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The concepts of peace and unity in the works of Mehmet Akif Ersoy

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Abstract

From the cradle of the humanity, unity and sympathy played vital role in keeping peace between nations. “Divide and conquer” politics widely practiced in Europe and Russia, made its great influence on the Ottoman Empire of XIX and XX ages. Mehmet Akif Ersoy believed that one and only way to keep the country in prosperity was unity. This idea was the essence of his life and all of his works. He strongly believed that nothing can lead to disturbances in country, if everyone in it is trying to establish it. Author of national anthem wasn't only focused on writing poems and articles; but also he preached the need in uniting on a single religion for the better future of the country. Unity of Muslims led to the establishment of great cultures. Disunion of which resulted in a loss of their lands and people. For the whole life Mehmet Akif followed these ideas, relying on Turkic-Islamic history and main principles of Islam religion, including Koran, which played significant role in the establishment of his personality

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1. Introduction

The concepts of peace and unity have been of the main importance in the human history. With the each stage of development of the human mind, the people had to be in close relationship to defend them from others or help each other, and this phenomenon has never changed. Because of their living together a lot of developed societies appeared. In this kind of society it was impossible to have such concepts as misunderstanding, disagreement and malice. Because, reaching up to great goals is not possible without people of this society being totally amicable.

There have to be social rules of human qualities in the world where other people's values are of the high importance. Even if people don't share the same religion, the same language and the lifestyle they have to find

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their common interests and on the base of them live in the unity. It is quite important for people of any society to use all of their power of will to be able to come to the point in the moments of disagreement. Especially when it comes to the economic, political and military power of the societies depend on the ability of internal functions to resist external factors. If it happens vice versa it is not surprising to them to disappear from the history stage as famous empires that have ruled for centuries did. (Yetis,1992)

The idea of peace and unity, discussed in the works of Mehmet Akif Ersoy, is represented as the right way for the nation to move forward. The reason of his words to be acceptable for people is in their spiritual support for them (Bolay,2008). For instance, in his poem “Adamzat” Mehmet Akif defines people’s place in the world. According to the author he who can enclose the whole world into his life cannot understand the importance of the human values that should be kept properly:

“You have no idea of yourself.
 You say you are perfect, but you know,
 That your life is even more important than angel’s is.
 And you are those who enclosed the world into himself.
 The creature made of sand and ray of sun of GOD,
 Keep your pure heart full of shine.
 Your being great by your CREATOR’s plans
 Is not the end of your secrets” (Ersoy, 2003: 64)

In these lines we can clearly observe that his thoughts differ from the other naturalist, materialist and evolutionist views on the origin of the life. He thinks that human is not only a flesh and bone, but also developed creature in the spiritual sphere of life as well. As the result keeping material and spiritual values has to become the great aim of the humanity. If to discuss it widely, poet gives great importance to the idea that the spirit of the whole nation depends straightly on the life of each member of this society. It seems that his main aim was to “resuscitate the dead spirit” and put spirituality of the Turkish nation in contradiction with its material part. This contradiction made Turkish people to become closer to devotional life. So, the only weapon in the fight against malice was their hearts. In this turn Turkish nation got their victory and independency only with the help of their unity and peacefulness.

The concept of “Tauhid” that correlates with the idea of “Individuality and believing in the Allah’s being one” defines the human and his part in the world that surrounds him. So do the peacefulness and unity as the regulations to give the information of the other nationalities’ existence. Akif thinks that only after accepting some regulations found in the reciprocal lead people to achieve set goals, as human beings’ abilities are limited. Once in the mosque by Balykesir Zaghnos Pasha, he mentioned that nothing can happen without a reason. Because of this the concept of peace and unity will never lose its importance despite the time. In his speech he said: *“Nowadays life’s and all human beings’ needs cannot be satisfied by one person only. All work can be done only when society and nation join together. None of the factories, railways, ships and ports, hospitals, mosques, schools and trade markets, none of the religion and country saving groups, tools and explosives can do nothing on their own. In a word, no one can reach their aim alone. The life nowadays goes in such a way, that even one person tears and sweat can’t make any change. If there is only a group of people working together, then they can achieve their aims.”* (Duzdag, 2004: 207)

Society that doesn’t keep their unity and peace loses their independence, and gets under the influence of other nations governing. That’s why Mehmet Akif wanted to discourage people from riot, strife and misunderstandings between each other. 19 November, 1920 in Kastamonu, Mekhmed Akif’s historical words view of his evidence:

Any nation doesn’t bend their knees because of the defects of military weapons, aircrafts and necessary supplies. It happens only because of the spoilt relationship, when everyone thinks about themselves. If we hold the Islamic history in front of our eyes we will see that in the north, south, west and east a lot of powerful Muslim states, because of the damaged relationship, rebellion and strife lost their independence, and were taken by the

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