

*Χαιρετισμός του Μορφωτικού Σύμβουλου  
της Πρεσβείας του Ιράν*

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In The Name of God

Mr. Chairman, dear professors and guests,

Let me first express my deep feelings towards beloved Athens and the great personalities of its ancient past such as: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

The first impression that I expected to receive while entering Athens was the attraction of the magnificent tombs of these great Hellenic scholars. I imagined "The Plato's Academy" that would attract scholars from distant parts of the world, and the school established by Aristotle at Lyceum being kept as a museum to welcome visitors, the signs erected at the ancient city of Athens pointing to the location where Plato held his argumentation circles, and to the park where Aristotle contemplated in peripatetic fashion, and to the pillar against which Socrates used to lean making his speeches, and so on.

When I was in Tehran making preparations to come to Athens and take my new office as the cultural counselor, I managed to visit the Reverend Javadi Amoli, the divine spiritual leader awaiting the ultimate peace the world-over, who warned me of the importance of the land I was going to visit; the land of great scholars such as Plato and Aristotle, the great man with whom are our prayers all the time.

Taking His Excellency's advice I made my mind to make the best use of my stay in Athens, and to satisfy my thirst of knowledge with the ancient Hellenic sources. On entering Athens, to my disappointment, I found little expectation of what I had imagined. To realize my expectations and to pay the due tribute to the ancient Greek scholars, I, as the Iranian cultural counselor, set up to communicate with the Hellenic educational centers requesting for a seminar on the subject.

Here I have to express my deep gratitude to the Rector of the Panteion University H. E. Mr. Vavouras whose great contribution made this seminar possible.

I hope that this occasion will pave the way for the annual anniversaries held in honor of the great scholars of Iran and Greece.

I seize the opportunity to draw your attention to the books exhibited in the hall. These are the books on the Hellenic culture, literature and history translated into Persian. There are some three hundred books in this regard, of which I could manage to put only one hundred on display.

Let me express my thanks again to all the professors and guests who, through their essays and cooperation, made this seminar possible.

Thank you all, And good luck.