

CATS OF BURGAZADA FACE THIS CRISIS EVERY YEAR (*)

By Sefa Targit

Princes Islands are a summer resort area of Istanbul. There is a huge difference between the summer and winter populations of the Princes Islands.

Cats inhabiting these islands multiply during the summer months in parallel with the high number of people feeding them, and they live comfortably in these months of abundance.

As I was waiting for the ferry to arrive at the ferry landing of Burgazada on a winter day, I had this opportunity to observe the winter plight of the cats living thereby. What I saw was like a revelation in regards with the science of economy.

When the summer guests leave the Island, cats descend down to the relatively more densely populated area of ferry landing in order to maintain their lives off whatever they find. The fishes discarded by the fishers while cleaning their nets at the landing are the main source of living for the cats.

Tens of cats, possibly numbering above a hundred, lock their eyes at the fishing boats also keeping watch of the moves of each other, and the war begins with a piece of fish thrown away by the fishers. The most fortunate, the fastest or the greediest gets the reward. That is the happiest cat of the world for that very moment. While, as the experience has taught, other cats do not leave this cat cherishing the piece alone. This is because that's a sure thing that a cat has, at least occasionally, to put down the peace of fish before eating it completely. This fact is also known just too well by the individual cat eating the fish, thus hindering him from putting down the fish with the nearest competitor within ten centimeters. Think of the constitution of a hungry cat carrying a fish in his mouth which he just can not eat. It is obvious from the look of this cat how his spirit is affected by that fight between his reasoning, that tremendous urge to satisfy his hunger and his stomach which has already started to secrete for the fish in the mouth. His eyes are like flashing with fire. Ultimately, though, he resigns and puts down the fish in his mouth which was instantly snapped by another cat. This will be no different story for the succeeding cat either.

This tide of sentiments persists until the fisherman throws another piece that will divert the attention of the cats. At that moment, the lucky cat having his turn with the piece of fish which had then become so small as a result of the many previous trials finally gulps down the fish. He fish has neither the taste nor the nutrition left.

Cats getting multiplied in the Island based on the consideration that there is, and will always be, more than enough number of lovely people feeding them. Maybe, other cats also come or are brought to the Island for the Island's more favorable offerings.

Natural rules of economy are thus relentless and precise.

According to the economist Friedrich August von Hayek, a supporter of free market economy and a winner of Nobel Economy Award, "Economy is not man-made. But it contains human".

Frequent interventions to a functioning which is not man-made and attempts to run against the natural flow, as illustrated by the above example, makes it unavoidable to be subject to natural sanctions and hit the wall.

A difference between the cats and the men may be to predict what will happen, take measures, and determine a solid stance. If not, we will be no exemption from being vulnerable against the relentless rules of the nature.

It will be easier for us to draw conclusions from the example of the cats in the Island, if we put clients for the elevators or owners of the buildings who ask for the maintenance of their elevators in place of the fisherman; elevator companies in place of cats; and maintenance works or part sales in place of fish.

It is only natural that an army of hungry people appears at the time of stagnancy in construction industry if thousands of companies engage themselves in the elevator manufacturing business during the good times of the construction industry which always follows a volatile track.

Trying to snap the maintenance portfolio of other companies against impossibly low prices, or trying to manufacture - or import cheap counterparts - of the parts already manufactured by others during the periods of stagnancy are doomed to prove to be micro-solutions. Micro-solutions in total make up macro-problems. This means, those getting involved in futile initiatives merely for saving the day by earning small amounts will ultimately bring havoc for the entire industry, which – if collapse – pull down all including themselves.

What we call “**economic crisis**”, is contraction of the works and a reduction in income. We have to deliberate an answer to the question of “is it a contraction of the works or the falsity of the previous expansions what we currently experience?”

Future generations will laugh at us for our getting surprised against the bursting of the bubble which was entirely caused by our inflating the market and the existing companies through artificial financial figures.

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The meeting of Asray dealers was conducted at Istanbul Marriott Hotel on 12 February 2009. The meeting was participated by Asray managers and a total of 14 Asray dealers across the country.

Information was given about technical developments and the technical support to be extended to the elevator companies in the first session of the meeting, while new sale strategies were explained in the second session. Both presentations were supported by the illustrating materials distributed to each participating dealer. An exchange of opinions on various matters was made in a final session.

The meeting which ended with a lunch was participated by Mr. Ahmet Madenci and Mehmet Aydın from *Ah-met Asansör*; Mr. Nejdet Kahraman, Mr. Nuri Kuzan, Mr. Ferhat Yıldız, Mr. Yüksel Yıldırım from *Aspa Asansör*; Mr. Taşkın Bektaş from *Aspar Asansör*; Ms Nezahat Durdağ from *Bulut Makine*; Mr. Derya Meşe and Mr Hakan Yorgancı from *Güray Asansör*; Mr. Sabahattin Şekerci from *Hks Has Asansör*; Mr. Mehmet Şahinoğlu from *Meksan Asansör*; Mr. Uğur Yener, Mr. Övünç Yener, Mr. Onur Güzel from *Mp Yener Asansör*; Mr. Ahmet Ekmekçiköseoğlu from *Nobel Asansör*; Mr. Ercan Küçük from *Oluşum Asansör*; Mr. Can Turna and Mr. Hakan Güdük from *Omsan Asansör*; Mr. Mustafa Arslan and Mr. Aykut Çelikaslan from *Parmak Asansör*; Mr. Özkan Manav and Mr. İbrahim Urbay from *Rain Asansör*; Mr. Özkan Ekmen and Mr. Ceyhun Kuluğ from *Sistem Çelik Halat*.

Focus of attention in the meeting that brought Asray family together was the information provided by Mr. Sabahattin Şekerci on how he quitted smoking through a special method.