

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE PROHIBITION IN RUSSIA

THE RISALE-I NUR COLLECTION WRITTEN BY BEDIUZZAMAN SAID NURSI AND NUR STUDENTS IN RUSSIA

INTRODUCTION:

Together with the democratic developments in the Middle Asian Republics which are located within the Russia Federation and Commonwealth of Independent States, the relations with Russia and the countries which have membership of the Newly Independent States have been improved. As a result of this, the people who organize religious, ethical, and moral works in Turkey have extensive dialogues on the mutual history with these communities which are neighbors, relatives and brothers.

Alongside with the democratic developments experienced after the Soviet communism era, the Muslim societies too, who live in various parts of Russia have inclined to better learn their own religion. As one of the ways for Muslims to get into their own religion, they have started to read the books written by Said Nursi which are dedicated solely to give moral and ethical values to the readers. People who have been impressed with these books.

There have been efforts given to read and help others read the various books from the Risale-i Nur Collection which is featured with the establishment of the moral and ethics among the society and based on the recovery of the youth and new generation from bad habits and sicknesses which are caused by the degeneration of the moral values. The Risale-i Nur altogether aims to repair and reinforce moral and ethics of the society together with science and knowledge against immorality.

These people supporting such events and works, playing the leadership role in moral and ethical education, are called "Nurcu" (Nur Student) among the society as they read the "Risale-i Nur".

WHO IS BEDIUZZAMAN SAID NURSI?

Said Nursi was born in 1878 in Turkey. He was educated in the madrasah (popular schools of that time). Because of extraordinary intelligence and memory, he was known as a "**Famous Scholar**" by his teachers when he was very young. Later, he was given a title called "**Bediuzzaman**", which means "**Wonder of the Era**", by the contemplative scholars.

He has studied science and social sciences in addition to the basic Islamic books. This helped him comprehend the Qur'anic verses in depth together with the positive sciences.

At the early part of the last century, he suggested all governmental design makers to construct of a special university which would give education of science and spiritual education together on the east part of Turkey at the junction of middle east to get rid of **ignorance, poverty** and **conflict** between different nations of that strategic place which has been always always hot area.

In this way, he aimed to enable the moral and technical capacities in peace and unity among the countries of that region and to increase cultural and economic cooperation among the peoples of various ethnics at the region.

Bediuzzaman Said Nursi has spent all of his life in teaching ethics, science, education and peace by writing articles in the newspapers, publishing books, suggesting the civilization and strengthening the humanitarian values.

RISALE-I NUR HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO ABOUT 50 LANGUAGES..

Nur Students has respect for all of the languages and do not discriminate between them. The obvious evidence of this fact is that Risale-i Nur has been translated into numerous languages including English, Arabic, German, French, Chinese and Russian.

Many leading writers have indicated the cultural and literary value of Risale-i Nur. It has drawn the attention of millions all around the world from different generations since it shows the meaning of being human by providing universal moral and conscientious prompts.

RISALE-I NUR, PROVIDING THE MOTIVATION AND STRENGTH AGAINST STRESS AND DIPRESSION

Risale-i Nur reinforces the hopes and motivates people against the challenges of life and removes the common fear of death as exclaimed in Risale-i Nur several times: "Death is a change of residence, the liberation of the spirit, a discharge from duties; it is not annihilation, non-existence, and a going to nothingness."

THE BOOKS DO NOT PROMPT HATRED, BUT RATHER HUMANITY, PEACE AND LOVE

Risale-i Nur respects the independence and territorial integrity of all nations. The main theme of these books is to educate people and decrease illiteracy within the societies regardless of the nation or state.

It is unfortunate to see that Risale-i Nur is confused with some other books, and the nur students with some other radical, extremist and terrorist groups. In contrast to this mistake, the main goal of Nur Students and Risale-i Nur is to form a faithful, moral, peaceful, helpful society.

As Nur Students had no terrorist activities in our country, they have no harmful perspectives, ideologies against public security in the foreign countries similarly.

In summary, the assertions of "extremism", "changing the regime of the government", or "islamicising the government" attributed to Nur Students has unacceptable basis or evidence. On the contrary, Risale-i Nur aims to reinforce public security and eliminates any intention of terrorism and chaos.

CONCLUSION: WE HOPE FROM RUSSIAN JUSTICE ...

We expect that the **misunderstandings** against Nur Students and Risale-i Nur, which completely provides scientific and moral teaching, will be fixed soon, restoring their honor.

We believe that Russian Jurisdiction will result in a decision that will remove the unfair imputations of **radicalism, extremism, anarchy and terrorism** on Nur Students and Risale-i Nur, which in fact accept humanity and moral values as the basis of their philosophy.

We hope that the Russian Courts will have a fair decision about these completely scientific, philosophical and moral books and their readers considering the strong justice system, the friendship and the cooperation between the two neighboring countries that share a common history.

Best regards,