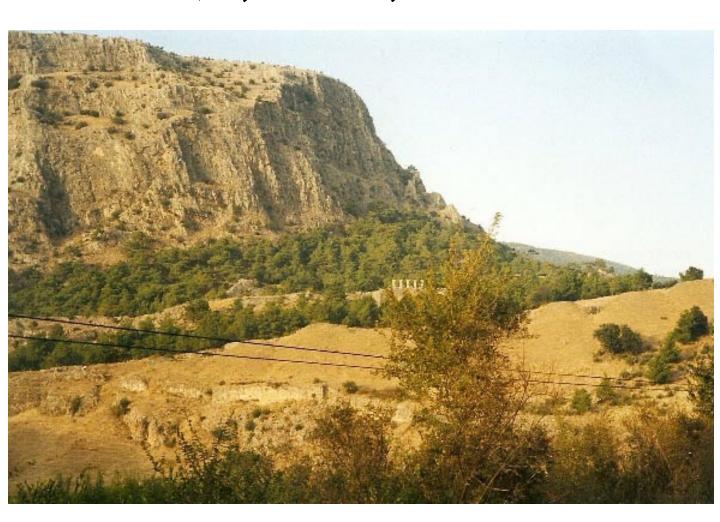
November 2, 2003 - Sunday (continued)

Then onto The Temple of Athena in Priene perched high on a hill at the foot of a large cliffside. Mike once again graced us with so much history and insights. It was a steep climb to the top and back down, so we got a good share of exercise

It was dark when we arrived at our quaint pension in Selcuk. What a lovely warm, and itimate hotel, The Bella Hotel. Spiral stairs up to our rooms and further up the stairs to the rooftop terrace half enclosed and half open. Anna and I posed for pictures dressed like sultans in front of the hookah pipe. I was exhausted and excused myself to sleep at 8:00 PM!

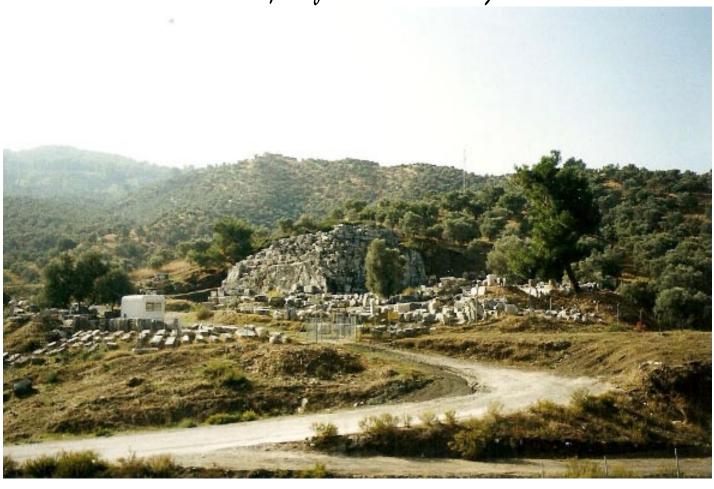
October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey

The Temple of Athena in the far distance on the hill



October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey

The Temple of Athena entrance gate





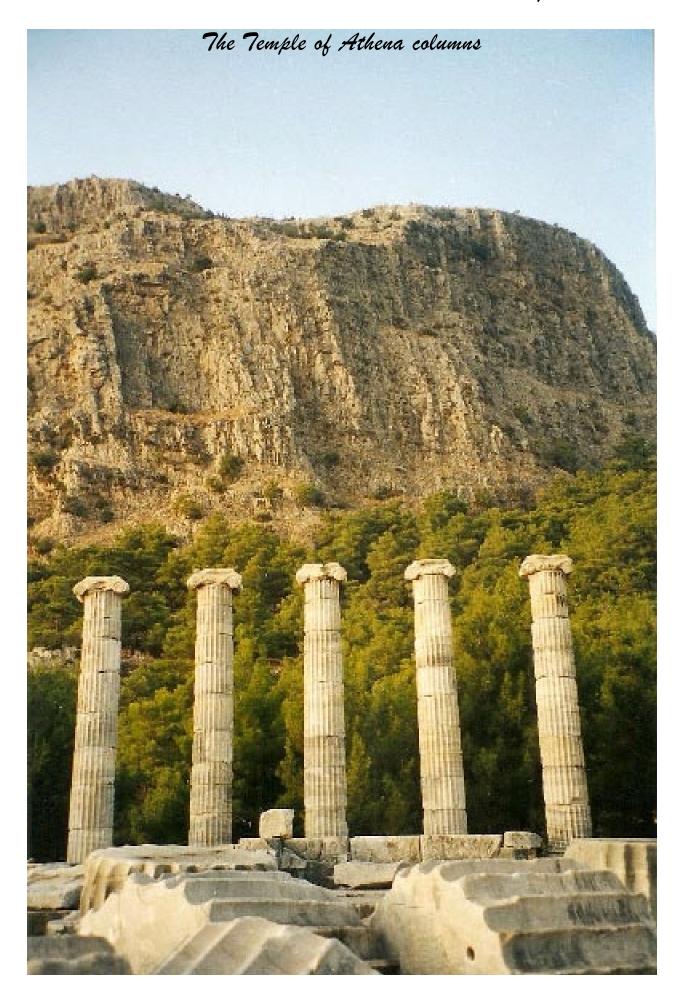


October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey

The Temple of Athena columns

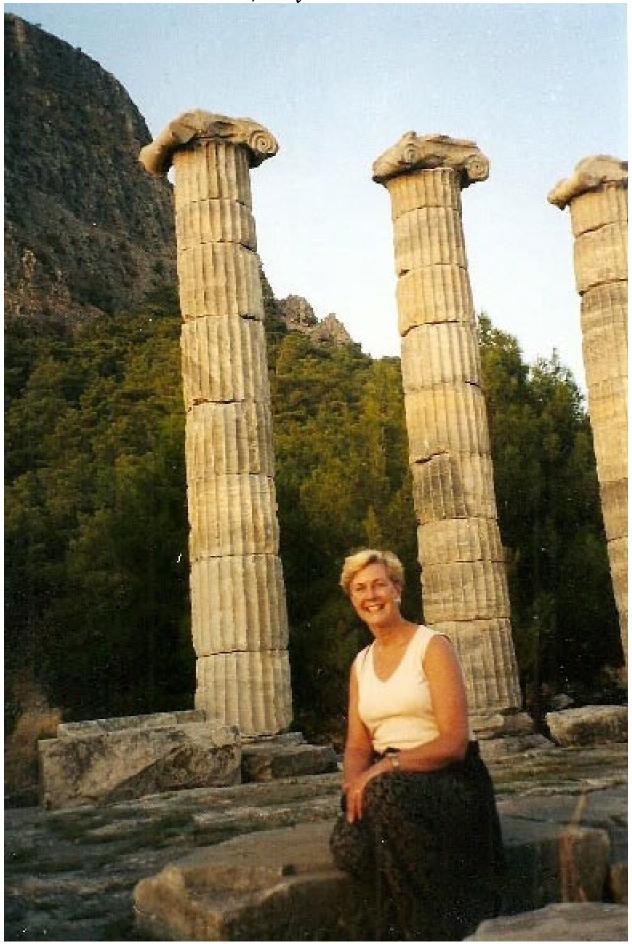


October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey



October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey

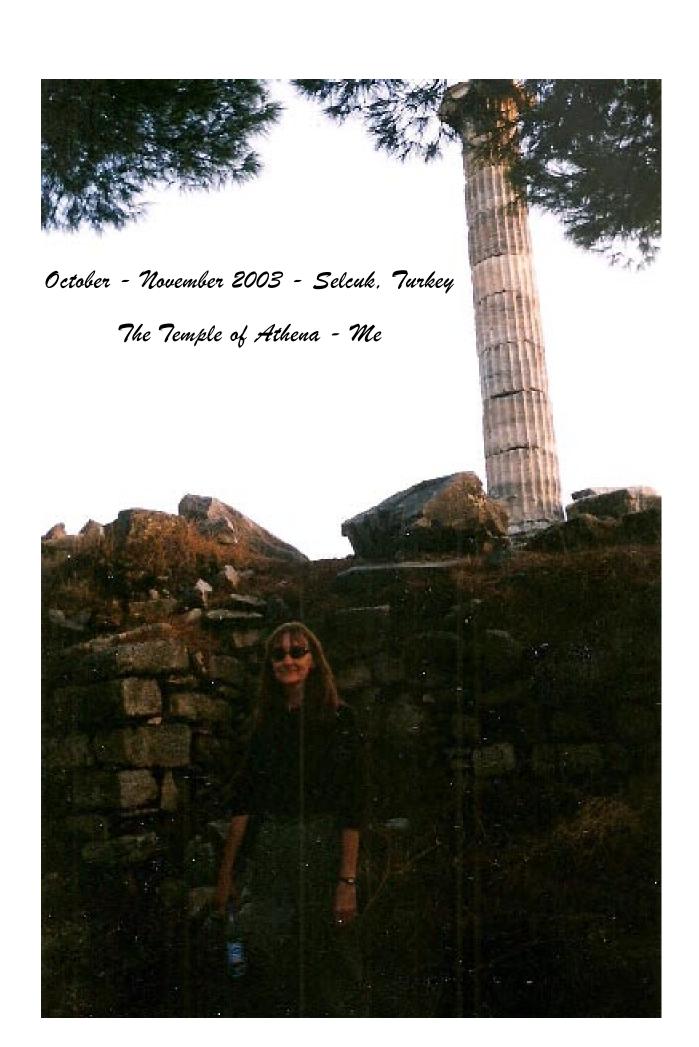
The Temple of Athena - Anna



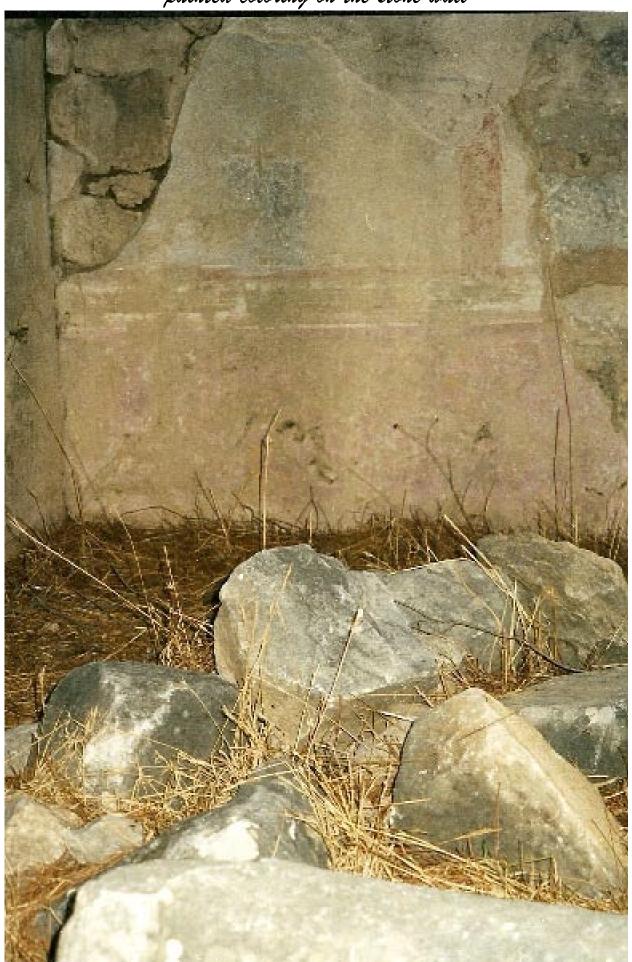


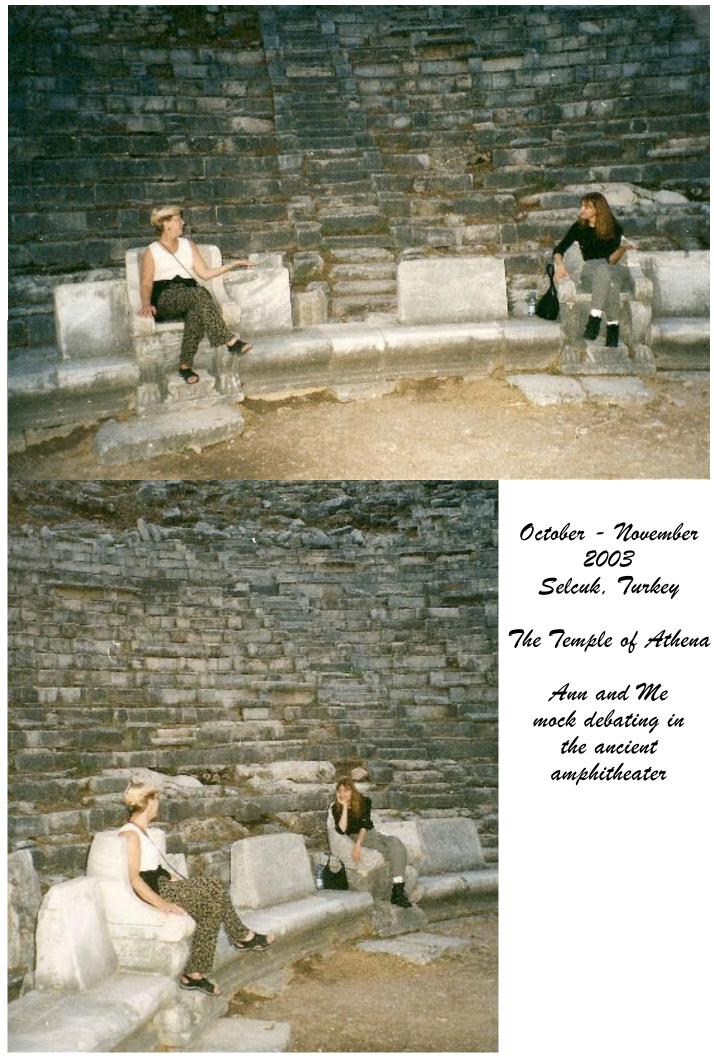
October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey The Temple of Athena Above - Me Below - Anna and Mike at sunset





October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey
The Temple of Athena ruins with faded
painted coloring on the stone wall





## October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey

Anna in front of Hotel Bella





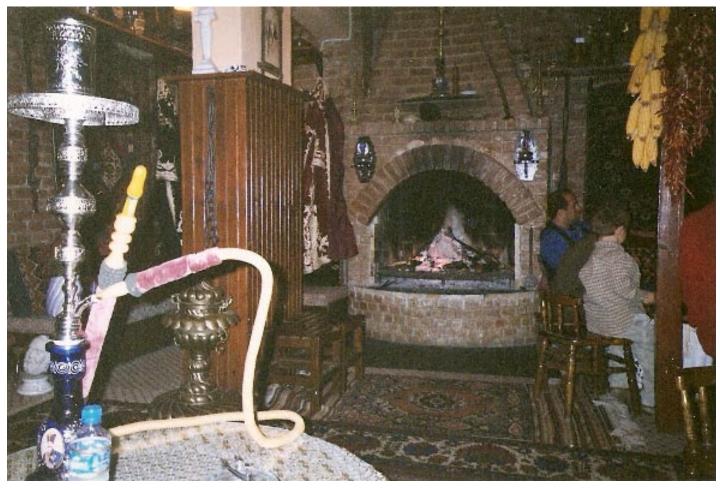
October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey Above - Hotel Bella exterior Below - Hotel Bella - My room



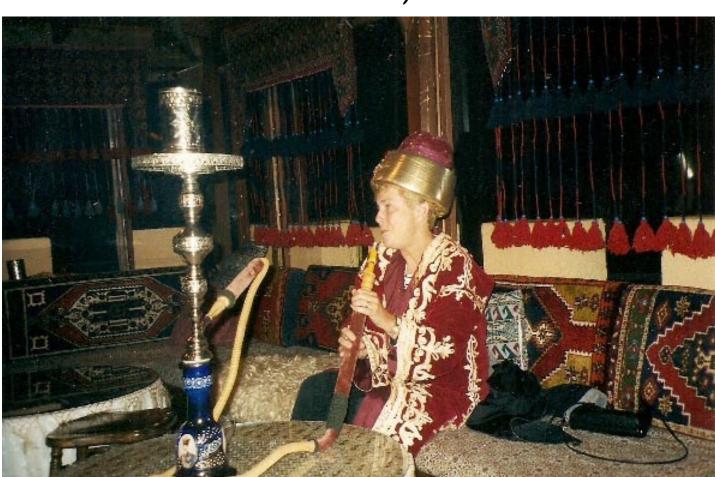


October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey Views from the rooftop terrace of Hotel Bella Below - View of some castle on the hill



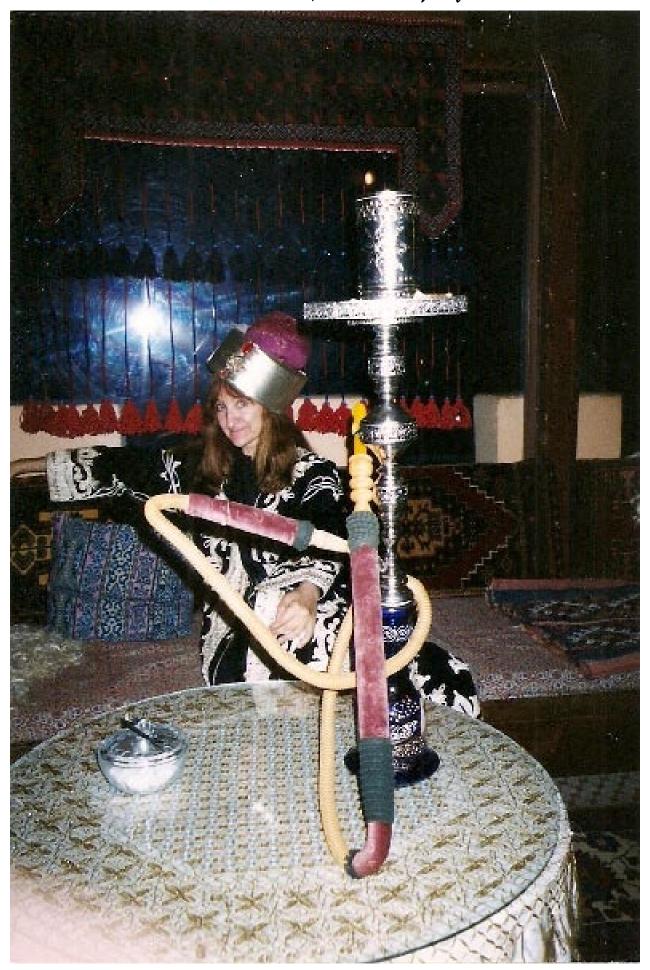


October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey Above - The inside upstairs lounge area of the rooftop level Below - Anna smoking the hookah



October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey

Sultaness Sharon in the upstairs lounge of Bella Hotel





October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey Above - Me and Anna - "Sultanesses of Swing" Below - Our British guides who live in Turkey, Karen and Mike





October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey Above - Me and Anna having lunch with Mike and Karen & a cat begging Below - Always a cup of Turkish "cay" (tea) after a meal



5:00 AM - As I lay here in bed in Selcuk listening to the ancient Muslim "call to prayer," I am reminded of the sacredness that permeates all of life but which gets glossed over in the ordinariness of everyday life. I have awakened to yet newer levels of awareness of where the ordinary meets the profound. I feel Bulent to be the Mevlana carrying on the great work at the next advanced level. I can feel the Foundation members each as reincarnations of Mevlana's desciples from the Sufi tradition but all evolved to their present stage of equality rather than religious worship. Religions are the way of the past...the road that has led us to here...the cosmic unification program.

