

Mustafa Ozcan Gunesdogdu

He was born on September 4, 1970 in Sakaeli Village of Cankiri province of Turkey.

He moved to Germany in 1979 where his family was living there. He has started reciting The Holy Quran after his father gave him a cassette recording of Abd-al Basit of Egypt and advised him to recite the Holy Book like Abd-al Basit.

He learned reading of Arabic from Hafiz Ramazan Minaz of Konya City. He completed full memorizing of Holy Quran under the instruction of Reciter Hafez Halit Tanriverdi of Vezirkopru district of Samsun Province and learned from him basics of Holy Quran, pronunciation of Arabic Letters and recitation skills.

He obtained first position in the Europe Better Recitation Contest of Holy Quran in 1985.

He got married in 1987 and has 3 children from this marriage.

After having Arabic education for 8 years on the basis of Ottoman Method, Gunesdogdu traveled to Damascus in order to improve his Arabic language and Arabic recitation skills and stayed there between 1988 and 1989. Then he returned to Germany and became Imam at Hamm(Westfalen).

In January 1991, he became first in "Beautiful Reciting" branch of XIII International Holy Quran Reciting Competition in Mecca in which 182 competitors from 23 countries and 52 associations and organizations took part around the World.

He is the first young reciter, who has been awarded first rank at Beautiful Recitation competitions in Arabian countries, among those grew up in Europe.

He recited Qur'an Feasts for about a month in Bosnia Herzegovina in 1991 and for two weeks in 6 Balkan countries in 2008.

He received a lot of appreciations for his Quran recitations in 1994 and 2003 in Iran.

He gave a series of lectures, “Miracles of Quran”, at the Universities of Hamburg and Kiel of Germany in addition to about 90 mosques in 1994 Ramadan.

His students obtained good positions in Qur’an recitation competitions in different parts of Europe.

He has been serving in the field of reciting, teaching of reciting and preaching of Qur’an for 25 years.

He worked as volunteer Imam in Expo-International Fair of Germany in 2000 for more than four months where he gave religious sermons in German language. In Ramadan of the same year, he recited Quran in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia for 2 weeks. He also visited Sydney, Australia twice in 2006 in relation with “Opera meets Qur’an” program.

He published the very first “Holy Qur’an” album with German translation titled “Qur’an Rezitation” in the year 2003.

The idea of Maide-i Kuran (Quran Feasts) Project, which is nowadays widely listened with appreciation in Turkey and worldwide, belongs to Ozcan. He has started this project at Central Mosque of Hamburg in Germany in the year 2001.

Gunesdogdu who has been Khatip(religious sermon giver) for 23 years, has served as imam for 18 years. Moreover, he dedicated himself to build a dialog between Muslims and non-Muslims to have a better understanding of Islam.

In addition to his preaching services, he is presenting his nasheed (Islamic religious music) works for about 20 years in Germany in particular and in Europe in general and has great appreciation from attendances.

He also organized a nasheed group named after him, with frequent presentation demands from European Muslims in different parts of Europe since 1997.

He has participated in various TV and radio programmes in Turkey and also in the world.

He has been presenting famous Turkish reciters and hafizs with his own TV programme “Maide-i Quran” at Hilal TV, satellite broadcasting TV channel based in Istanbul Turkey. He has also hosted “Ilahi Muhabbet”, religious music programme, for two years at the same TV channel.

He has participated “Rytmennasheed” religious songs tour, which is organized by French Muslims, with Raihan Group from Malaysia, Itisam Group from Palestine, Khalil Mohammed of England and Mevlood Sinatse of France in 2004 and 2006. He has been guiding pilgrimage organizations to Holy Cities Mecca and Medina for 12 years.

He has religious set of music albums titled “Curmum ile Geldim Sana I” “Curmum ile Geldim Sana II” “Sevmeye Geldim” “Medine Yollarında” and “Haydi Soz Verelim” in addition to tens of Qur’an reciting recordings.

The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre (RISSC) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has awarded Mustafa Ozcan Gunesdogdu among The 500 Most Influential Muslims twice both in 2011 and 2012.

He has been chosen as “Cultural Ambassador of the Year” in 2012 by Aziziye Schools.

Along with his mother tongue Turkish he speaks German, Arabic and English.