

In Memory of My Mother, Sara Ildir...

Dear Foundation Board Members and Congregation Members,

On Wednesday evening, a Meldado ceremony and subsequent meal were held at the religious venue affiliated with your foundation to commemorate the first month since the passing of my beloved mother, Sara Ildir. Thanks to the help of your entire team, our meal and prayers were beautifully remembered.

With the excitement of commemorating my mother, I entered the meeting room around 7:00 PM and wanted to place flowers tied with black ribbons and small pictures with different sentences on them on the table "in memory of my mother." These were very meaningful to me, my mother, and my family.

Unfortunately, you, the congregation members sitting there and waiting for the prayer, following artificial memory creation based solely on your own understanding, without knowing where this practice came from, said, 'We don't do that,' 'Flowers on the table are a sin.' I would kindly ask you to conscientiously question your behavior.

Are the flowers that adorn our graves at funerals not equally meaningful as the flowers you accept for use at weddings? In the context of our belief that they are "God's creation," flowers are always sacred to me. I think you've confused it with original sin... It wasn't a fruit taken from the tree of life... It was a flower, to be placed on the table.

Also, please know that if this practice is "sin," it was "my sin." "Not yours"... Let the "sin" belong to the person who donated the food. It won't be attributed to you. And if this is a first, "it is a pity" that you have deprived yourselves and those who have passed away of such beauty and aesthetics, with prohibitions later added to tradition...

Now let's sit and think: While trying to interpret different beliefs and thoughts, and sitting there waiting for the sacred prayer, what kind of future will you leave to the world without questioning? When your beloved children come to university, and they encounter me, a professor, and their perspectives shift towards research, won't they turn and question you? Or will you fight your children with the patriarchal idea that "fathers are always right"?

Our era is one where there is no absolute right or absolute wrong. It is an age of questioning. Please do not leave a cultural legacy filled with such artificial memory approaches to the youth... Do not suffocate them with illogical "impossibilities." For "enlightenment," for "love," for "respect" for people, for "tolerance," and of course, for "a beautiful life". "Love nature," "empathize," and "be constructive," "not destructive." My heart was broken by you in my mother's prayer, unfortunately... Fortunately, your community also includes members filled with extremely enlightened and respectable values. I will continue to walk the path with them.

Who am I? I am a faculty member who educates your young people at the university, but more importantly, I am also a member of the Association for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Türkiye. This is my primary duty... While you are in your meeting room, in your small world, producing ideas like "No, it's a sin," I am one of dozens of cultural ambassadors striving to protect all the values and cultural heritage of this region.

For your information.

With love and respect,

Prof. Dr. Eva Aleksandru Şarлак

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