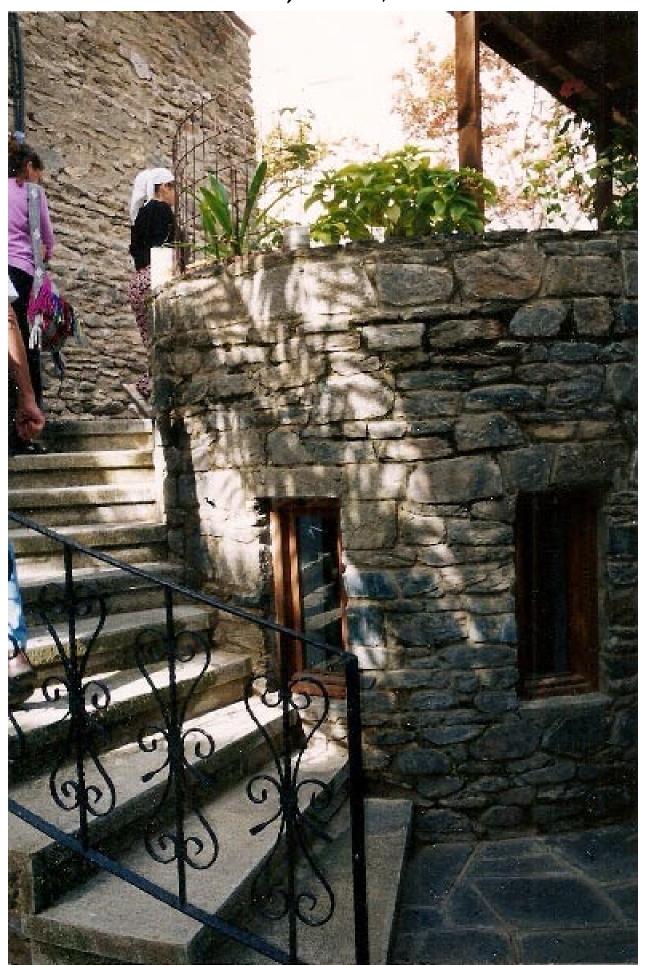
Drove to a small village called Birgi. The governor's house built in the 1700's was closed, but the local woman allowed us to tour anyway. It was like a giant dollhouse all painted in sponge colors with murals.

October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey

Me going up stairs at entrance to the governor's painted house

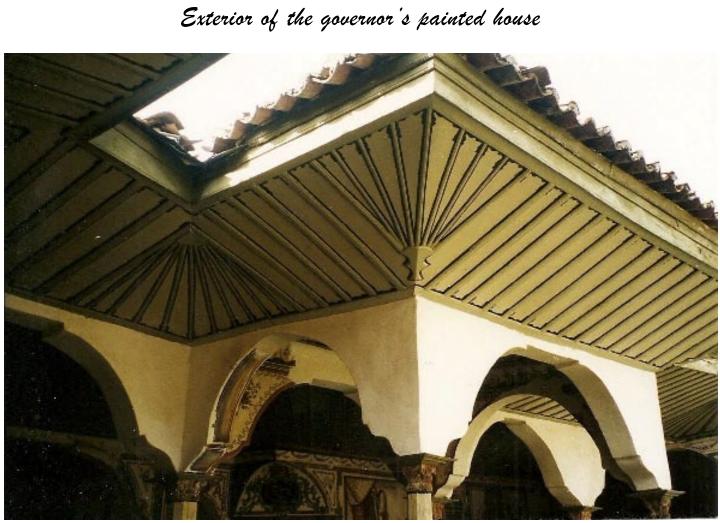


October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey Entrance to the governor's painted house



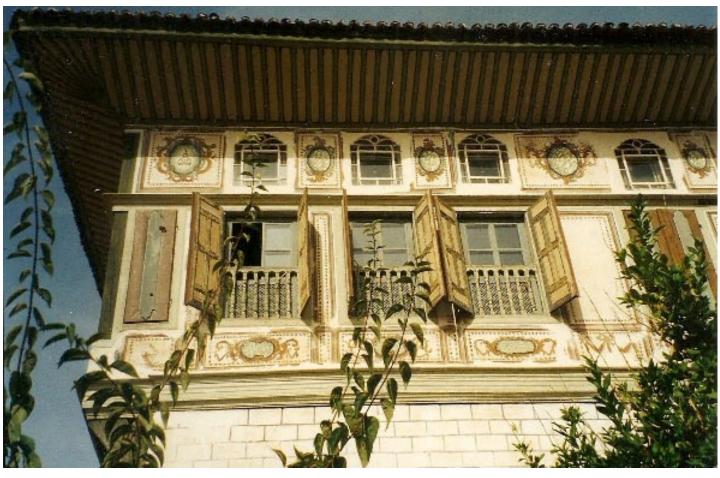


October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey



October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey Exterior of the governor's painted house





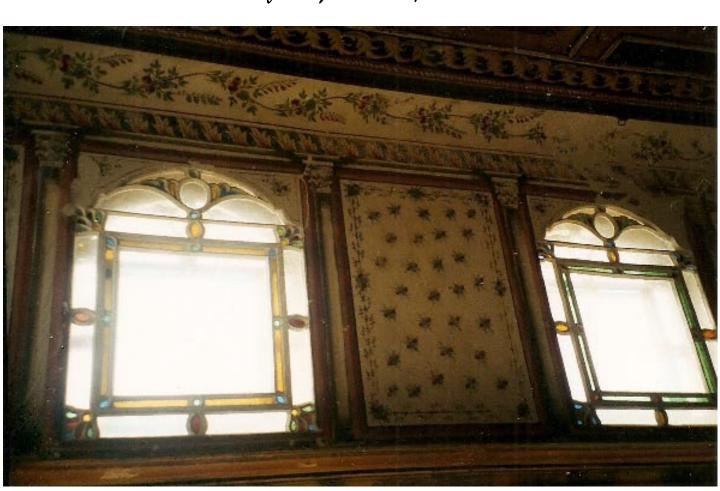
October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey Above - Exterior of the governor's painted house Below - Interior of the governor's painted house



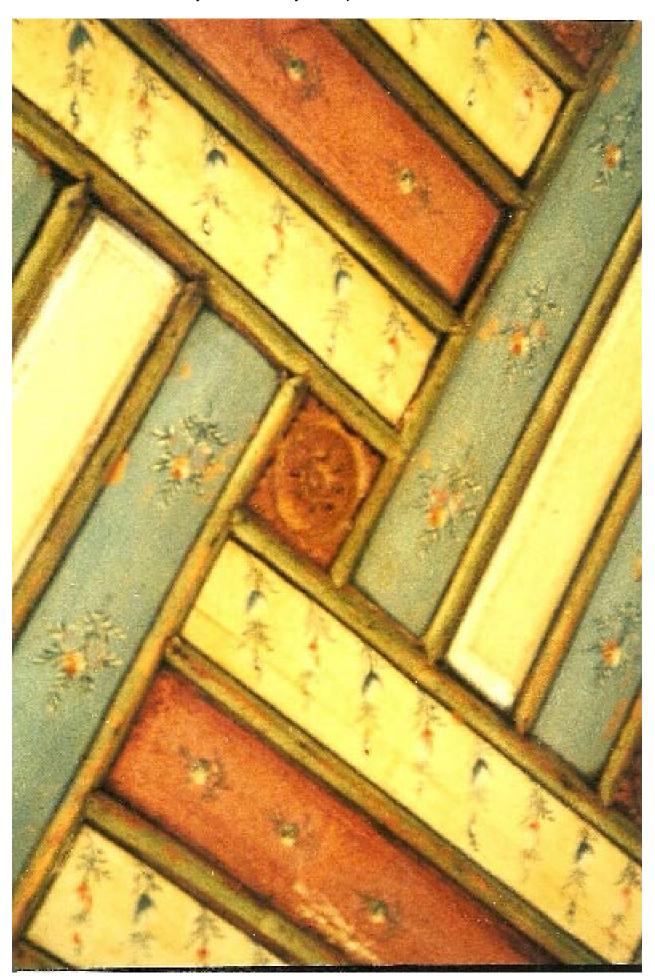


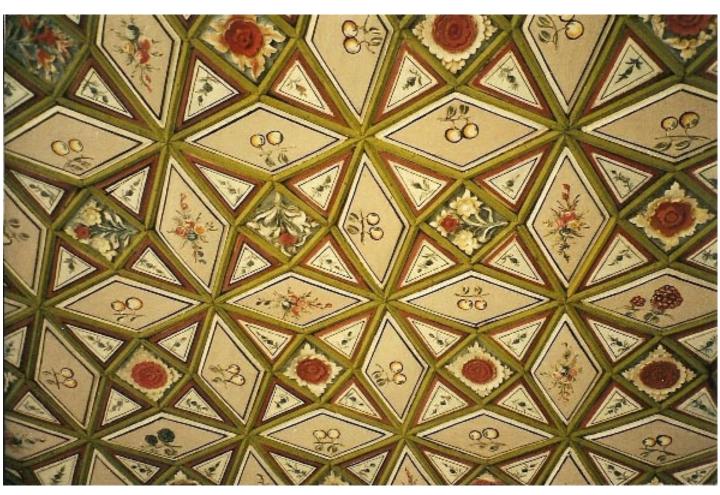
October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey

Interior of the governor's painted house



October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey Close-up of interior of the governor's painted house





October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey Close-up of interior of the governor's painted house

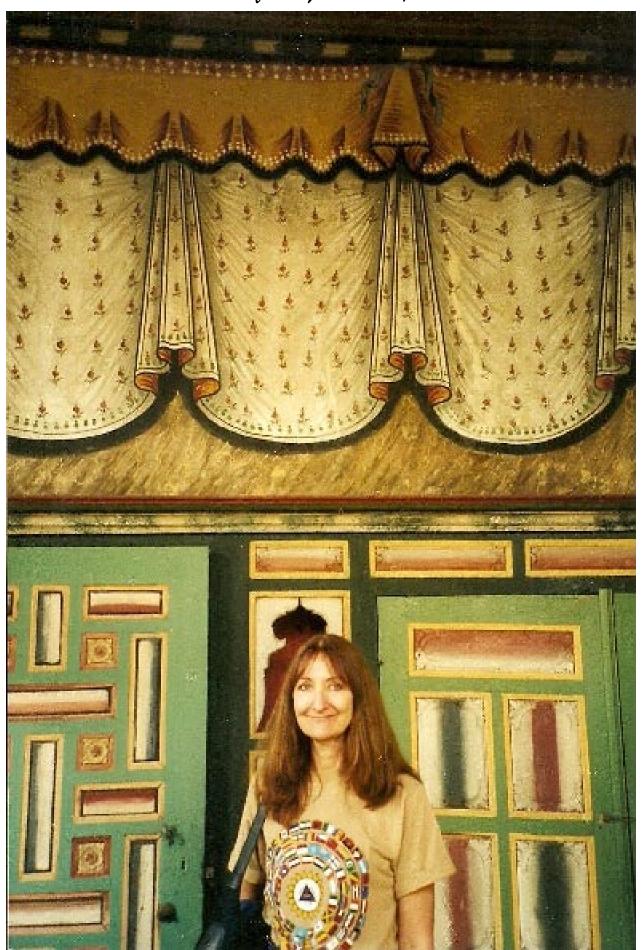


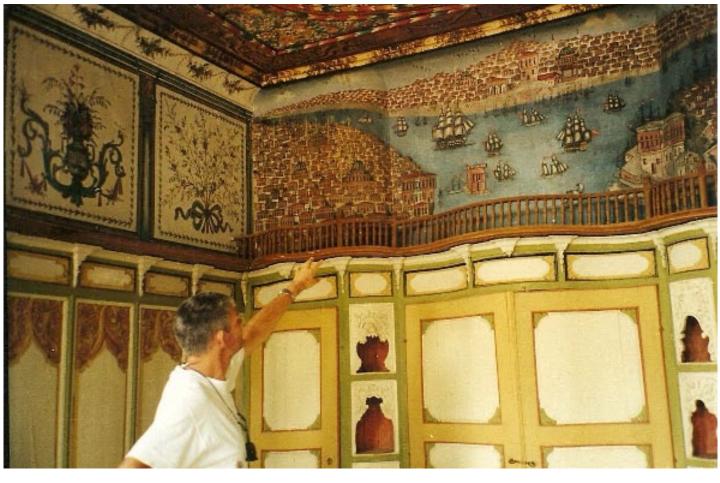
### October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey

Interior of the governor's painted house

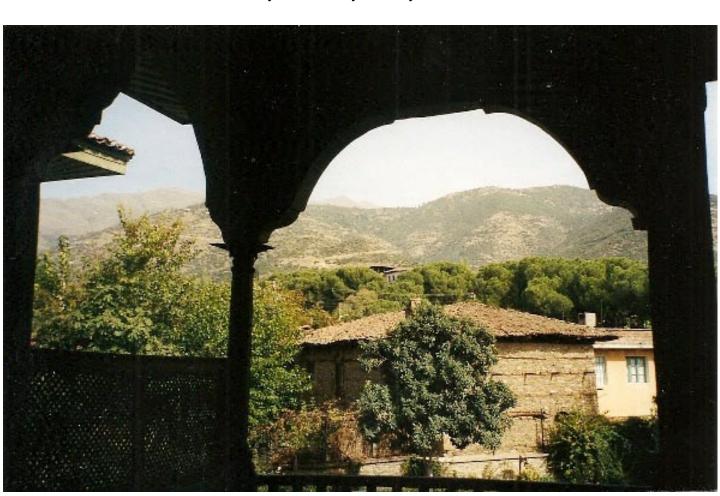


October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey Me - Interior of the governor's painted house





October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey Above - Mike explaining a painted map of Istanbul on the wall Below - View from top floor of the painted house





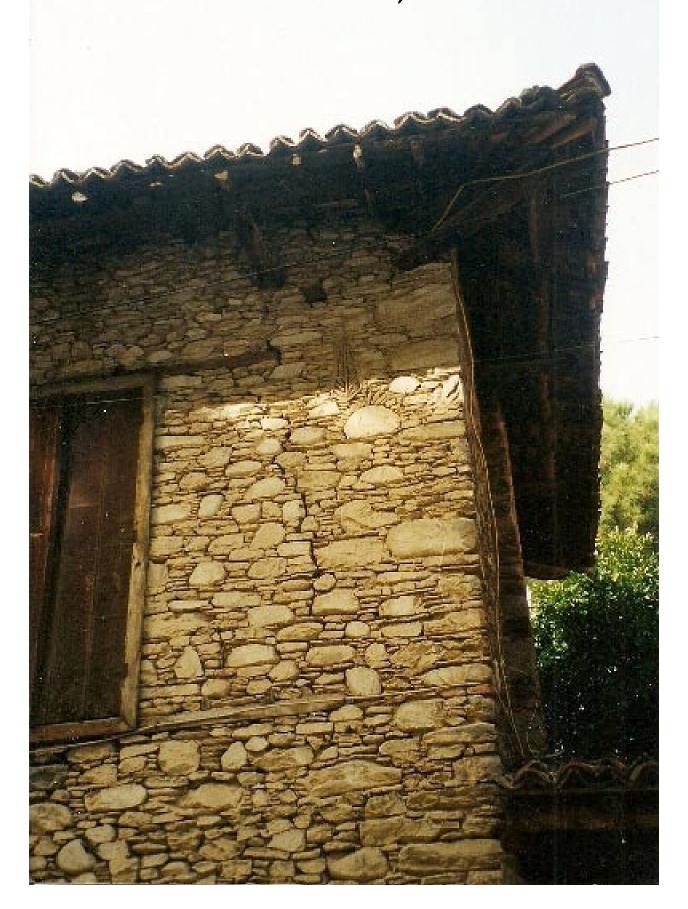
October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey

Cobblestone streets and bridge in village of Birgi



October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey

Mike explained they put meaningful symbols on the cornerstones when building the houses.



We walked through the local market and then up to a very old mosque. On the way down the hill we met up with the imam. He turned around and escorted us up the hill and let us in the mosque. We covered our heads with a scarf and the imam told us all about the mosque. He taught us the way the muslims bow to the mihrab facing Mecca. He was lovely and gentle and kind. We bought some pictures to donate. On the way down the hill, school children said hello to practice their English.

