

QUOTES BY MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATURK

The Founder of the Republic of Turkey
(1881 – 1938)

Human beings can be examined in two categories and in two periods. The first period is the childhood and young age of mankind. The second period is the adulthood and mature age of mankind. In the first period, human beings are entailed to be engaged in themselves closely and through physical means, just like children or young people.

God considered it a divine need to be engaged in His people until they reach the necessary point of maturity.

(...) He considered that it is not necessary anymore to use an agent to get into contact with human beings.

He declared that the level of understanding, enlightenment and maturation of human beings is directly related to each person's ability to contact with divine inspirations.

Moses revealed the tendency of the Jews who groaned because of being whipped by the Egyptians; their tendency being no more than getting free from this pressure and slavery.

Jesus understood the unending miseries of his time and chose the religious way to express the need for compassion emerging in the world in this period of prevalent sufferings.

In short, the power that can manipulate people is ideas and the ones who can shape and spread these ideas. And the characteristics of the idea is that it makes people accept it absolutely and without any objections; this can only be when the idea itself gradually transforms into feelings and then eventually turns into beliefs. Only then, the other ways of logic and reasoning cannot have the power to weaken it.

Now, what are the hopes and ideas of the people we will lead and govern; what are the powers hidden in their spirits? Which hopes of the people we are to govern will we manifest and embody in ourselves so that we can gain their hearts and their trust and so that we can recommend them inspirational means of spiritual powers? And is it through visible means that we will address to the invisible qualities that can only be gathered by the dream of an aim, an ideal?

Doubtlessly, it is our duty to attain our people's spirit as it is our duty, after God and the glorious Prophet resting in Medina, to create a spirit, a hope, and a character in them.



The truth is that, for a person whose heart and conscience is occupied with spiritual and holy pleasures, worldly positions –however high they are– have no value.

Look at the whole Turkish and Islamic world; as they could not adopt their minds and thoughts to the changes required by civilization, they are in misery and suffering today. This is why we have fallen behind and eventually got stuck in this disastrous mud.

It is necessary to consider all the human beings as one body and each nation as a part of this body; all the other organs are affected by the pain in one of the fingers of this body.

Today all the nations in the world have become or are becoming like relatives. In this respect, people should consider the peace and welfare of the nations in the world as well as the existence and happiness of their own nation. They should show effort to contribute to the happiness of the people in the world as much as they care for the happiness of their own nation.

All the wise men appreciate that you lose nothing by striving for this purpose as serving for the happiness of the world's people means striving indirectly for your own happiness and peace. Unless the people of the nations in the world are in peace, righteous and get along well with each other, whatever they do for themselves, they are lack of inner peace.

I am far from any attachments; I can spend enough time and energy on my duties in daily life. I can lead my private life as I wish. I am not a slave of conventions and protocols.

A cheerless person is suspected in two ways; he is either sick or he has a fear of something that he does not want others to know.*

* Quotes compiled by İzzet Erş and translated by Nurgül Demirdöven

