

**LAZURI**

## 21 February International Mother Language Day

**“My mother language is the one I learnt from my mother, the language that makes up my identity and character, the one that connects my past with my future. With this language, I got to know the world and nature.”**

**Ismail BUCAKLISI**

Istanbul - BIA News Center

21 February 2012

My mother language is the one that I learnt from my mother, the language that makes up my identity and character, the one that connects my past with my future. With this language, I got to know the world and nature. All the codes of my culture are concealed inside it. I know that to lose my mother tongue is to lose my identity. Because, for thousands of years our collective knowledge has been passed down through generations via my mother language, Lazuri.

Lazuri has never helped me get better grades at school, find a better job or make more money. Quite the contrary! It is a language that has been oppressed against the language of the ruling nation. Yet, it is the ancient language of these lands! Like a magical melody nurturing my soul, it touches my whole being. I am not worried about making a grammar or pronunciation error while I speak. Because I grew up with the lullabies of this language! I have heard its soul piercing laments. First words of love have embraced me with the millennia-old strength of Lazuri.

By speaking my mother language, I also demonstrate the willpower to keep the ancient culture and history of my people alive. However, speaking a language is not enough to ensure its survival. For years we have endeavored to make Lazuri stronger through cultural and scientific knowledge accumulation and prevent it from becoming solely a spoken language...

Beyond doubt, the lack of education in the mother tongue poses a great hindrance in its becoming the language of culture, art and science. Trapped in everyday spoken language, Laz is getting weaker by the day. This, in reality, is how a language dies. So, to assist the survival of our mother tongue we founded our own Open University Lazuri Faculty! We will be publishing classes online soon in order to share with everyone who wants to learn Lazuri.

Happy International Mother Language Day!