October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey Warket in Birgi





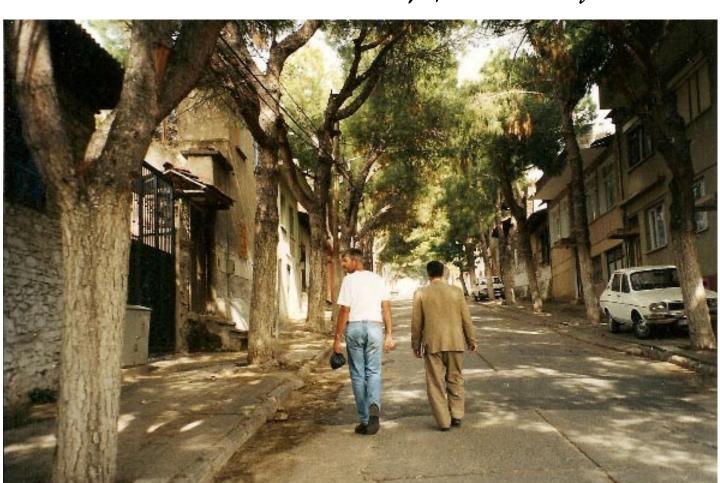
October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey

Mike, Anna and Karen at the market in Birgi

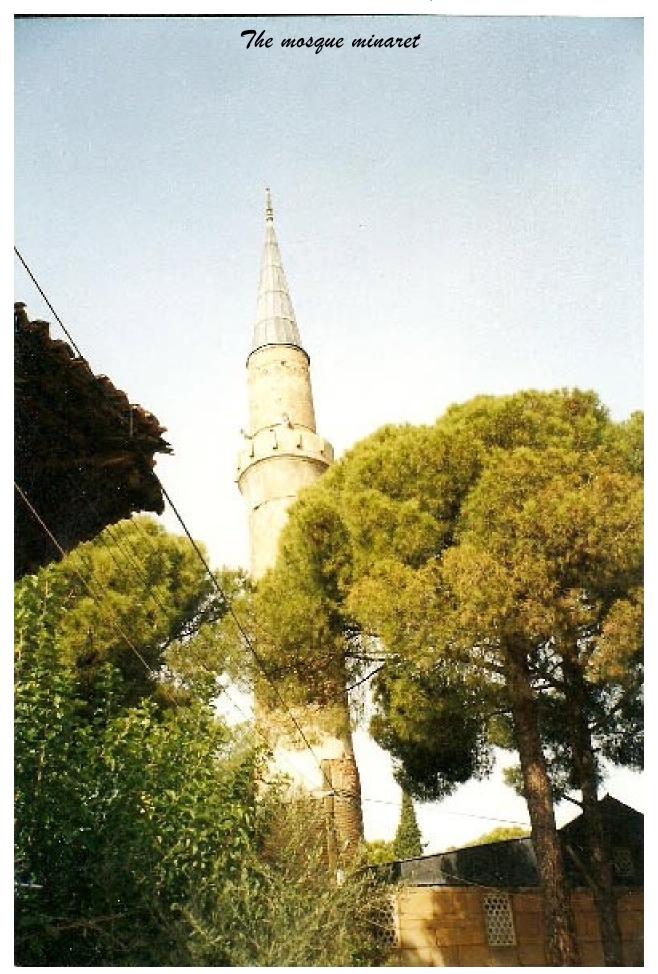




October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey Above - The Birgi village mosque in the distance Below - Mike and imam walking uphill to the mosque



October - November 2003 - Birgi, Turkey



November 3, 2003 - Monday (continued)

We drove on to Tire to see the local feltmakers and saddlemakers. They served us sage "cay" (tea), and we watched them work their craft. Tire was a quaint old town mixed with modern. It was a stark contrast between very old and new.

October - November 2003 - Tire, Turkey

An ancient caravanserai, which is the ancient version of a motel, with place for camels below and the people stayed upstairs



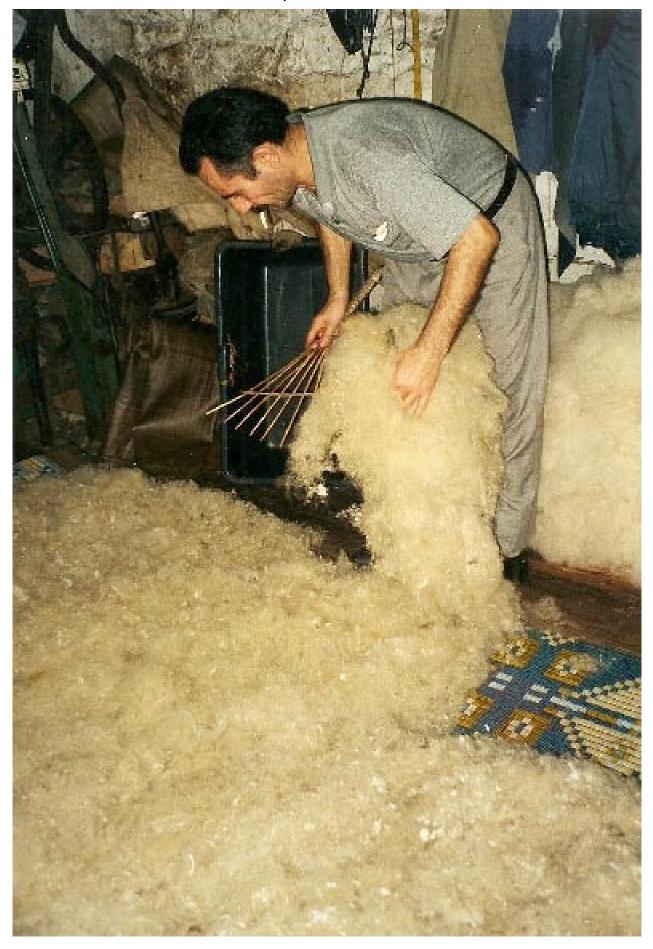


October - November 2003 - Tire, Turkey Above - Me upstairs of the caravanserai Below - Feltmaker rolling up a felt rug Anna bought



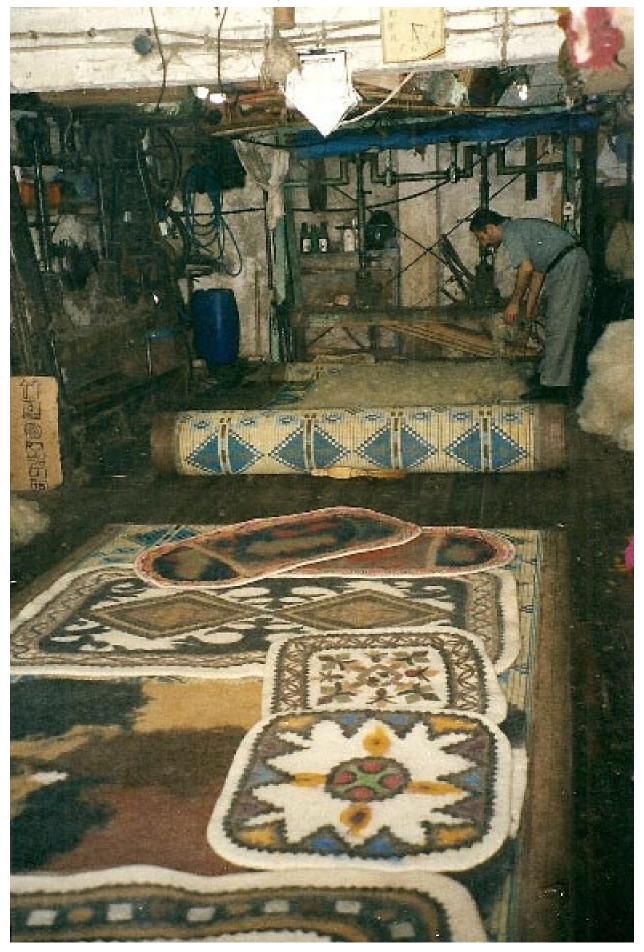
## October - November 2003 - Tire, Turkey

Feltmaker



### October - November 2003 - Tire, Turkey

Feltmaker



October - November 2003 - Tire, Turkey

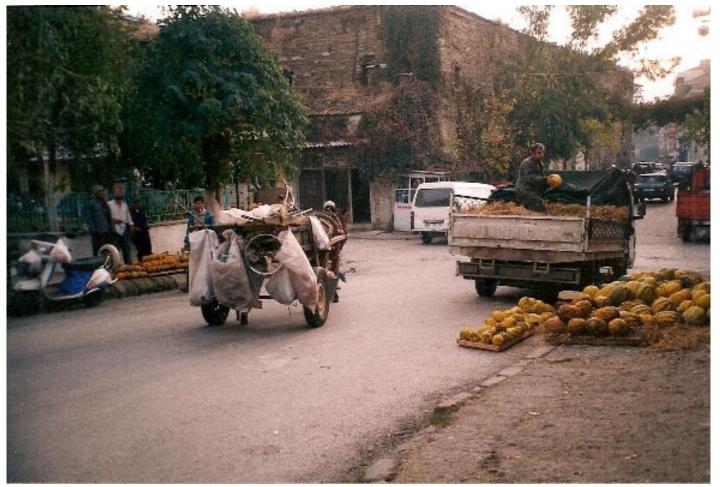
Anna and Me posing with the felt rugs





October - November 2003 - Tire, Turkey Above - Man making handmade saddle out of wood and felt Below - Me posing next to skittish horse wearing a handmade saddle





October - November 2003 - Tire, Turkey Vegetable trucks in the streets of Tire Can't you just smell the cabbage? We could!



October - November 2003 - 7ire. Turkey Street in 7ire

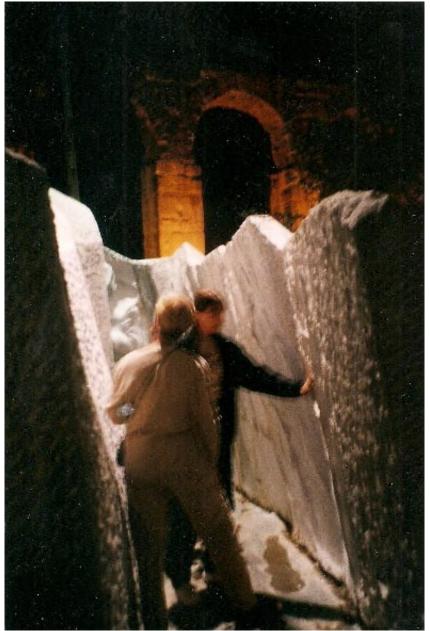


We headed back to Selcuk, and Anna and I did the hamam - Turkish bath. For \$14.00 we got a sauna, loofa scrub and oil massage. Then we all went to dinner and walked around Selcuk, a lovely town, beautiful. Anna and I are sure we were Muslim in another life.

October - November 2003 - Selcuk, Turkey
And always the adventurers, on Karen's recommendation,
we visited this traditional Turkish bath and got scrubbed
down head to toe







October - November 2003 Selcuk, Turkey

Blurry pictures of town square area of Selcuk at night

A replica mock version of the Temple of Artemis above and on the left we walked through a sculpture exhibit set up November 4, 2003 - Tuesday

Breakfast on the terrace of Hotel Bella. Visited Ephesus, 2-hour walk tour, then the museum.

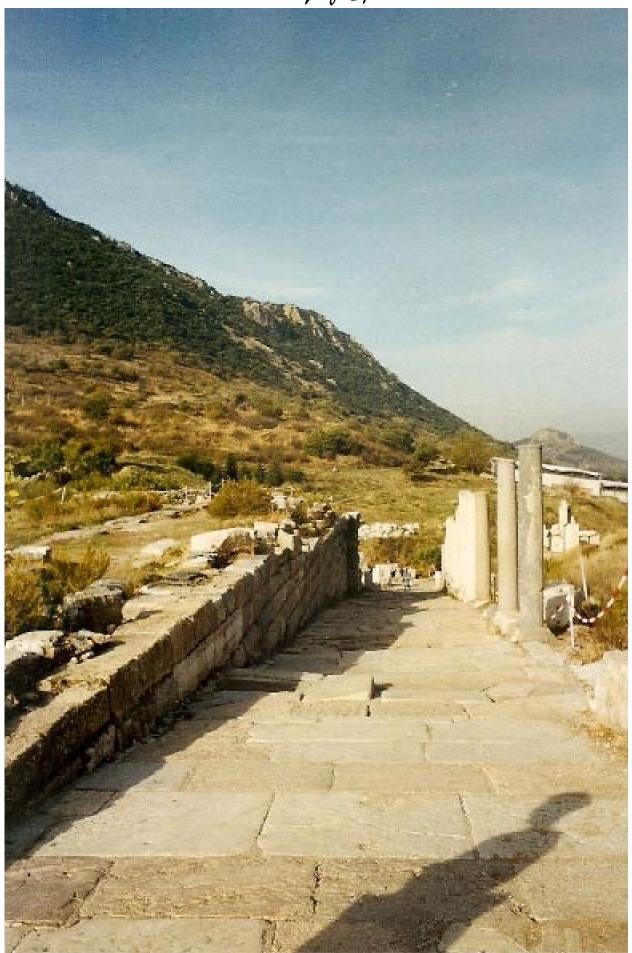
Lunch in Selcuk.

October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey

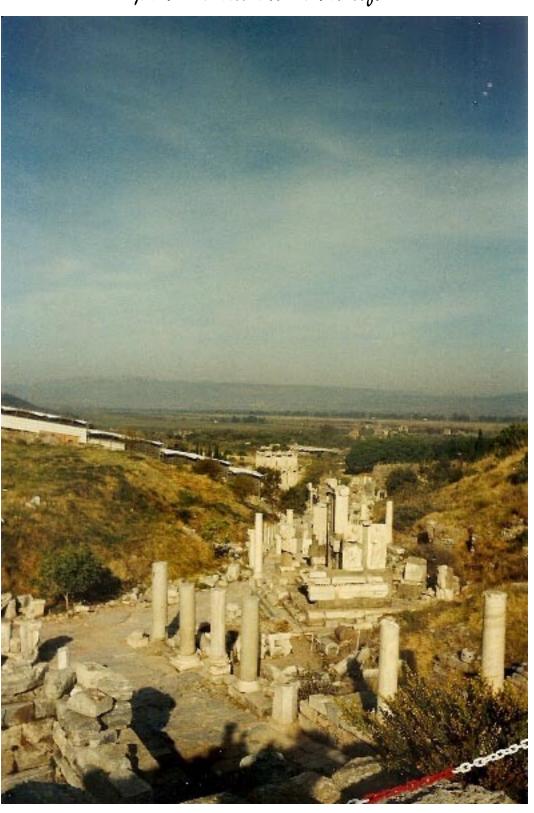
Ruins of the main thoroughfare entering the ancient city of Ephesus

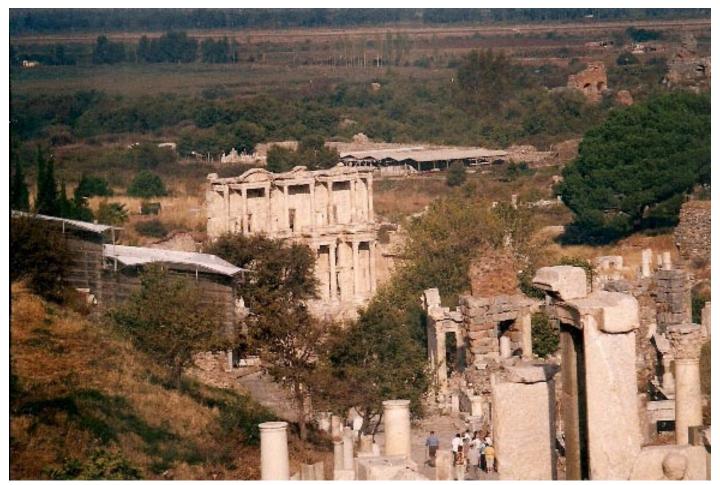


October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Continuing along the thoroughfare entering the ancient city of Ephesus

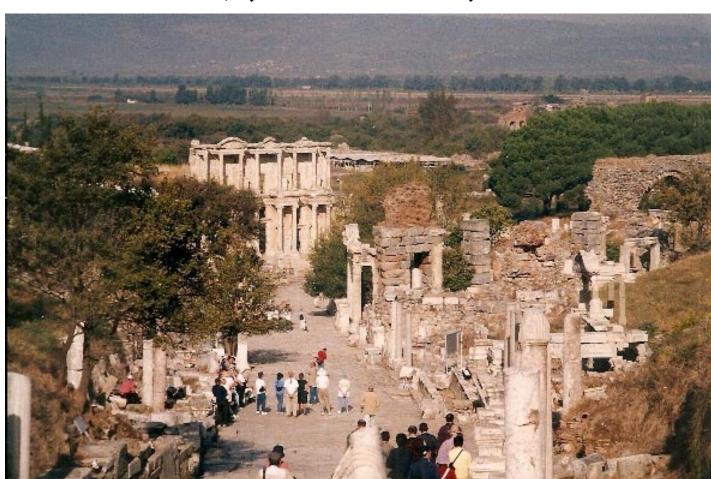


October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey
Continuing along the thoroughfare rounding the curve you can
begin to see how huge this ancient city ruins is. They were
still excavating large parts of it, which can be seen in this
photo on hillside on the left.

