

## Sacred Olive Tree

"Not only within the surrounding verdant area in the heart of Athens, called Elaionas do we encounter trees, the trunks of which have been the "fruits of a very long process", counting indeed many centuries of life, but also around other green spaces that had been created and developed into Olive groves all over Greece, without having the natural environment, in the name of Elaionas, destroyed by the uprising of Central Greece in 1685, reaching the climax of war, at the outbreak of the Greek War of Independence in 1821.

It is noteworthy that such historical impact and significance pertains to the centuries-old Olive Tree, set on that **Sacred Road (Iera Odos)**, in the area of Votanikos, planted on the green territory of the Agricultural University of Athens, in the era of Pericles or Plato, according to the questionable accuracy of the tradition of Indigenous Athenians".



*The Sacred Plato's Olive Tree*

*P.G. GENNADIOS, PHYTOLOGICAL DICTIONARY, 1914*

The aforementioned Olive Tree had been lying, until the early 1970's, onto the south curb of Iera Odos, within close proximity to the Athenian Paper Industry, protected by a rough railing, having been considered as the **Sacred Plato's Olive Tree**, which had been crashed into by a vehicle, getting harshly damaged.



*The remains of that Sacred Olive Tree are henceforth, kept inside an impressive huge display case, given a prominent place in the Central Administration Building of the Agricultural University of Athens.*



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