

CEM MURAT SOFUOGLU

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'To Swing' and Mine G.Kirikkanat

R Mine G. Kirikkanat, one of the writers of the adikal newspaper, evaluated the views of Cem Karaca (CK), who we lost recently, and then the first editor-in-chief Hasan Cemal (HC), and their current situation in her columns titled "Savrulmak" and "Savrulmak (2)" dated 13 and 14 February.

Kirikkanat sees CK among those who were swept away because, despite not being a born-and-bred worker but a citizen of the city, he rose to fame by waving the banner of the peasantry. When he returned from Germany, where he fled after the September 12 coup, he denied his own values and died in resignation.

According to Kirikkanat, those who made mistakes before (i.e. people like the HC) should not speak out today, and only those like him, who grew up not making mistakes on the Cyprus issue in the last 30 years, should correct this mistake.

Kirikkanat, a sensible high school student who felt anxiety instead of enthusiasm '30 years ago when the squares were moaning saying either taksim or death', did not agree with this misconception and went through an evolutionary process.

First of all, the slogan "Either Taksim or Death" is not from 30 years ago, in the 1970s, but from the 1950s. At that time, Kirikkanat was either attending primary school or it didn't exist. Therefore, it's illogical for the author to have concerns about these protests back then. The author must have been concerned about these slogans he learned later.

Second, in the 1970s, the Turkish left lacked a detailed view on the Cyprus issue—indeed, no view at all. This is precisely why the Republican People's Party (HC) claims that by opposing the Demirel administration, they were indirectly obstructing a solution.

Apparently, the author has made a timing error. In the West, they say, "Errare humanum est." As the old saying goes, "Man is not safe from error." In other words, "To err is human." Of course, those who have undergone "evolutionary" change may be an exception.

Meanwhile, the Author seems to have forgotten that the leading thinkers of revolutionary thought such as Marx, Engels, Lenin, and artists such as Mayakoski, Yesenin, N.Hikmet, Shostakovich, etc. came from the bourgeois class, not the working class.

While the September 12 military regime was rolling over the Turkish Left like a steamroller, those who lived in Paris or another European city, like Kirikkanat, should be more fair and polite in their assessments of CK and his generation who lived through that period.

I would like to remind the Author, who has undergone an 'evolutionary' change without being thrown or toppled, that people can change over the past 24 years.

In the words of Mecelle, 'The change of the rules cannot be denied with the change of the adhām.' That is, 'The change of rules (i.e. thoughts) with the change of time cannot be denied.'

I also recommend the Author to consider French writers such as André Gide, Georges Bernanos, Victor Hugo, etc., who changed their thoughts under the influence of the events they experienced.

By the way, a small detail: In his February 14th article, the author states that "the left brain was lobotomized in Türkiye." I couldn't find the word "lobotize" in either Turkish or French. It seems the author was only trying to use the word "lobotomy" (or "lobotomie" in French), which means the cutting of the nerve fibers in one of the brain's lobes. Perhaps he wanted to create a new word. Who knows?