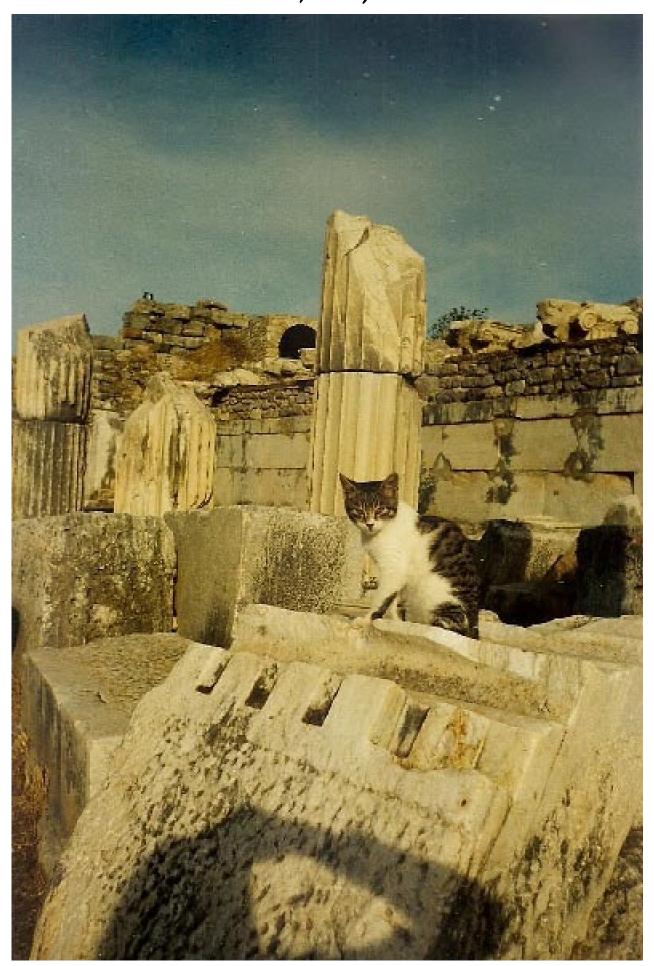




October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Still descending down the main thoroughfare with the Library of Celsus at the bottom of the hill



October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Ancient ruined columns and cute kitty cats everywhere! More beauty among the ruins

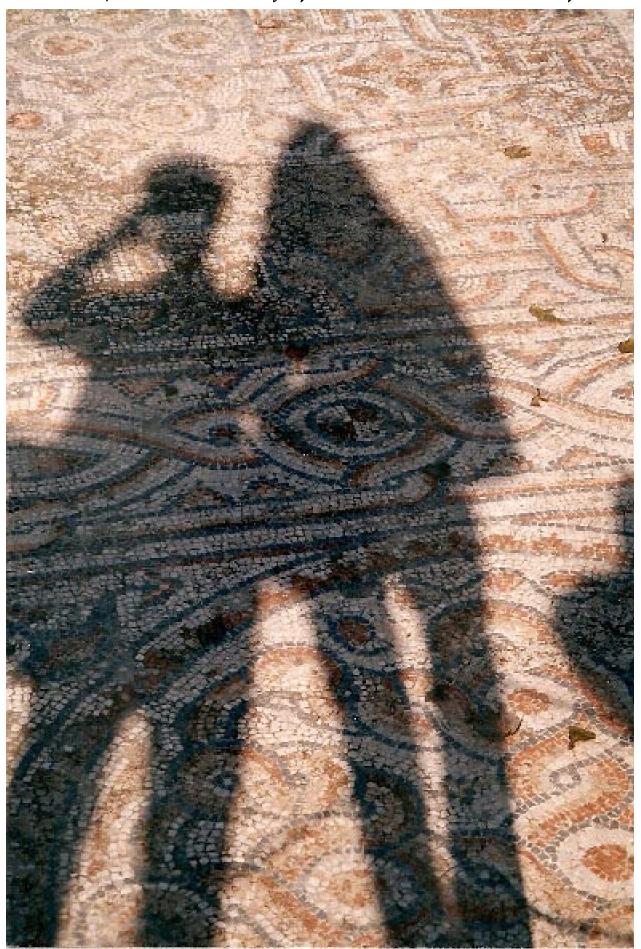


# October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Cute kitty



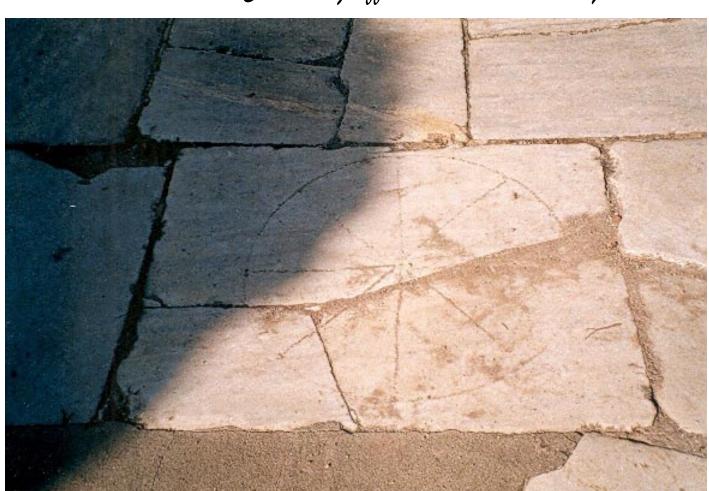
October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey

Me and my shadow and amazing ceramic tile mosaics on the ground



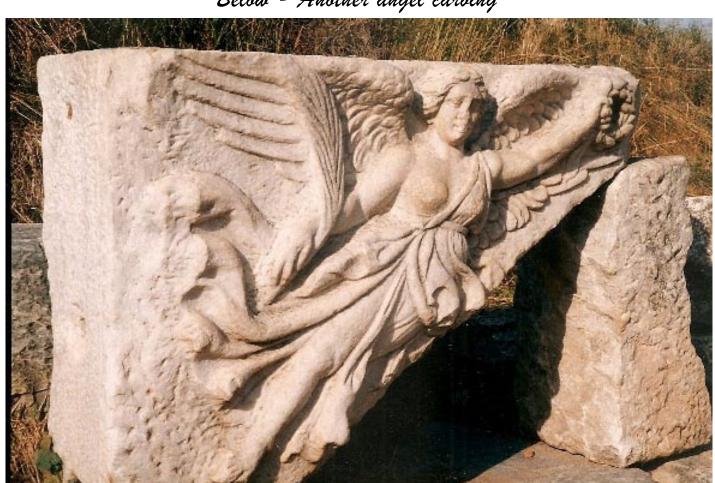


October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Above - Anna saw her name written in stone from wa-a-y back when Below - More Christian graffiti on the stone walkways





October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Above - "The writing is on the wall" Below - Another angel carving



#### October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey

Me posing by a cadeuceus carved into the stone.

This indicated this was a hospital sign, and later at the museum we saw medical instruments that they found in this area.



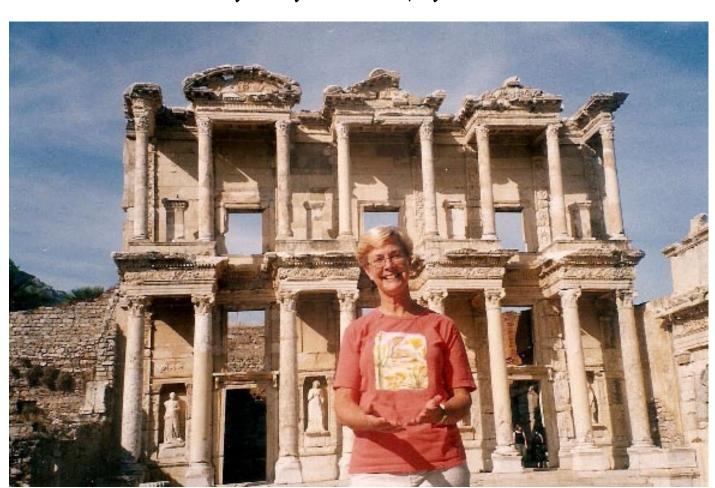
October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey

The cadeuceus hospital sign close-up





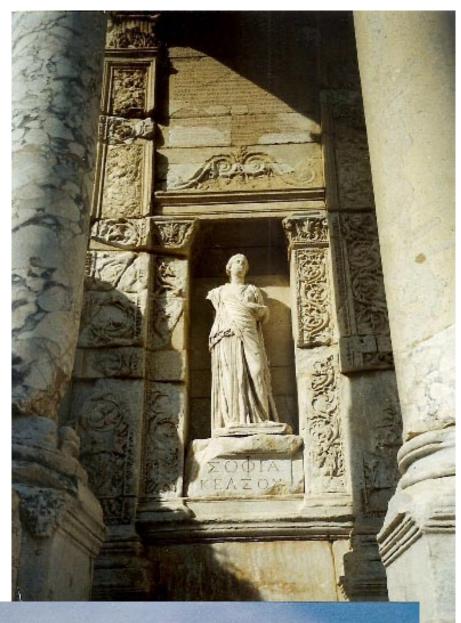
October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Anna in front of the Library of Celsus ruins



October - November 2003 Ephesus, Turkey

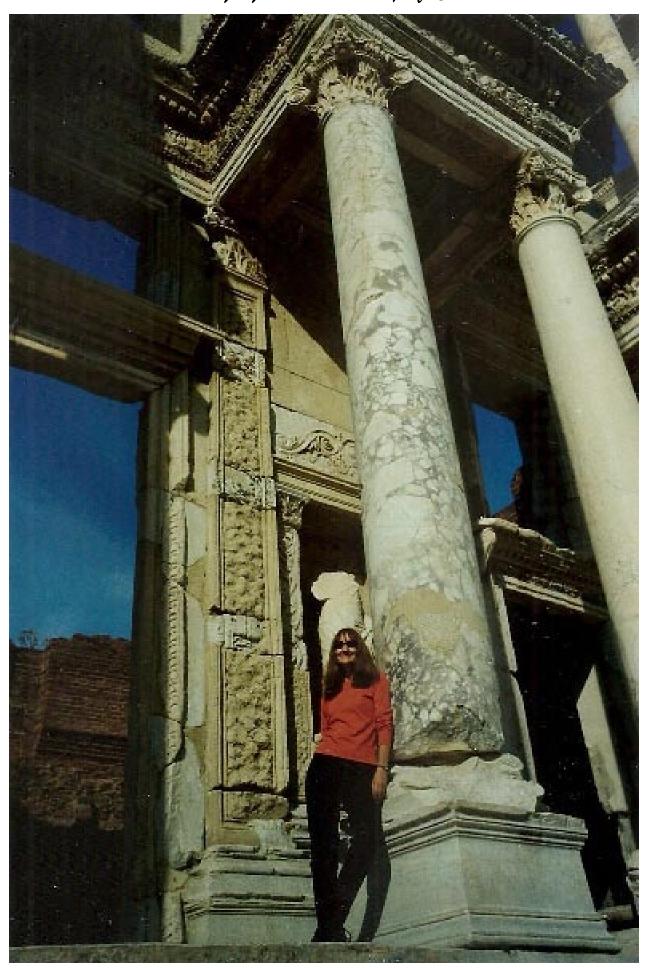
Right - Statue at the Library of Celsus

Below - Me in front of the Library of Celsus

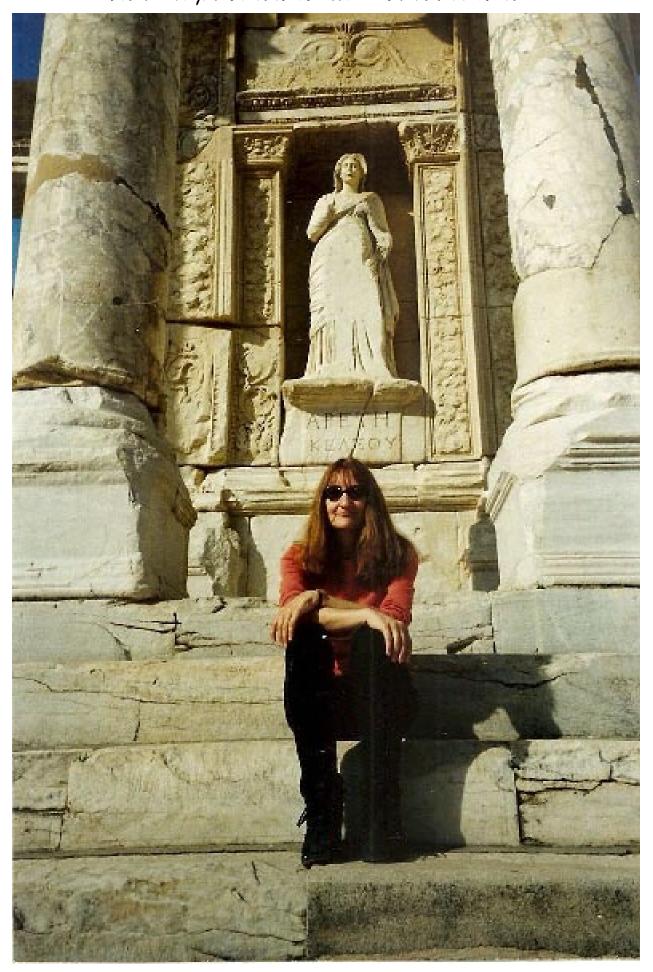




October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Me hanging at the Library of Celsus



October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey
We sitting on steps of Library of Celsus...pondering...were
the books parchment scrolls or carved in stone??





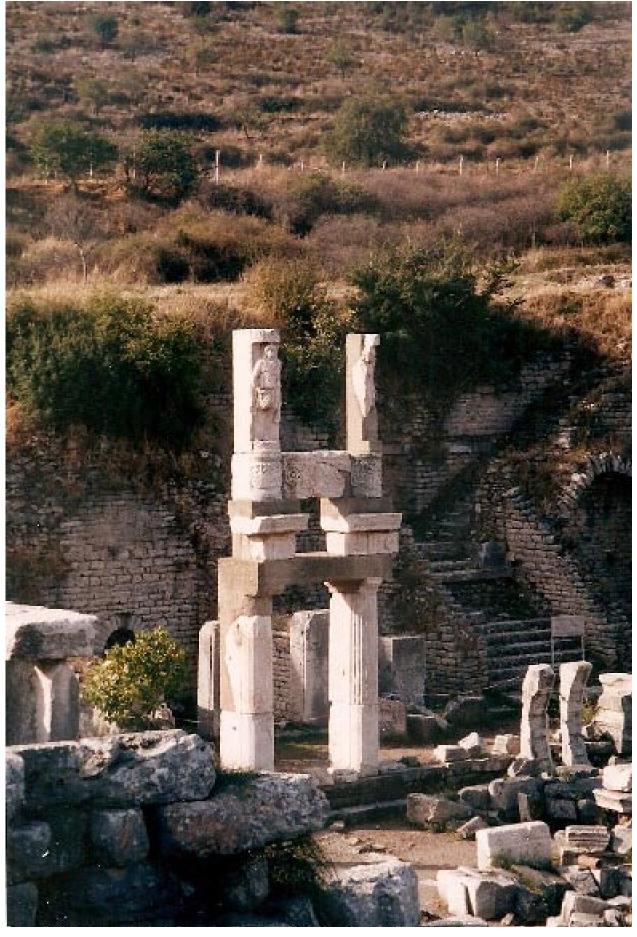
October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey





October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey

More columns

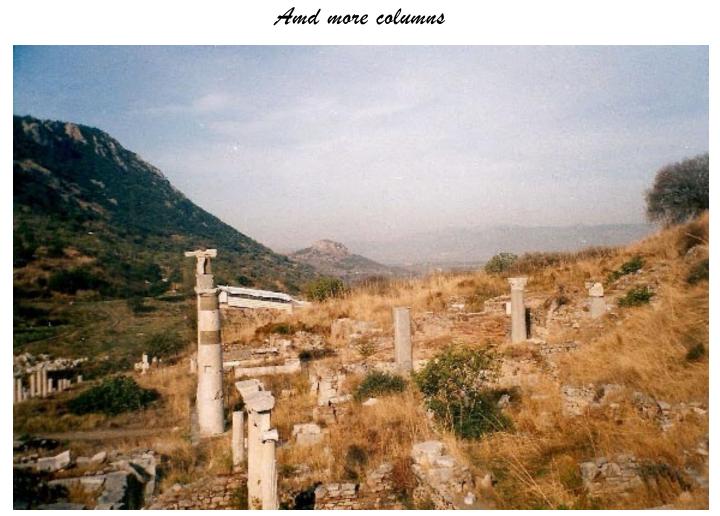


October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Anna doing her best Paul the Apostle imitation

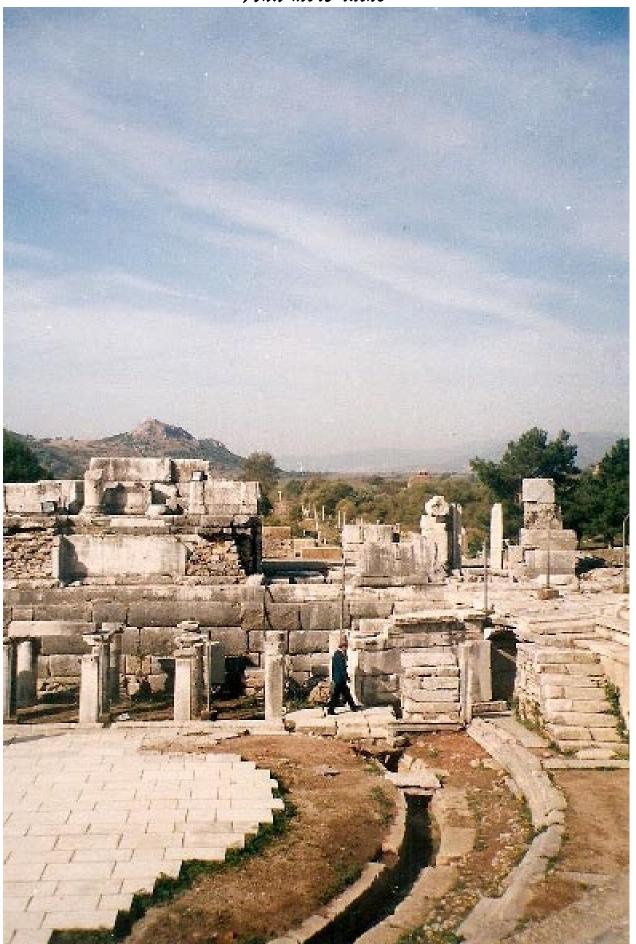


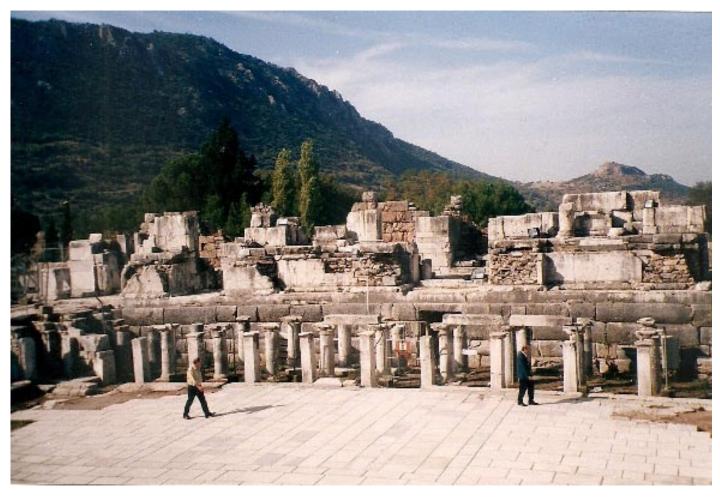


October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey



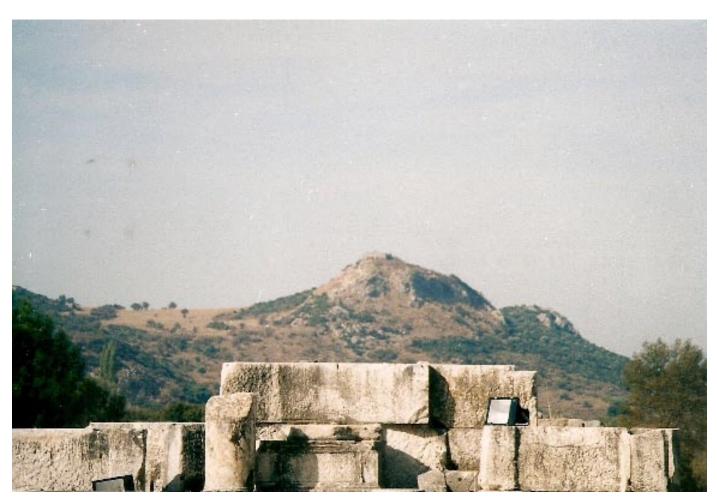
October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey And more ruins



