

September 5th, 2021

To PEN Melbourne and its Dear Members,

Van, Turkey

At the very beginning of everything, I am so proud and happy to be deemed worthy of PEN Melbourne's honorary member. To be honest, I don't know what to say, what to write. I'm almost wordless. Please forgive my bashfulness. I am deeply grateful to you. I am so lucky to embrace the support and solidarity of PEN Melbourne in my ongoing pursuit of justice which is grotesque.

As you know better than me, our world or the whip hands do not provide a free sphere for pens. In some countries, the situation is nearly unbearable. But that is not our main headache as the citizens of the world. From poverty to pollution, global warming to political divisions and deadlocks, refugees to ongoing clashes, racism to facism, and from nature crisis to corona outbreak, we are facing lots of comprehensive problems. For instance, the nature is in a moribund state. And no time to lose. Maybe we are in the waning time. Maybe it's too late. Who knows! A frigatebird can stay aloft for the whole months without touching down on either land or water. However, this is not valid for us. We, humans, cannot live without land or water, in short without nature.

It's high time for us to think about our global aches. Due to the fact that when I'm done, it's your turn! Nowadays, the badness is springing up like mushrooms across the world. We have to give efforts, make our best to make our world more equal, nature-friendly and freer with the concentration of a circus performer on a tightrope, if necessary. We cannot build our hope on sand. We have to get the genie of hope from the bottle in order to build hope, to create a freer and fairer future for the next generations. Such being the case, we have to gather together under basic umbrellas. Each of us shares the same dream, in fact: a Picasso dove with an olive branch. Peace, equality, freedom...

Today, you extends your unique hand of solidarity to me under a common umbrella. Freedom for pens, freedom for expression, freedom for thoughts, for words. Not a pipe dream, but a naked truth. Your kind support is of vital importance, please imagine me in the corner of my cell resembling a match-box

and responding to your great support. A deep and unbroken silence. My pen and the paper. All I have. But, when such support is organized from far lands, you understand once more: no walls can dwarf a pen. So, in making the world better, you are enveloping your efforts and struggle rather tightly.

With you and due to you, there is a vast literary free ocean beyond horizons. An oasis of freedom. For words. A free world for words. With you, the pens are free as birds. Yes, freedom looks great in the pens. At least, in my eyes.

It is our responsibility to work for our common future, it is our conscious mission to defend our pens. This is not an extraordinary thing. This is normal, and ordinary. As I said before, the extraordinary thing is to play ostrich. That's all.

It is not our destiny to live under these circumstances. It is not our destiny to live for bad. We have choices in life. Hopefully, more people are going to make better choices day after day. For a freer and fairer world.

Finally, I want to thank you once more. For everything. Now, in my imagination, I am eyeball to eyeball with each of you. Please accept my best regards, wishes and gratitude for all of you. For each of you. I know very well that my first hand to hold is PEN Melbourne.

I salute each of you with hope and resistance.

With the power of pen and PEN.

Nedim Türfeç
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September 5th 2021 = # 1949th Day In Prison