

The Nation Looks to You: A Message on the Anniversary of the Founding of the SSNP

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When Antun Sa'adeh looked upon the condition of the Syrian nation at the dawn of the twentieth century, he saw a tragic landscape—an exhausted people torn apart by fragmentation, subjugation, disintegration, and a collapse of morale. Yet Sa'adeh did not stop at diagnosing the disease. Instead, he launched a comprehensive renaissance project embodied in the founding of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. This founding was not a mere reaction to an ailing reality; it was the proclamation of a new history—the birth of a new era—the beginning of a liberating march aimed at rebuilding the human being, society, and the state.

The Founding: A Transformative Popular Movement

The founding of the Party was not simply a political event—it was a sweeping popular movement that gathered the energies of youth into a single crucible, melting down disparate mentalities to forge a unified national consciousness. It was not a quiet movement; it was, in Sa'adeh's words, “an offensive movement of struggle,” attacking with

thought and action every manifestation of chaos, selfishness, sectarianism, feudalism, predatory capitalism, and hardened mentalities.

It was the launching of a civilizational project aimed at restoring the nation's stolen personality and reclaiming its free will and sovereignty over its own destiny.

Students: Bearers of the Renaissance Project

Sa'adeh understood that a renaissance requires new, upright souls. He therefore turned to the students, building within them the foundations of national consciousness. Out of this effort arose that remarkable solidarity which distinguished the Party in its earliest days.

Students played a decisive role in spreading the movement—they were the carriers of the new awareness and the generation best equipped to confront the challenges of the future. Sa'adeh spoke to them in the language of reason and conviction, urging them to embrace the social nationalist culture as the basis for progress. They became the backbone of the rising movement, its instrument of change, and the torchbearers of knowledge—disseminating awareness across the nation's social landscape.

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The Pillars of the Integrated Renaissance

The Renaissance project rested on interlocking foundations forming a comprehensive vision for rebuilding the nation:

- **A national consciousness** that forms generations awakened by science, ethics, and noble sentiment—generations that grasp the meaning of freedom, dignity, and independence.
 - **A productive economy**, grounded in science, labor, and creativity.
 - **National institutions** capable of turning ideas into tangible reality and embodying the collective will of the people.
 - **A new moral order** that educates the soul in true love—the love of noble values: truth, justice, freedom, peace, and beauty; the love of society and the readiness to sacrifice for it. These are not mere ideals—they are the beating heart of the Renaissance. They transform the individual outlook into a national one and replant the lofty moral virtues within the souls of the people.
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Founding as a Continuing Act: From Idea to Practice

The founding was not confined to a single historical moment; it became an ongoing process carried forward by the adherents of the national social creed, generation after generation. This process manifests in:

- Reaffirming the idea of the **nation** as an alternative to the fragmented sub-identities that tear society apart. Without establishing the national idea, all reform efforts remain incomplete.
- Strengthening **national consciousness** that transforms isolated individuals into a unified people capable of confronting challenges.
- Instilling a **culture of giving** in the face of growing individualistic tendencies—for a nation that does not know sacrifice cannot know freedom.
- Building the **national state** founded on democracy, the separation of religion and state, social justice, and equality—a state that is truly “the great institution of the people.”
- Adopting a **scientific approach** to analyzing reality and solving problems, for true renaissance is achieved only through knowledge.

Together, these pathways form a continuous, daring experience aimed at transforming society from a fluid, directionless mass into a nation

united in will—engaged in an ongoing battle against the corrupt environment inherited through generations.

The Party as a Project of Salvation in Times of Crisis

Amid the tragic conditions afflicting our people—economic, social, and political collapse—the Party stands out as a movement of salvation and a sole path to deliverance. For the Party, as Sa’adeh envisioned it, is not an accidental organization; it is the expression of the nation’s truth—strong in its sound doctrine, enriched by the virtues and sacrifices of its members, fortified by the spiritual unity that binds social nationalists in every thought and every act, connecting them as one band.

It is the only project capable of transcending the crisis and leading the process of renewal and reconstruction.

A Call to Social Nationalists: The Responsibility of History and Existence

Social Nationalists,

On this anniversary of the founding, as we face existential challenges threatening the very life of our nation—foremost among them an

aggressive enemy coveting our land and wealth—we remind you that the responsibility of history and existence rests upon your shoulders. The national duty commands us to confront all these dangers, not to be distracted by trivial concerns.

The time has come for all of us to engage in national work—to rescue our country, uplift it, and open before it the path of life and advancement; to stand as a great support to our suffering people in their poverty, pain, and trials.

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- Return to the sound principles of life and elevation that Sa’adeh laid down as a method of work and living.
- Practice the heroism upheld by the truth of the doctrine when confronting challenges. Let us remember that hundreds of martyrs answered the call of national duty, defending the land, the honour, the dignity, and the existence of the nation. These heroes refused humiliation and stagnation; they rose to the practice of heroic action, not seeking personal gain or heavenly reward, but driven by national sentiment—the love of society and land, the love of freedom and honourable life—which taught them that “all of life is one courageous stand of honour.”

- Sharpen your resolve before the dangers that surround us.
- Unite your ranks in the face of projects of fragmentation and erasure.
- Perform great deeds relying on the principle of “organized power” in defending our sovereignty, rights, and national cause—for power, Sa’adeh reminds us, “is the decisive word in affirming or denying the national right.”
- Spread awareness everywhere and at all times, remembering that we are in a perpetual struggle against a corrupt environment inherited from past generations—where “individual selfishness” sometimes disguises itself in “the cloak of virtue.” The victory of the project depends on your steadfastness and adherence to national ethics.
- Be examples of giving, sacrifice, and loyalty.

The nation is looking to you—to your faith, your commitment, your sacrifices. Do not fail it in its decisive hour.

Let your banner be a struggle until a comprehensive renaissance worthy of our great nation is achieved.

In times of peril, there is no room for hesitation or retreat. Only those who carry the true doctrine and face the storm with conviction and certainty have value.

The hope of the nation lies in you—in your devotion to the ethics of the Renaissance, the ethics of steadfast trust, faith, and

perseverance—against the ethics of doubt and hesitation that embody the corruption of the old environment.

Toward a Noble Aim

The renaissance launched by Sa'adeh is a comprehensive project that “takes up national life from its very foundations.” Independence has no meaning without a dignified life, and movement has no value without a new ethical order. Ethics are what turn principles into lived reality, and the beautiful life is the destiny worthy of a great nation seeking its place under the sun.

Forward always—toward the complete renaissance, toward freedom and dignity.