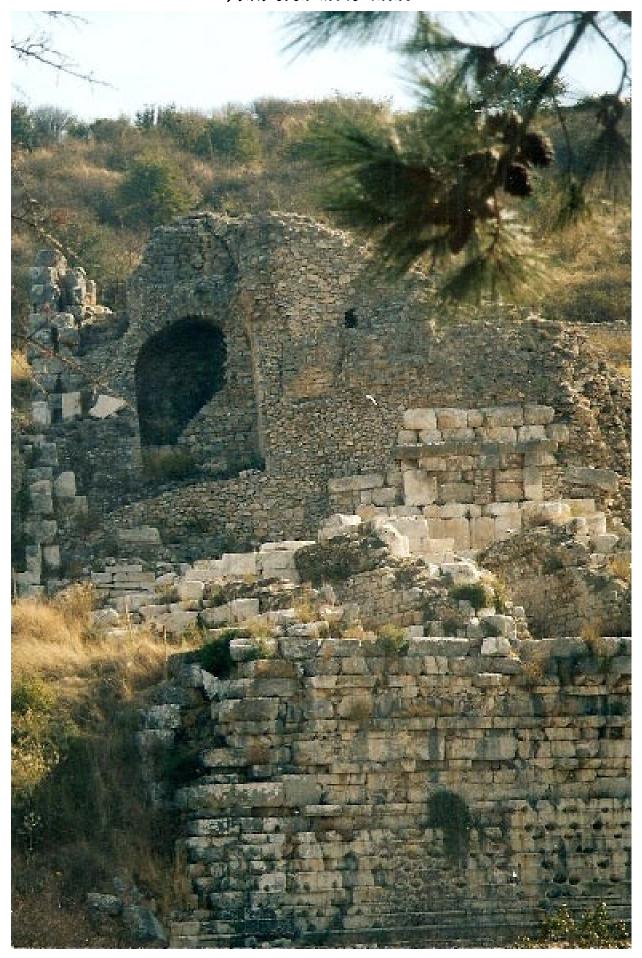


October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey

And more and more ruins



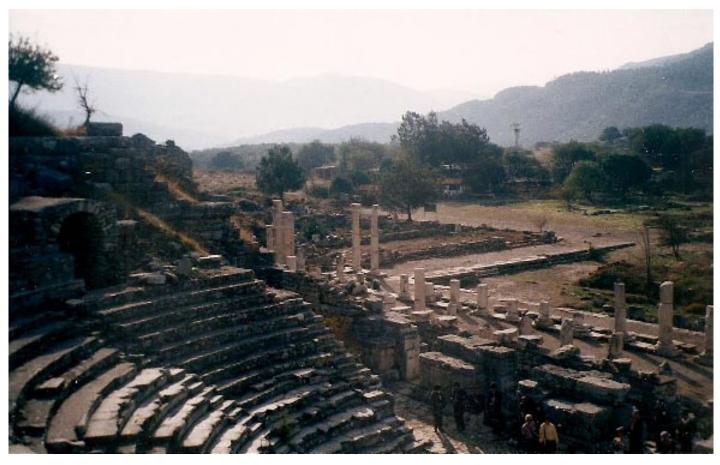
October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey And even more ruins



October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Appoaching the amphitheater

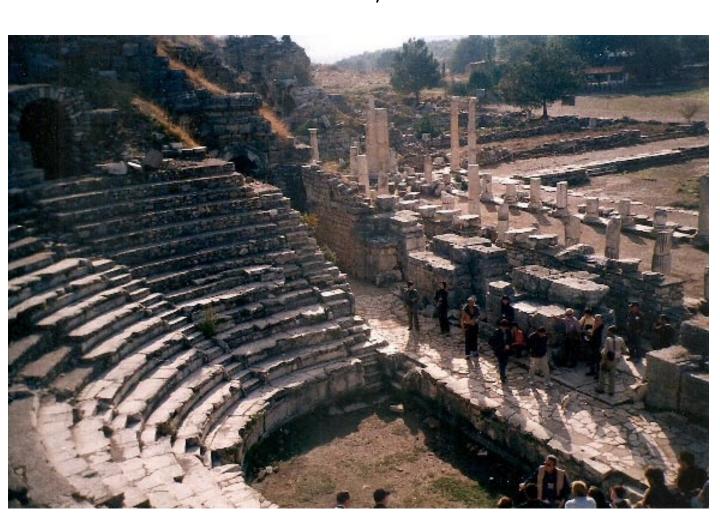


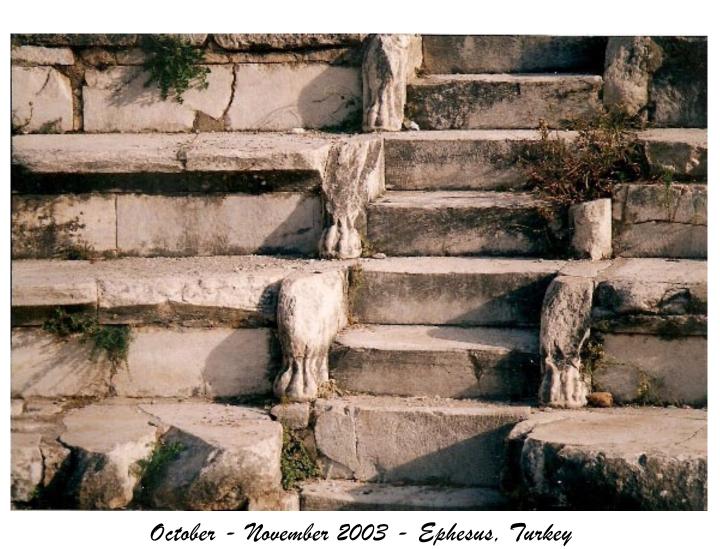




October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey

Inside the amphitheater

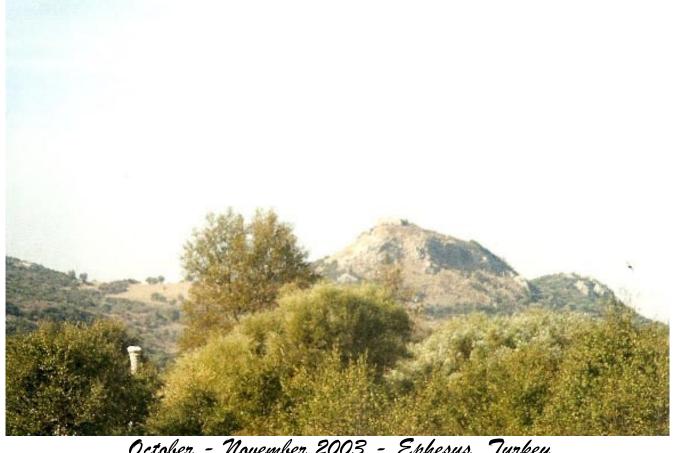




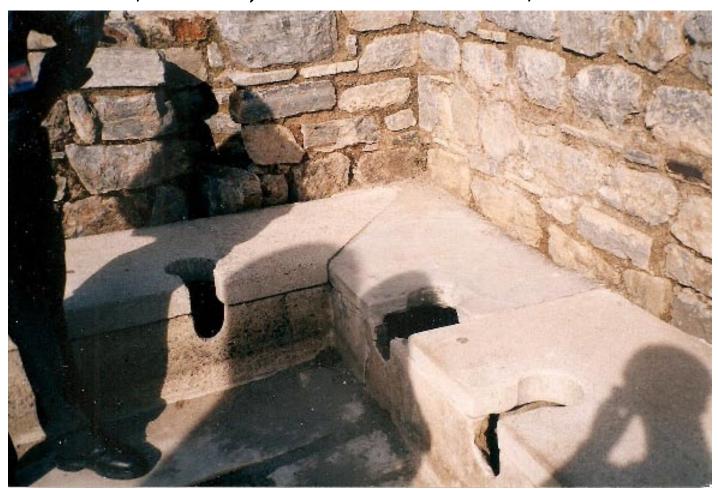
Above - The claw feet of the carved out stone seats in the amphitheater

Below - View of the amphitheater near the exit of the walking tour





October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Above - View of the landscape Public toilets, which would have had a water system running underneath like a modern day sewer



October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey

And right at the exit the modern day public toilets. I wonder if the

Ephesians had to pay only 50 cents to feel the magic atmosphere!!



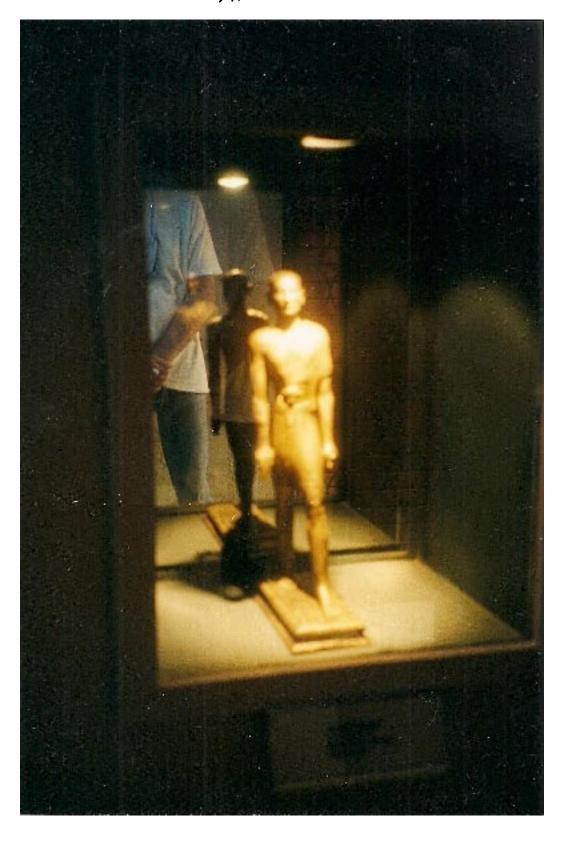


October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Above - Sundial outside the Museum of Ephesus Below - Two busts



## October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey

The Ephesus Museum Egyptian statue



October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey The Ephesus Museum The remains of a painted wall mural from the Ephesus ruins



October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey The Ephesus Museum Statue of Artemis

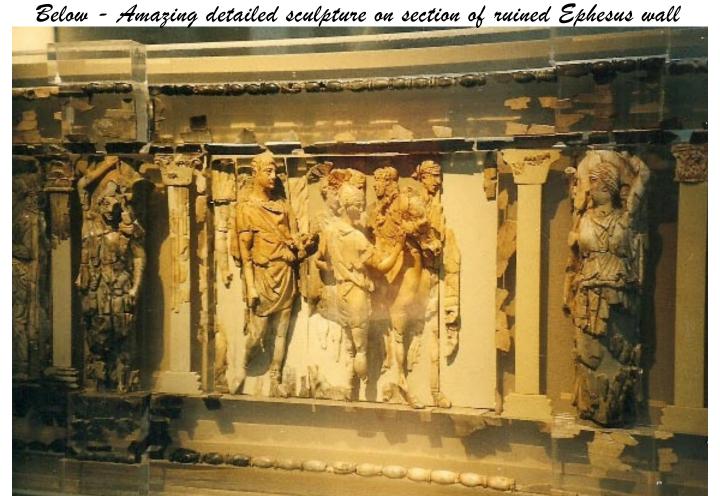


October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey The Ephesus Museum Me getting a closer look - Are those eggs or breasts?





October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey The Ephesus Museum Above - Artemis close-up





October - November 2003 Ephesus, Turkey

The Ephesus Museum

Above - Priapus statue, phallus god, is seen all around Turkey

Left - I call this one Fruit of the Loins!



November 4, 2003 - Tuesday (continued)

Quick tour of Temple of Artemis, where we saw an unusual site--a stork perched in a nest on top of the one lone column. They normally migrate in July.

Then toured briefly a Syrian mosque and the Basilica of St. John.

## October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey The Temple of Artemis

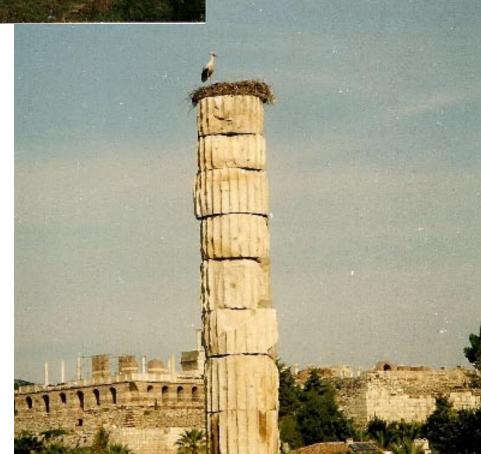




October - November 2003 Ephesus, Turkey

The Temple of Artemis

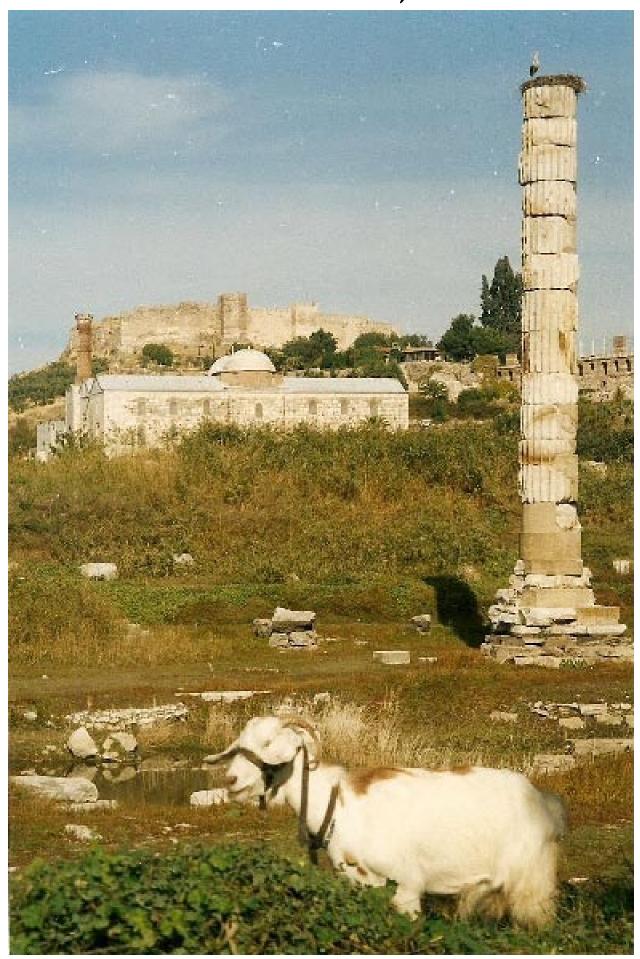
Stork perched on top the lone column and nest.



October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey The Temple of Artemis Stork perched on top the lone column and nest.



