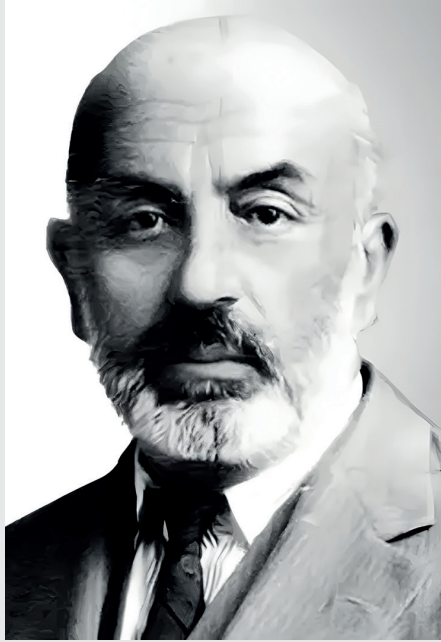


## MEHMET AKİF ERSOY\*



*\*Mehmet Akif Ersoy, the great Turkish poet, was born in Istanbul on December 20, 1873, and passed away in Istanbul on December 27, 1936. He is the author of the Turkish Republic's national anthem, the "İstiklal Marşı". He had a vast and profound knowledge in Arabic and Islamic studies. Additionally, he was proficient in Persian and French. With the proclamation of the Second Constitutional Era in 1908, he began writing articles and publishing poems in Eşref Edip's "Sırat-ı Müstakim" and later in "Sebilürreşad" magazines. He also started translating works from contemporary Egyptian Islamic writers. In 1913, he embarked on a two-month trip to Egypt, then visited Medina, where he developed thoughts on the weaknesses of Islamic countries compared to the West in terms of material resources and intellectual level. During World War I, he was sent to Berlin by the Special Organization. He also conducted investigations at the camp set up for Muslims taken captive by the Germans. He endeavored to merge contemporary Islamic societal views with the foundational values of Western civilization. His poems followed a realistic approach.*

Mehmet Akif Ersoy, Safahat, TBMM Yayınları, 1. Edition March 2021, p. 79.

## Fear not\*

Even if Hell itself came, we would extinguish it within our chests.

This is the path of God, there's no turning back, we only advance!

Not a stone shall tremble from our sacred land's domain?

Until the last warrior to war ascends to Heaven's reign.

Even if the apocalypse rages in front of us,

If seas become armies, and clouds rain fleets,

Even if all the volcanoes from beneath us

Erupt and cover the horizons with crimson mists,

Isn't there faith in the hearts of our ranks;

One joy, one sorrow, one purpose, one conscience;

Isn't there an unyielding heart beating in the center;

Even if the world crumbled, be sure this front would not falter!

1915

