

**IN MEMORIAM: PROF. DR. ADEM EFE<sup>1</sup>****Bilal SAMBUR\***\* Prof. Dr., Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Faculty of Humanity and Social Sciences, bsambur@ybu.edu.tr, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4170-2079>.

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to hit humanity. We are losing scholars, scientists, artists, and thinkers one by one every other day. Our human capital is weakening day by day due to the pandemic. Most recently, we sacrificed Prof. Dr. Adem EFE, the Head of Social Services Department at Süleyman Demirel University to COVID-19. Dr. Efe was one of the most valuable, productive and productive theologians, sociologists and academicians of Turkey.

He lived a life devoted to academia, research, traveling, learning, writing and exploring. Immediately recording what he read, researched and saw, Dr. Efe left behind a rich and fruitful academic and intellectual legacy. Dr. Efe, who passed away at the age of 53, always worked and ran to research, write and learn more.

Since the beginning of our research career in early 1990's, we have had a very close friendship for over 25 years. We would have long conversations on literature, philosophy, science, art and history with him, with whom I shared the same office for a long time. The views distilled from his world of emotions, thoughts and intellectual capacity have been a constant source of nourishment for me and enriched me, for sure. There are always some people that you want to be a part of your life and enjoy having time when you are together. He was such a person for me. Dr. Efe was someone who added enthusiasm, shining and dynamism to people with his joy, sympathy, kindness and love.

He was an intellectual scholar who devoted his life to knowledge, learning, research and writing. As an academic and intellectual, he was a model person in ethics and academia. He kept away from anyone and anything that wanted to poison, pollute and corrupt life and people with ignorance, malice and hostility. Instead of consuming his energy with the dirty and dark souls that wanted to defile him, Dr. Efe always turned to nature, science and human beings. The writings he left behind describe a deep love of humanity and life against ignorance, shallowness

and fanaticism. Creating a magical attraction power in the environments he was in, with his humanity, embracing and warmth, Dr. Efe tried to establish an efficient relationship and communication with everyone.

Dr. Efe left behind important reference works in the fields of modernization and Islamism and the sociology of religious groups. His study, in which he examines religious groups in the example of Isparta, shows that in order to reveal a sociological picture of religious life, one must go through concrete examples that exist locally. Dr. Efe, who applied the approaches of social sciences to religious life, was a complete social scientist. He was not simply a sociologist. He was also a multi-disciplinary academic who tried to study and understand religious phenomena in a versatile and interdisciplinary approach, drawing on philosophy, literature, theology, history and culture.

Dr. Efe has brought important historical texts on Islamic thought to the present day. For instance, his work about Sebilürreşad magazine is very valuable. His study about Hasan Hikmet Demirbağ, one of the important writers of Sebilürreşad magazine, also adds invaluable contribution to the literature. His study about Basiret newspaper, published by Ali Efendi in Istanbul, has made an important contribution to the fields of media history as well as sociology. This study, published by Ibn Haldun University, sheds light on Ottoman-Malay relations.

Dr. Efe was a person who was passionately attached to the antique items. His office at the university was like a museum. Adam would collect antique objects from wherever he went and proudly show them in his office to the visitors. The conversations we had in his museum-like office with deliciously brewed hot tea will remain unforgettable memories for me.

He was not an scholar who limited himself to time and space. He was an intellectual who was always on the road to contribute to academic and intellectual life. He left his travel notes to his readers

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as timeless documents that show the richness of his literary aspect. Adem Hodja was a star that represented research, learning and writing in the sky of Isparta and shed light around. Unfortunately, with the slipping of that star in the skies of Isparta, the Mediterranean, the Aegean, and the world have become much poorer. I will always remember him with love. I wish God's mercy to Dr. Efe. Rest in the light, dear Adem!

## REFERENCE

SAMBUR, B. (2020). "Isparta'da Bir Yıldız Kaydı: Adem Efe", Milat Gazetesi, <https://www.milatgazetesi.com/yazarlar/ispartada-bir-yildiz-kaydi-adem-efe>, (23.10.2020).