October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey The Temple of Artemis Stork on column and goat



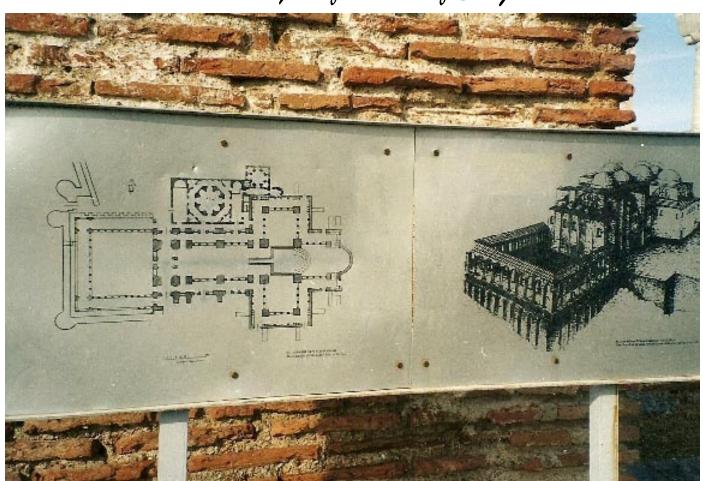


October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Above - The Temple of Artemis - Stork in flight Below - The Basilica of St. John in the distance



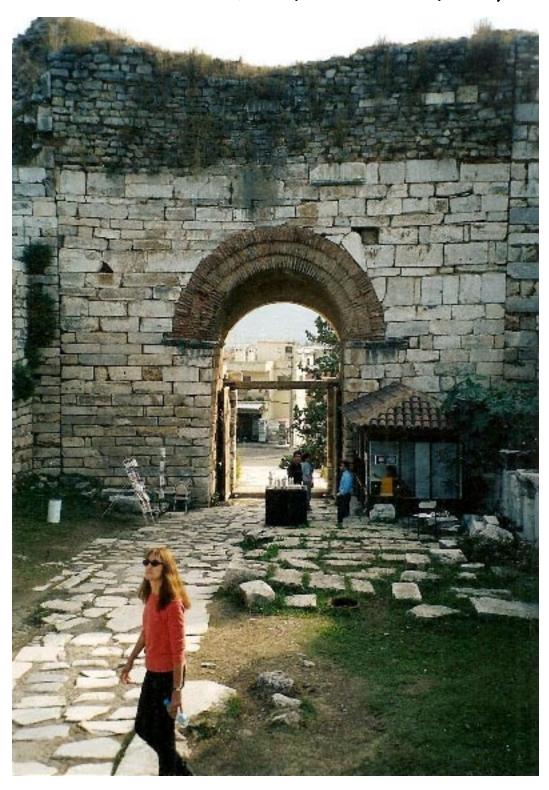


October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Above - Ancient Syrian mosque Below - Layout of Basilica of St. John



October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey

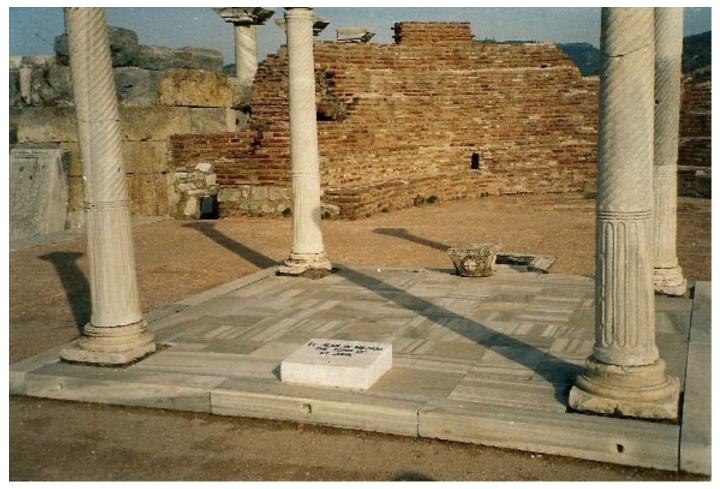
Me inside the lower courtyard of the Basilica of St. John



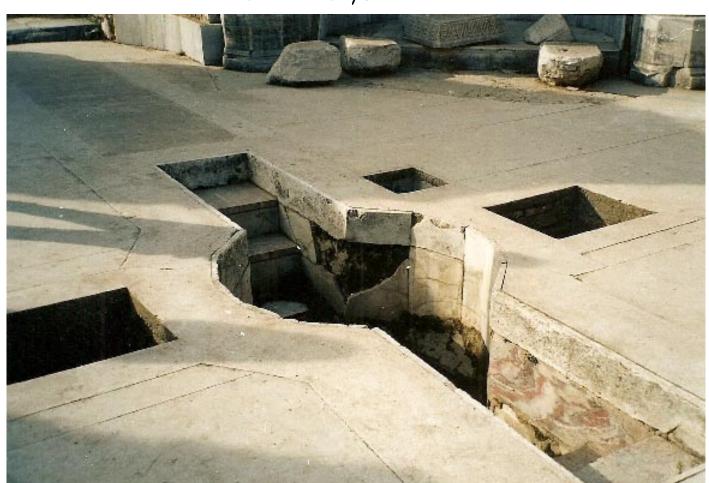


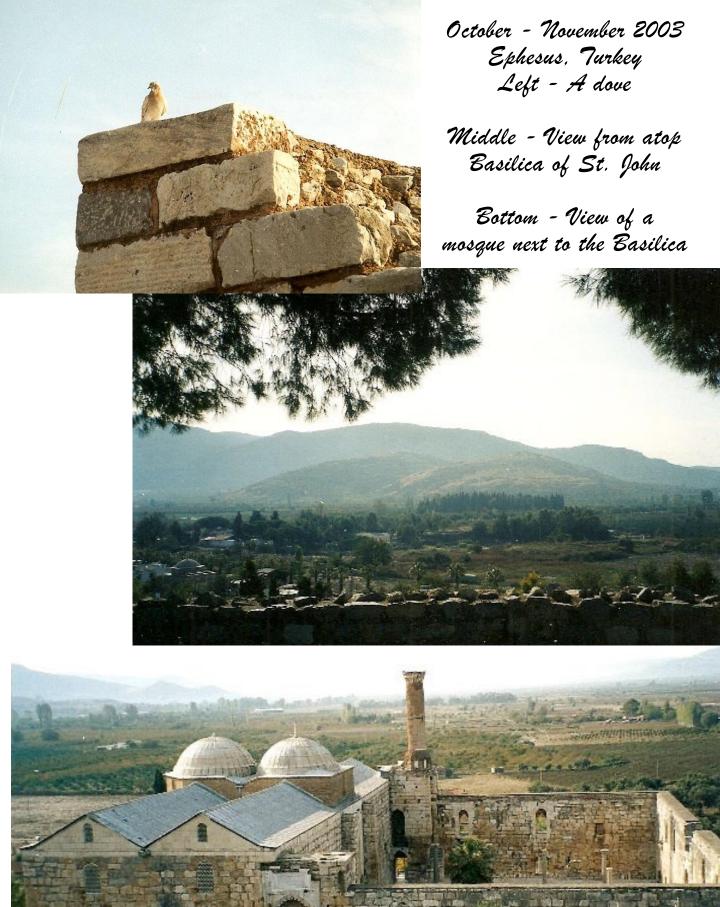
October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Above-Me posing among the headstones. The turbans indicated males, carved flowers were females.

Below - Columns of Basilica of St. John



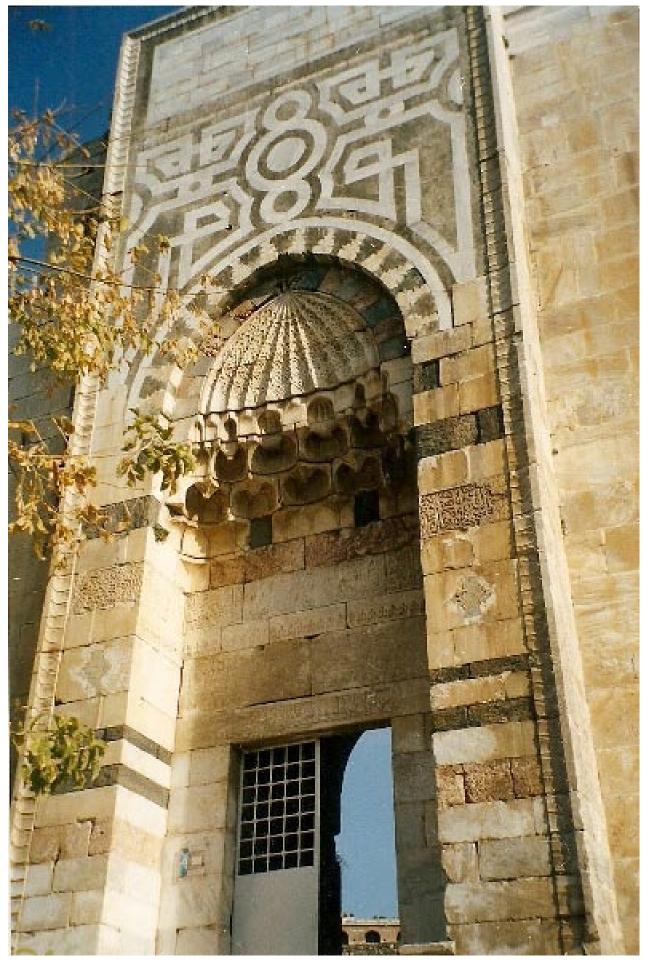
October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey Above - Supposed burial place of John the Baptist Below - Baptismal area





October - November 2003 - Ephesus, Turkey

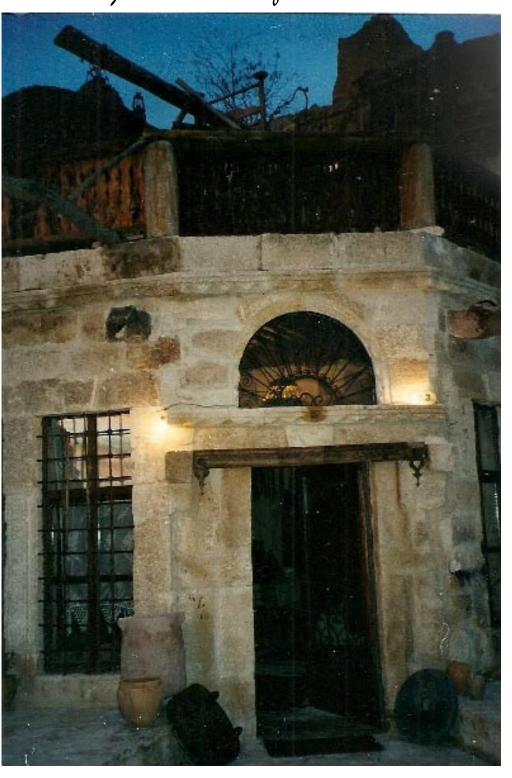
Front entry to the mosque next to the Basilica of St. John



## October - November 2003

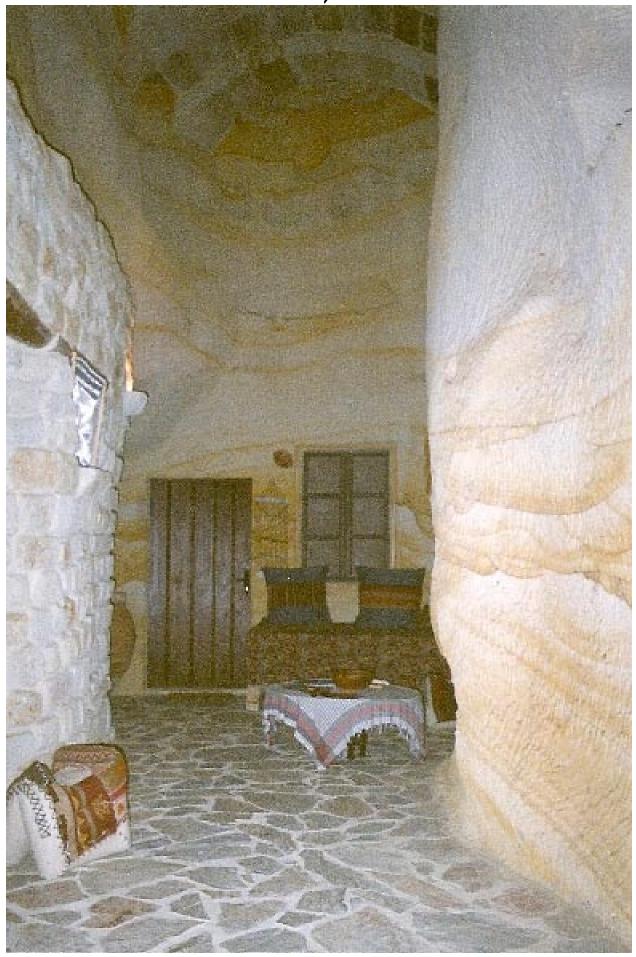
Cappadocia, Turkey Karen and Mike drove us to the airport where we caught a plane to Istanbul and connected to Kayseri. The driver was not there. Took a taxi to Urgup and arrived at Elkep Evi (cave hotel) at night. Elegant and beautiful and new. Our room was luxurious. Took a hot bath and hot tea in the cold air, while the heater warmed the room.

October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey Exterior of the Elkep Evi cave hotel we stayed at built right into the side of the mountain



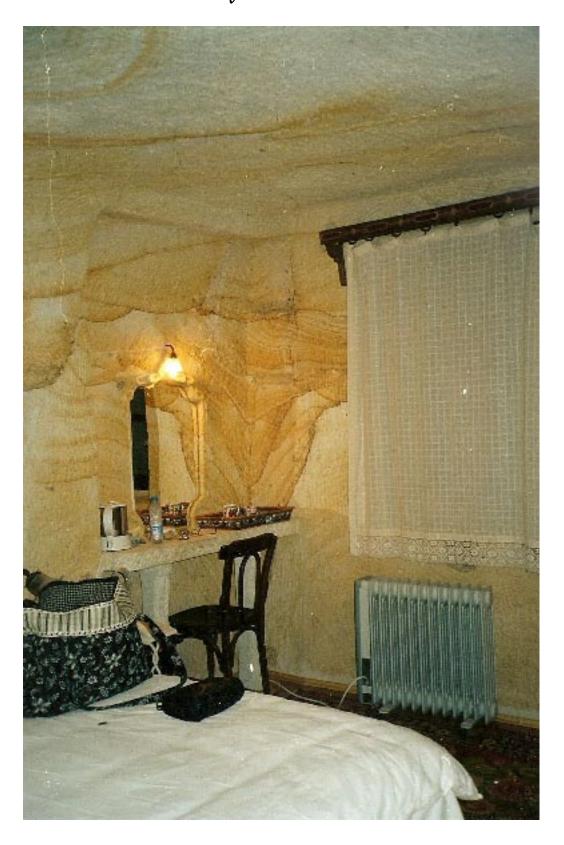
October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey

Exterior entrance hallway to our cave hotel room



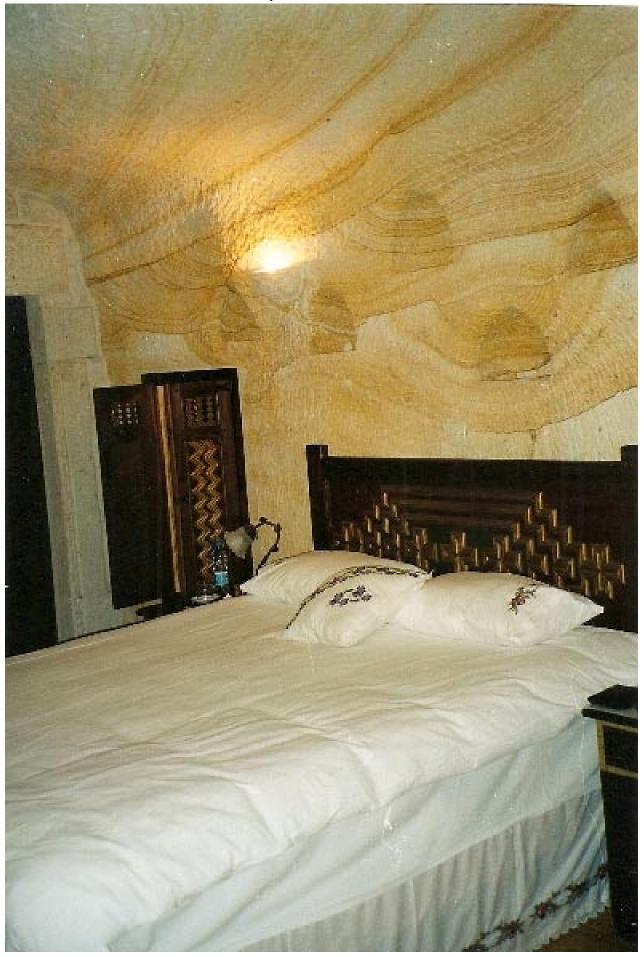
October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey

Interior of our cave hotel room



October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey

Interior of our cave hotel room





October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey Interior of our cave hotel room



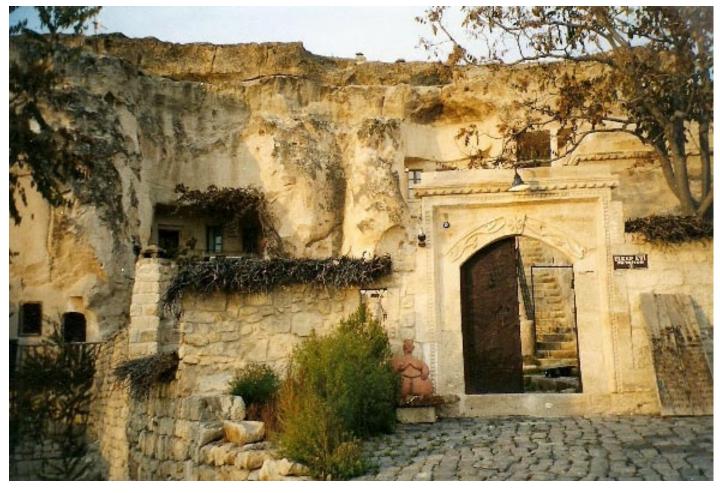
## November 5, 2003 - Wednesday

Haydir, the owner, welcomed us. We had our breakfast on the lawn terrace overlooking the town of Urgup with the mountains as the backdrop. We met our tour guide driver Memduh over breakfast. He then drove us to the Fairy Chimneys and the largest indoor cave chapel (Greek or Orthodox) with fresco paintings. We climbed on the Fairy Chimneys and then on the road, I got my picture on the camel, "a retired wrestling camel" who now poses for pictures.

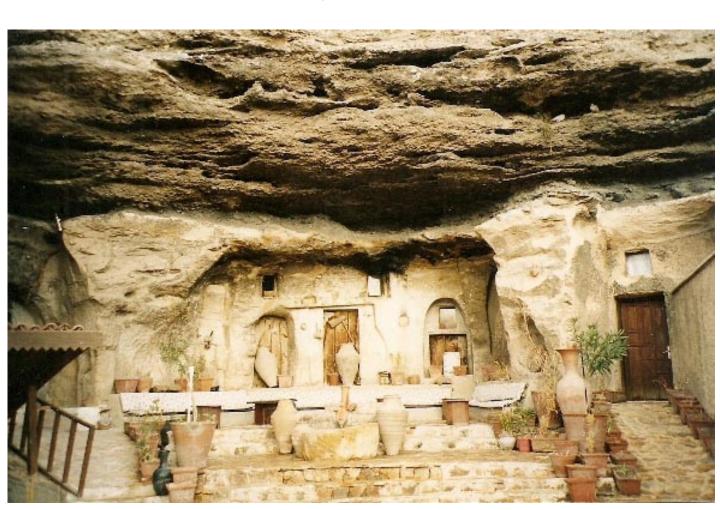
October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey

Breakfast on the outdoor lawn terrace. There were speakers (seen in the photo on the right the orange pottery thing) playing classical music. A perfectly elegant experience.





