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ORHAN ARI –a School Teacher's Mark on Educational History, Teaching, Social Culture

By eao uk

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Orhan Seyfi Ari
An Idealist and Visionary
(1918–1992)

"A luminary to so many teachers"
(Editorial in `Halkin Sesi' of 27 December 1992)

Of those who wrote about him in English/American, in Turkish, in Greek -book–magazine–newspaper articles and officially and privately (in England, Cyprus, Australia).. to a poet he was a star -in his poem, to a columnist an eminent school, to an author a remarkable man, to an editor a defender of liberties, to a writer an honour to have known, and to a researcher `Such nice things I have heard about him!'...

To the Secretary of State for Education he was `the teacher of teachers' -inscribed on his tomb, a university professor's condolences from Turkey were to his nation -who in his honour named a street after him.

Orhan Ari was born in Lapithiou –Paphos, in the, at the time, British colony of Cyprus.. after completing his secondary and high–school education in Nicosia, and upon qualifying through Morphou Teachers Training College, he also studied agriculture...

With a keen interest in his continuing professional development through courses and seminars, and as to the rest mostly self–educated, he has left his unmistakable mark in the educational, cultural, ethical, social, progress and development of Cyprus.

He had been a secondary school teacher, a head teacher, a lecturer; an occasional columnist, in his personal circle of friends also a debater, mystic, poet..

in retirement he was invited overseas to inspect schools, and to give talks to cultural organisations...

He was a true and courageous leader of both pupils and peoples ~his extraordinary motivating skills had made him a choice of the British for the pioneering educational and socio-cultural development of many of the country's peoples, and popular in both the Turkish and Greek communities -having taught at also British schools pupils varying from Armenian to English etc., also after political independence, while later in the course of his community's adapting to the Turkish system of education (as may be suggested by some of his symbolic poems) he appears to have been officially perhaps less appreciated, upon his peacefully passing away -as a cleric of a couple of years in his retirement to make ends meet, the press having praised also his patriotism, the Leader of the Parliament of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus described him as having made both the state and the nation proud as "A successful modern educator.. who will be, with love and respect, remembered always..."

Acknowledging his wife Suzan Ari (whose own death brought condolences from as far away as Canada –from university teaching staff) as his great helper, with a sense of duty as in his verses, he always pursued idealism:–

"Since to mourn and to remember us there is someone
That's what counts -we can assume our duty to've done"

After his death a street was named after O S Ari in Marmara district Nicosia Cyprus

The author's authority is based on the various writings in Turkish, Greek, English, of book authors and newspaper reporters and columnists and poets on the late teacher and thinker Orhan Seyfi Ari

SUZAN ARI –In a Visionary Educator's Nationally Motivating Her Appreciable Role

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Suzan Ari
A Great Helper to a Great Educator
(1927 – 2002)

"...loss of valued Suzan Ari we are grieving"
(Salih Cosar -Leader Democrat Party [Minister for Economy kktc] ~in 'Halkin Sesi' –26 Nov. 2002)

Premier of Nth. Cyprus attended her funeral.. from Canada university education staff to others in the USA & the UK who as `auntie' referred to her poured in messages, including from persons knighted by Britain to representing the nation in Europe, of commiseration...

Suzan Ari, in the cultural and social development of the Cypriot was a great helper in the efforts of her

late husband Orhan Seyfi Ari "whose mark on the nation's history of education is not a small one".

As the Greek and Turkish Cypriot pupils of her husband and many people of the British Colony of Cyprus Orhan Ari's efforts, so did many from the later Republic of and still later the Northern Republic of Cyprus remember and appreciate Suzan Ari's help in those efforts to educate, modernize, a society previously resisting or helpless in cultural progress.

She was born in Morphou -where after her compulsory education and training as dress-maker under the British system of apprenticeships and self-education in Turkish and Greek contemporary literature and with an avid interest in current affairs (perhaps resulting from her father Mr. Uney's social activities as a successful businessman and local community leader in central Nicosia -the capital) she was one of the very first to show with her husband (Mr. Ari –a young idealist teacher) in 1941 the courage of the conviction that, while there was nothing wrong with the Cypriot Turkish and Greek custom of dowries, marriage should be for love.

In Nicosia, during the intercommunal troubles, in the salaryless and food-rationless days from the 1960s, she fed many an immigrant villager guest of her husband's, stood by him unlike many not to emigrate...

There, peoples of e.g. the city of Paphos and the town of Loudrijina, still tell of Suzan Ari's, in the budgetless days after the Second World War in the 1940s & 1950s with young children sleepless nights to gratis make costumes for their secondary-school's first taste to them of their cultural heritage, in the latter with only oil-lamp light to gratis sew up national flags for the first celebrations of their national days which her husband was instilling awareness of in the people ~they still tell of her opening her home, as her husband was helping have roads and electricity and water and getting schools built for those whose illiteracy was to the extent of many's not even seeing how their sons and especially daughters could possibly benefit from education, to dentists to set up equipment in to treat people, to host artistes to put on cultural shows for them, to learn to gratis teach new skills to her husband's students. Mrs Ari, as regarded by her husband the 'Teacher of Teachers', was indeed 'The Great

Helper'...

Suzan Ari had been to prayers on the night of Wednesday 20 Nov. '02, had met and chatted and prayed with her dear neighbours and friends ~the following morning she was found to have peacefully passed away.

The following verses by her late husband Orhan Ari also apply to her...

The pure in heart truly die never
Joyous be, in hearts they live forever

Tulips representing donations in her honour to the educational trust surrounded Mrs. Ari's coffin

The article is based on information available to its author –by various communicated or copied by postal an electronic means



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