

**A NEW SYSTEM OF PHILOSOPHY-  
SCIENCE FROM A BIOLOGICAL  
STANDPOINT**

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**A NEW SYSTEM OF PHILOSOPHY-SCIENCE  
FROM A BIOLOGICAL STANDPOINT**

Şaban Teoman Duralı

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Şaban Teoman Duralı



### **Şaban Teoman Duralı (Prof. Dr.)**

Turkish philosopher, professor, academician (d. 2021).

Şaban Teoman Duralı was born on February 7th, 1947 in Zonguldak. After completing his primary school education in Zonguldak, he continued his middle school education in Ankara and graduated from Ankara TED College. In 1973, Teoman Duralı graduated from Philosophy Department at Istanbul University. He continued his academic career as an assistant at Istanbul University through 1975. He completed his doctorates on the Philosophy of Biology and commenced in 1977. After one year, he attended biotechnology seminars in Paris as a scholarship holder of NATO. In 1982, Duralı became Assistant Professor and during same year he became Associative Professor. In 1985 he became Professor. He gave lectures at International Islamic University Malaysia and University of Vienna as visiting scholar in 1993 and 1994. He made a research trip to Central Asia Turkic Republics by the support of Istanbul University Research Fund. Between 1992 and 1999, he continued giving lectures as visiting scholar in Malaysia. He also founded Philosophy Department at Kırklareli University and between 2009 and 2015 he was the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Science at the same university. He was the Chair of the Philosophy Department at Ibn Haldun University from 2017 until he passed in 2021.

His research topics are Logic, History of Ancient Philosophy, History of Early Modern European Philosophy, History of Turk-Islam Thought, Epistemology, Comparative History of Religions, History of Islam, Anthropology, Cell Physiology, Human Physiology, Anatomy, Evolution and Genetics.

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Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the oftener and more steadily they are reflected on: the starry heavens above me, and the moral law within me.

Immanuel Kant  
(*Critique of Practical Reason*, 1788)

to  
my Mother and my Wife  
“Heaven lieth underneath the feet of Mothers.”  
Prophet Muhammad



## FOREWORD

Teoman Duralı was a national treasure, and his passing is an irreparable loss for the country.

As a student of his at ISTAC, Malaysia, I have known him as a person who lived life to the fullest with care and understanding and had a profound experience. He was a wanderer; a witty, humorous person who knew how to have fun with his friends, and a true, considerate gentleman who always valued his students. He was generous in sharing his profound knowledge, experience, and wisdom that he acquired through years of diligent study and observation, with his students. He had a sharp, critical eye for the “moments”, for he had a penetrating philosophical insight, and he was able to see humanity through its thousands of years of journey. Those who had been to his classes will remember that he always began his first lectures with the origin of humanity, and then he continued gradually to the modern times.

He had a deep, comparative understanding of various civilizations; he had been to their central places, and he knew their stories by heart. And he could locate and highlight history's breaking points incisively. Since he was a philosopher by profession, he conceived and presented facts and phenomena through processes and in their relations with each other. Seeing the whole was important for him. As far as I could see, he felt uncomfortable getting lost in moments. For him, moments were parts of the whole; they are not to be highly praised. In a time when the domination of Western civilization was felt to the utmost degree, and modernity was glorified, the delicacy in his attitude was striking.

He believed in his country and his people. He believed with all his heart that, although going through tough times, what his people had

achieved in the past bears the seeds of their future accomplishments. He thought that philosophy's significance was not adequately appreciated by his people, and he analyzed the reasons behind it. On the other hand, he always expressed that his people have the constitution and traits to make a difference in the future. Probably, he was thinking of the formation story of the dominant character of his people, from the biological aspects to the historical experience, social interaction, and cultural elaboration.

Indeed, he was a philosopher who dedicated his life to exploring and apprehending human nature as he understood it as a whole with its metaphysical and biological aspects. Approaching human nature, on the one hand, he developed a philosophical view and on the other hand, traced how historical contexts give shape to individuals and societies. In his works, he investigated the universal human nature, but with a critical outlook regarding the origins and distinctive foundational principles of different civilizations and how they affected the making of human beings in different contexts. In that sense, he contributed a great deal to the efforts of enriching the field of philosophy in Turkey during the Republican era. He developed a unique point of view to understand the essential parameters of the world we live in, and he played a foundational role in building a genuine modern Turkish philosophy.

Within this framework, in this study, Duralı suggests the concept of the "philosophy-science system" as a structural framework to understand the guiding principles of the Western civilization which dominates the world we live in and to build an alternative to it. Moreover, he advocates the need for a "new philosophy-science system" according to which human nature is considered as a whole to enable human beings to grow their biological and metaphysical capabilities. In that sense, he calls for a philosophical endeavor to build an alternative mode of thinking, with metaphysics at its center, against the "Contemporary Global Anglo-Judaic Civilization." Accordingly, he investigates the possibilities of the philosophy of biology to bridge the profound gap, which is established by the philosophical basis of this civilization, between the biological and metaphysical aspects of human beings.

#### FOREWORD

Prof. Teoman Duralı served as chair of the Department of Philosophy at Ibn Haldun from 2017 until his unexpected and irreparable loss. He had a vital role in widening the horizons of Ibn Haldun students, deepening their understanding of the world that we live in, and improving Ibn Haldun's vision and culture.

We are honored to present Prof. Duralı's meticulous treatise among the publications of Ibn Haldun University. We are deeply grateful to him for his works which have been and always will be a guiding light in understanding the nature and history of human beings. We would also like to thank Savaş C. Tali, the executive editor of Ibn Haldun University Press, who edited this book, and his team at the publishing house.

Prof. Dr. Atilla Arkan  
President of Ibn Haldun University  
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