October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey Daytime exterior of our cave hotel Elkep Evi

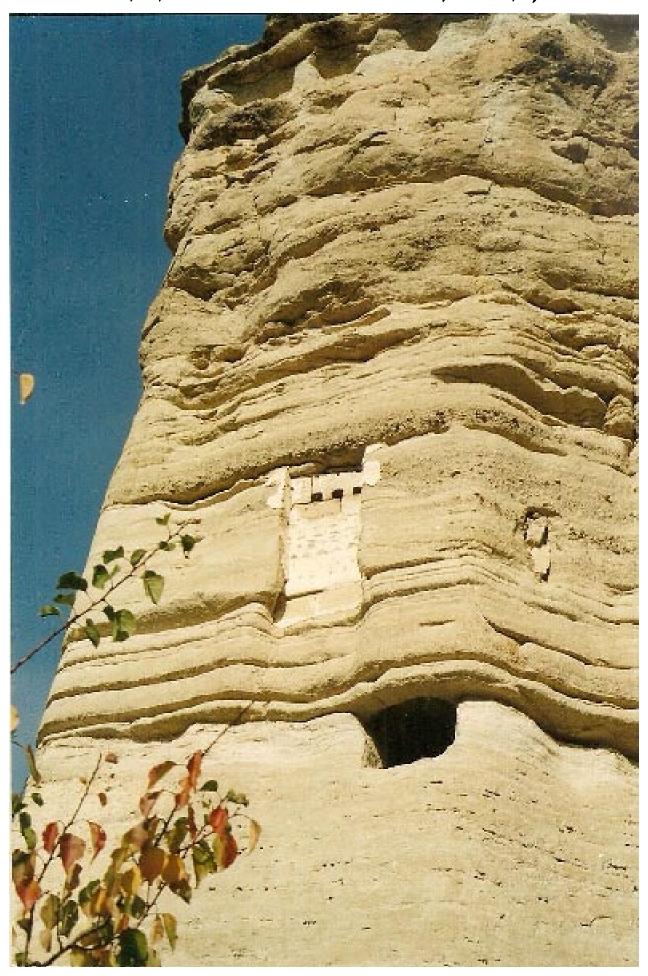




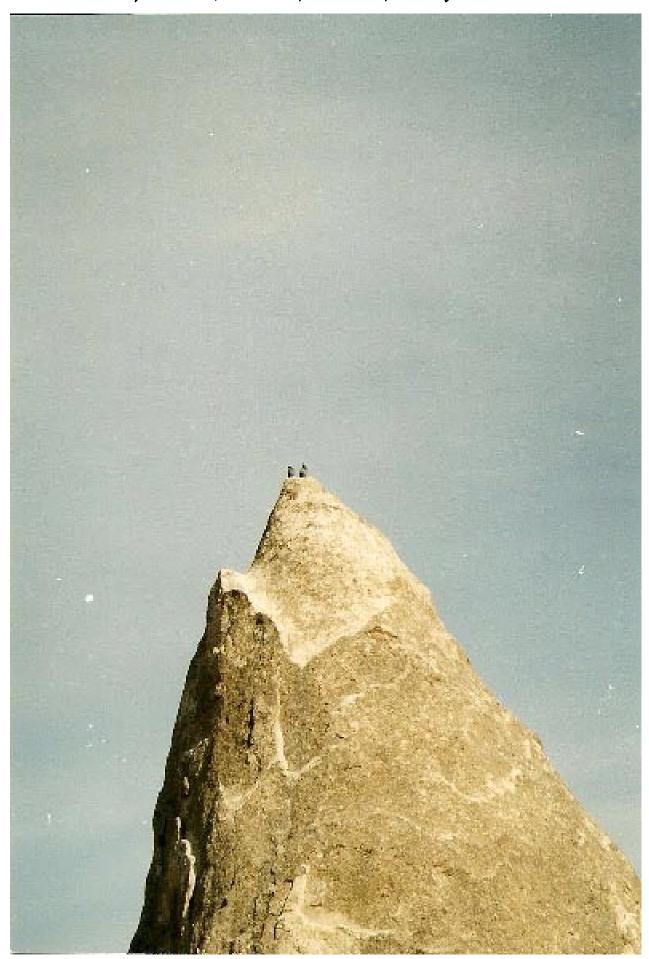
October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey Me and Memduh entering the Fairy Chimneys rock formations

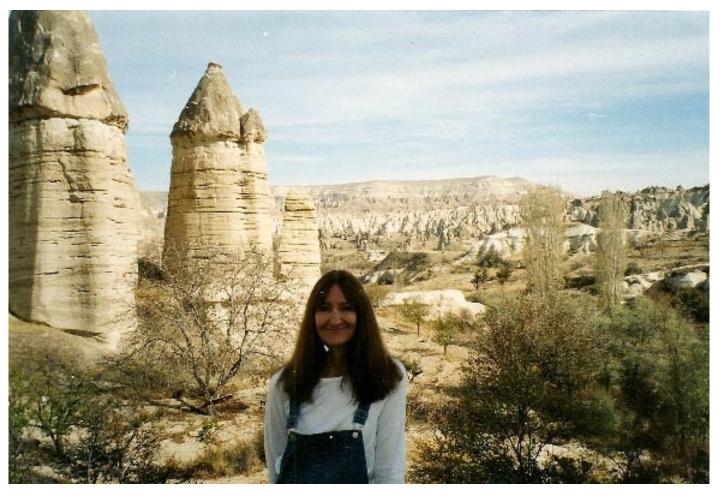


October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey Where people once lived in these, now they house pigeons



October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey Pigeons atop a Fairy Chimney rock formation

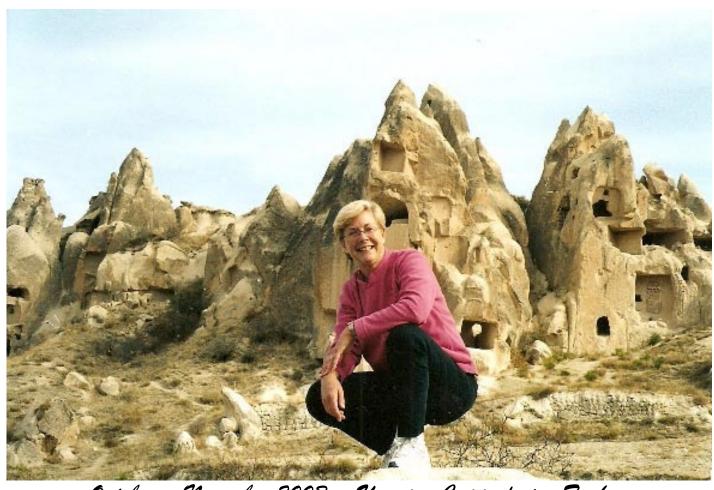




October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey

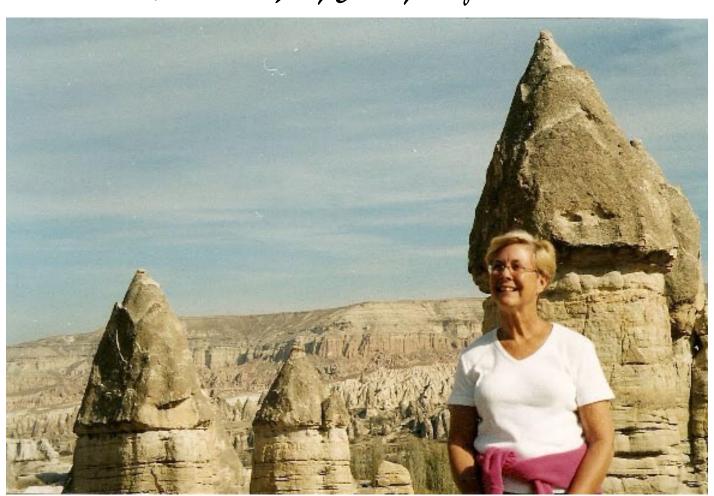
Me at the Fairy Chimney rock formations

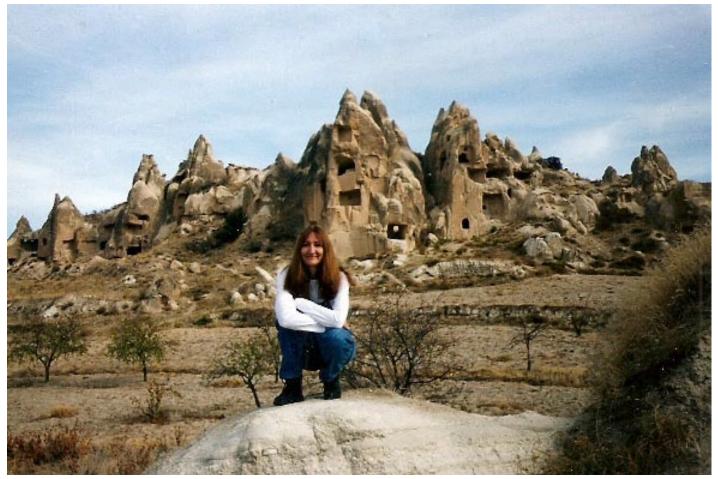




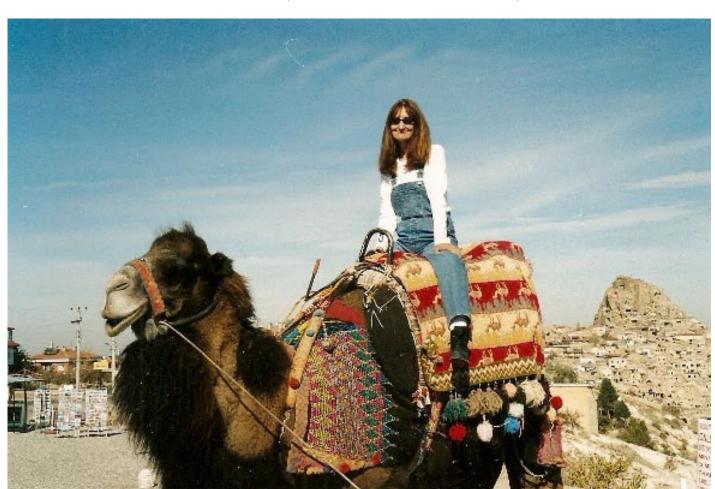
October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey

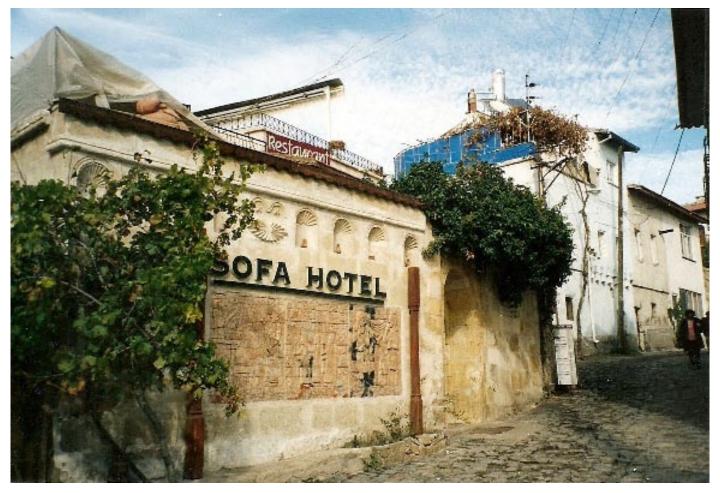
Anna at the Fairy Chimney rock formations





October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey Above - Me at the Fairy Chimney rock formations Below - Me posing on "the retired wrestling camel"





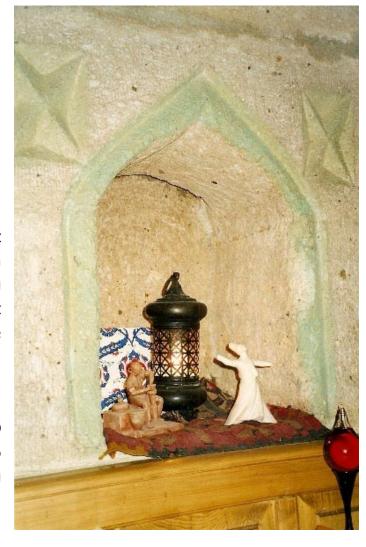
October - November 2003 Avanos - Cappadocia, Turkey

Above - Hotel with restaurant Right - Alcove next to our table

November 5, 2003 - Wednesday (continued)

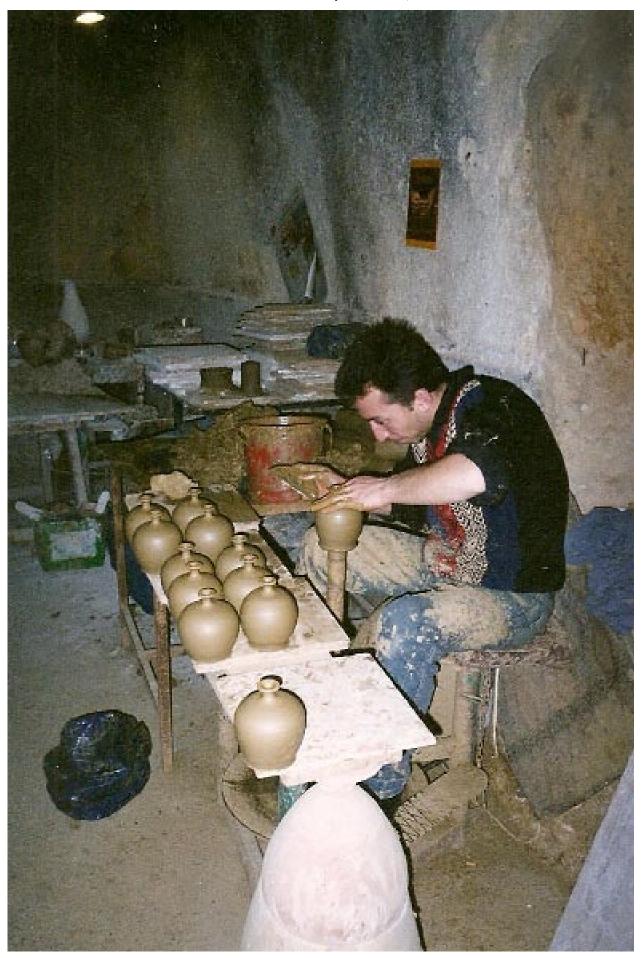
Next we had lunch in Avanos at an elegant restaurant that also looked like we were in a cave and then into the pottery making place. Also walked through a cave and it opened into larger cave chambers where their work was done.

On our way back to our room, we stopped in a few shops in Urgup. Bought local CD music "oud" and "saz" and a walk back to our room for tea on the terrace watching the sunset.



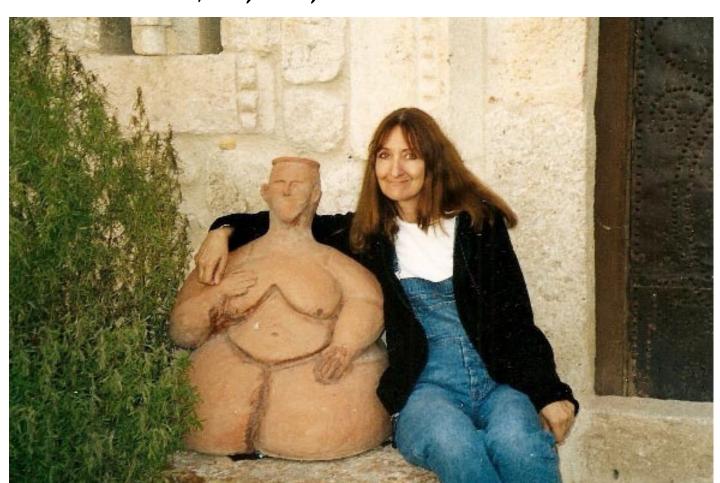
October - November 2003 - Avanos - Cappadocia, Turkey

Man making pottery





October - November 2003 - Avanos - Cappadocia, Turkey Above - Women painting pottery Below - Me posing with goddess statue outside our cave hotel





October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey Above - Old gravestone just at the end of the road near our cave hotel Below - Same scene during sunset





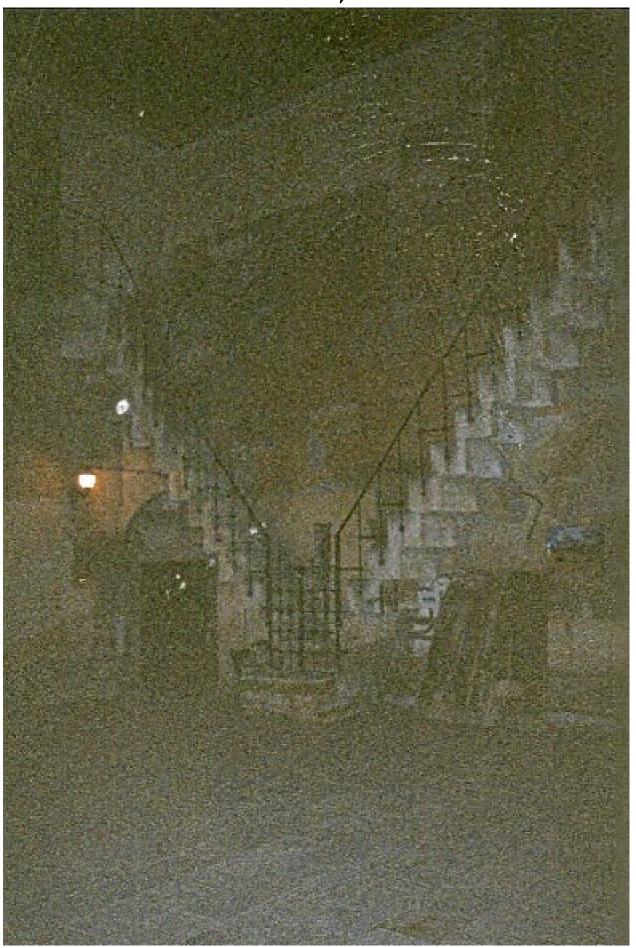
October - November 2003 - Urgup - Cappadocia, Turkey Above - sunset and Below - Interior of van



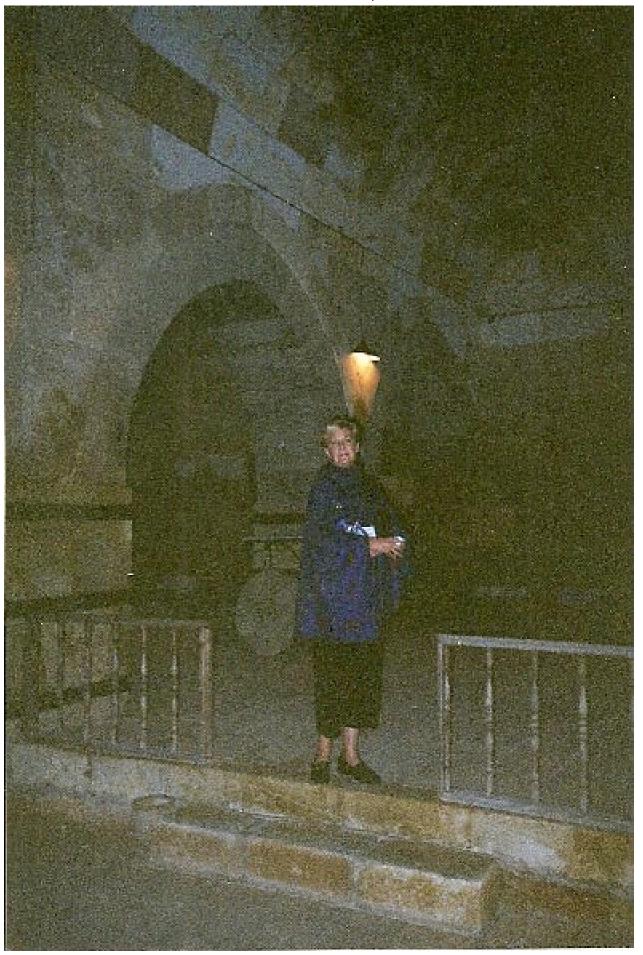
November 5, 2003 - Wednesday (continued)

Mini bus picked us up and drove us to Sarihan, 13th century caravanseral for the Whirling Dervishes. It was stunningly beautiful, graceful and I remembered it. Afterwards we got a ride back to the Elkep Evi by two younger Turkish men driving wildly. We arrived safely at our room.

