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*Historical Deliberation Practices in the Canon of Lekë Dukagjini: A Transhistorical Analysis of Socio-Legal Structures*

This study employs a transhistorical analytical framework to examine the Canon of Lekë Dukagjini, a customary legal system that historically governed tribal societies in northern Albania from the 15th century onwards. This research aims to dissect the deliberative practices encapsulated within the Canon, specifically focusing on chapters concerning the church, family (marriage, engagement, wedding, husband, parents, inheritance, divorce), forbidden acts, housing, property, labor, public speech, trade, honor, blood revenge, damages, theft, and homicide.

The methodology integrates a comprehensive hermeneutic analysis of the text, supported by historical comparative techniques in order to contextualize these practices within broader European legal traditions. The study utilizes primary resources including the text of the Canon itself, supplemented by secondary analyses and interpretations by historians and legal scholars.

The theoretical approach is grounded in the principles of deliberative democracy theory, adapted to a historical context to explore how traditional laws structured societal norms and governance. The focus on the Canon’s specific chapters allows for a detailed exploration of the mechanisms through which tribal law influenced social order and interpersonal relationships.

This research will provide a systematic examination of the Canon’s deliberative aspects, thereby enriching the academic field’s understanding of traditional legal frameworks and their mechanisms for societal governance.