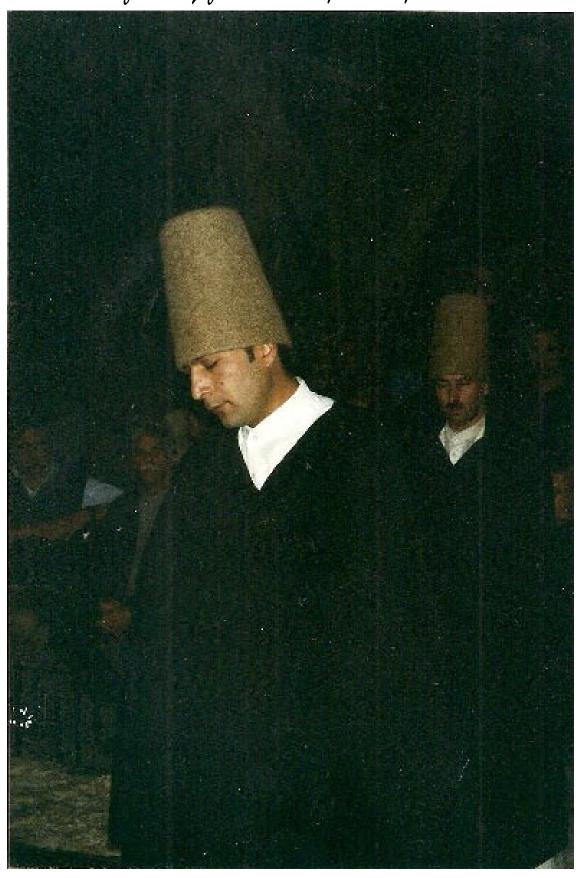
October - November 2003 - Sarihan - Cappadocia, Turkey Interior 13th century caravanserai

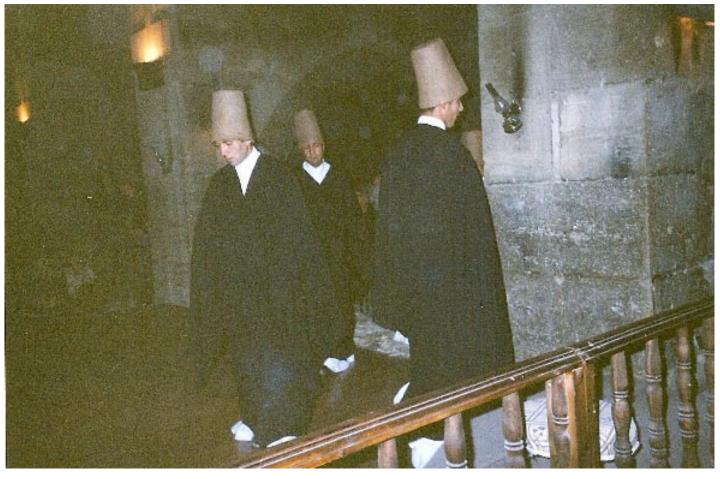


October - November 2003 - Sarihan - Cappadocia, Turkey Anna, interior 13th century caravanserai

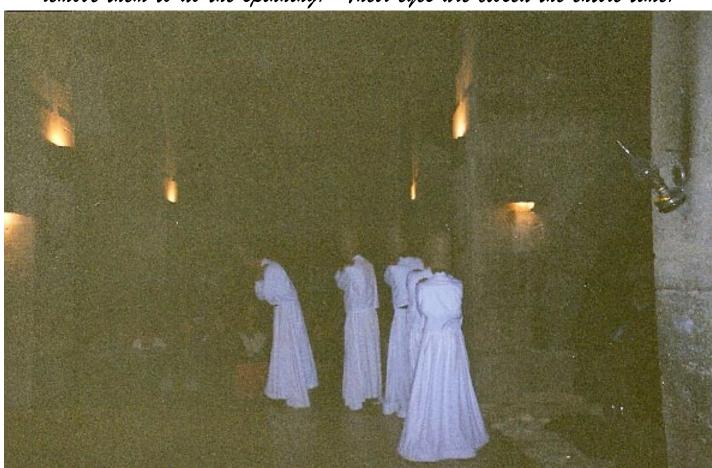


October - November 2003 - Sarihan - Cappadocia, Turkey
The Whirling Dervishes - They first did their spiritual presentation
where no photos were allowed. Later they returned to repeat a
shorter version to allow us to take photos. All of these photos were
taken after they finished the spiritual presentation.





October - November 2003 - Sarihan - Cappadocia, Turkey
The Whirling Dervishes - They first enter wearing their cloaks and then
remove them to do the spinning. Their eyes are closed the entire time.





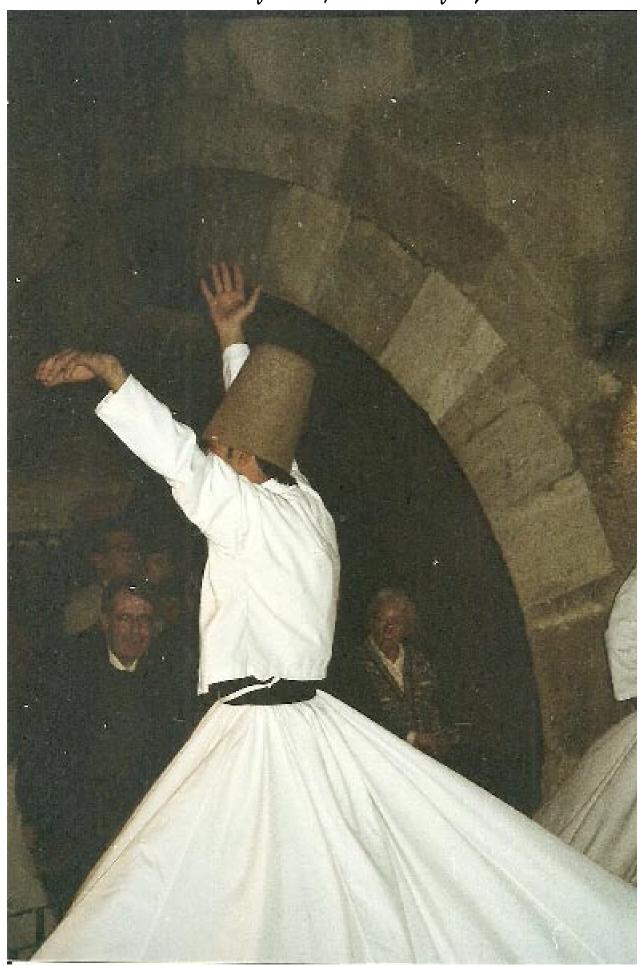
October - November 2003 - Sarihan - Cappadocia, Turkey
The Whirling Dervishes - They bow before beginning to spin, and
there are live musicians, as you can see drums in the picture below.



October - November 2003 - Sarihan - Cappadocia, Turkey The Whirling Dervishes - Let the whirling begin!



October - November 2003 - Sarihan - Cappadocia, Turkey
The Whirling Dervishes - The bottom of the skirts are weighted
to make the fabric spin so beautifully.





October - November 2003 - Sarihan - Cappadocia, Turkey
The Whirling Dervishes - Their heads are tilted to the right and one
arm raised over head and the other raised but with a limp wrist.



October - November 2003 - Sarihan - Cappadocia, Turkey The Whirling Dervishes



October - November 2003 - Sarihan - Cappadocia, Turkey The Whirling Dervishes





October - November 2003 - Sarihan - Cappadocia, Turkey The Whirling Dervishes

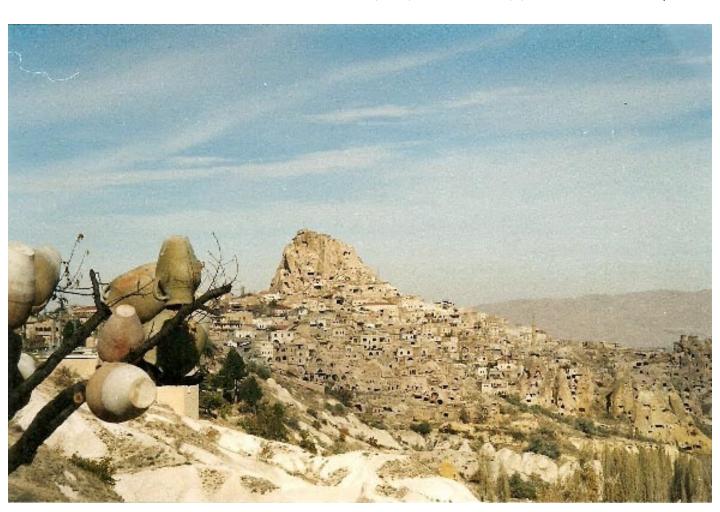


## November 6, 2003 - Thursday

Memduh met us in the dining room (of Elkep Evi cave hotel), when we finished breakfast. He drove us to the "underground cities" man-made caves dug deep into the earth. No one knows who exactly dug them out--intricate and extensive and deeply layered.

More shopping, then a lovely drive over back country roads to small villages. In the village of Mustaphapasa, we met a friend of Memduh, Akif, a man that lived in the caves, modernized somewhat, who played a folk song on the "saz." I tried it. We ate in a 5-star hotel restaurant. We were the only ones there served like royalty.

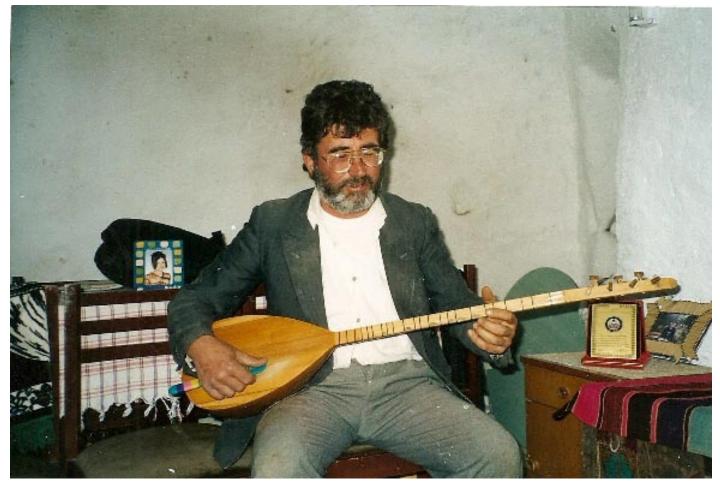
October - November 2003 - Mustaphapasa - Cappadocia, Turkey



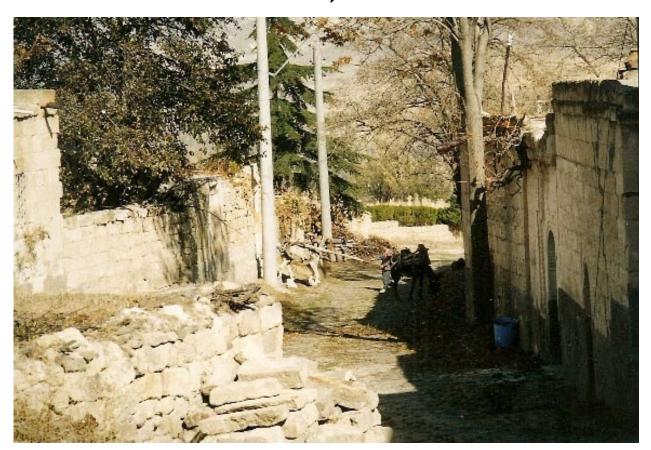


October - November 2003 - Mustaphapasa - Cappadocia, Turkey Our guide, Memduh, Me and his friend, Akif, holding an egg??



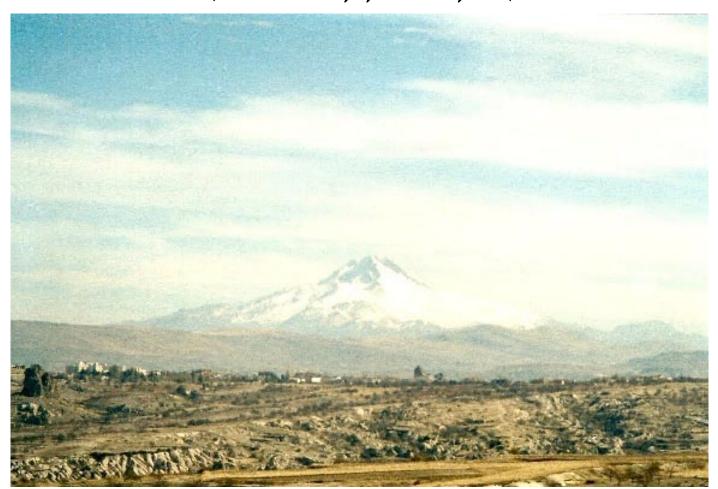


October - November 2003 - Mustaphapasa - Cappadocia, Turkey
Above - Akif playing the saz in his cave living room using
his daughter's comb as a pick! He let me try to play it.
Below - We walked around the village near the 5-star hotel restaurant.





October - November 2003 - Cappadocia, Turkey
We stopped at a roadside place for tea and saw this beautiful view.
A man at the next picnic table engaged us in great political discourse.



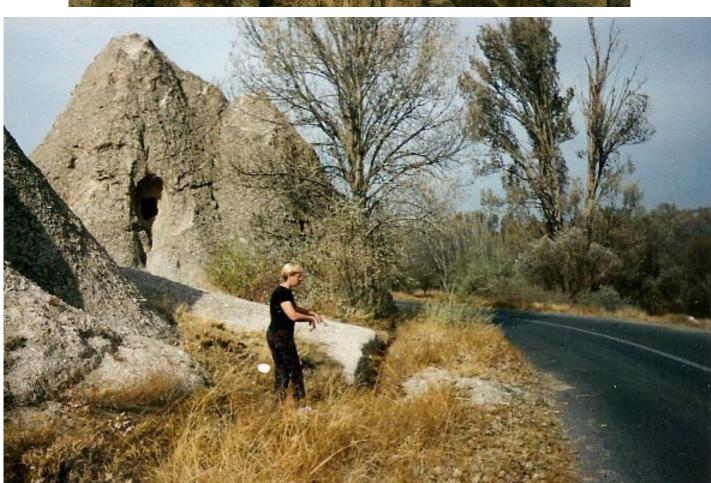
November 6, 2003 - Thursday (continued)

We drove more through Fairy Chimneys, posed for a picture and local farmers posed for a picture. Then back to Urgup. We shopped a little more in the market, and our minibus picked us up and back to Kayseri Airport.

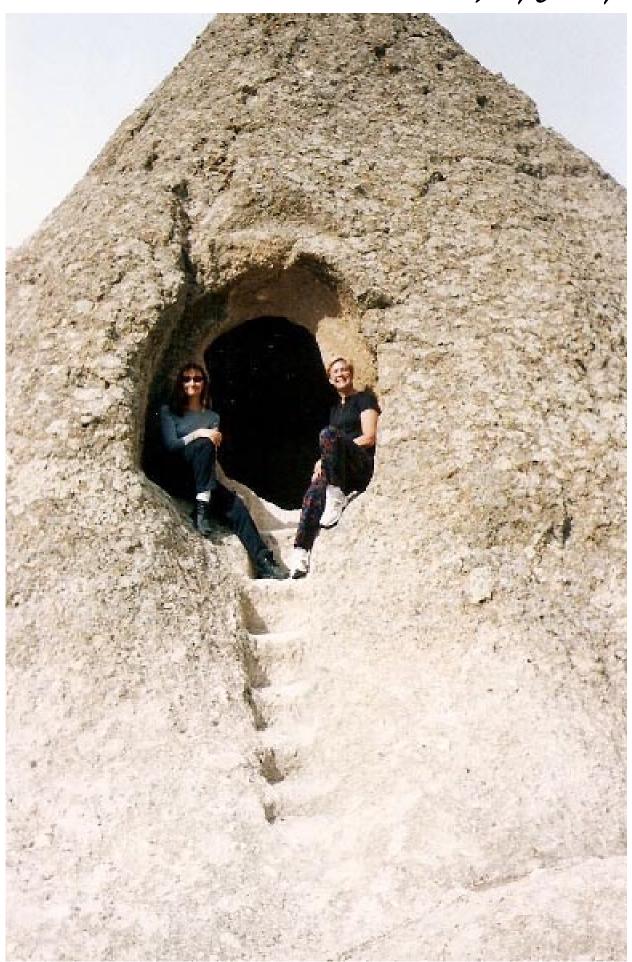
October - November 2003 - Cappadocia, Turkey

Caves dating back to ancient Roman times and Anna exploring a Fairy Chimney





October - November 2003 - Cappadocia, Turkey Me and Anna nestled like two little Hobbits in a Fairy Chimney





October - November 2003 - Cappadocia, Turkey
The friendly Turkish potato farmers posing for us.
They store the potatoes in the caves to keep them cool.



November 6, 2003 - Thursday (continued)

Arrived in Istanbul to a rainy and windy night. Turkoman Hotel, cute, quaint right across from the Blue Mosque. Loud music echoed in the room. I was too tired to explore. Anna went to the lounge. (The following morning we caught our flight back to America.)

October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey

View of the Blue Mosque from the upstairs dining area of Turkoman Hotel



October - November 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey Seagull perched on ledge outside dining area of Turkoman Hotel with Blue Mosque in the background

