

**MEHMET SHEHU**

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**THE WORK OF OUR MEN  
OF RENAISSANCE LIVES ON AND IS  
HONOURED IN NEW SOCIALIST  
ALBANIA**

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### THE WORK OF OUR MEN OF RENAISSANCE LIVES ON AND IS HONOURED IN NEW SOCIALIST ALBANIA

*Speech delivered at the mass  
rally organized to honour the  
memory and work of Abdyl  
and Naim Frashëri  
(Tirana, June 11, 1978).*

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1871  
The first of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

The second of the year  
was a very wet one  
and the crops were  
very good.

The third of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

Dear comrades,  
Dear brothers and sisters,  
Citizens of Tirana,

This day is a marked day for the Albanian people, for us who live in the beloved soil of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and for our Albanian brothers beyond the borders of the Homeland.

On the occasion of the jubilee of the centenary of the Albanian League of Prizren we extend our ardent greetings to all our Albanian brothers in Kosova, Macedonia, Montenegro and in all other regions, wherever they live.

After almost one century in foreign land, now, on the great jubilee of the centenary of the Albanian League of Prizren, the remains of one of the most glorious sons of the Albanian people, the great patriot and fighter, Abdyl Frashëri, are brought and will forever rest in the free and flourishing soil of Mother Albania, in our sacred soil, here, in the capital of our Homeland, together with the remains of the great poet, the ardent patriot, «the Albanian Nightingale», immortal Naim.

It is an honour and duty for our generation to pay the highest respects to our glorious patriots of our National Renaissance who did so much for

the freedom of our people and of the Homeland among whom the Frashëri brothers, Abdyl, Naim and Sami, shine like bright and inextinguishable stars.

The Party of Labour of Albania is the loyal bearer of the standard of our men of the Renaissance, it is the Party which raised this banner to the highest peaks, in the bloody battles of the most glorious epic of the Albanian people, in the National Liberation War and in the people's revolution, for the liberation of the Homeland from any yoke and oppression, and now in the unexampled struggle waged under siege and blockade for the construction of socialism and communism.

The great dreams of the patriots of our National Renaissance became a reality thanks to the correct leadership of our heroic Party, with its glorious founder and leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, and thanks to the blood and sweat of our people; and what has been achieved in socialist Albania outshines by thousands of times the dreams of these great and immortal patriots. The Albania of Scanderbeg and of the men of our National Renaissance, the long-suffering Albania of centuries-long wars, with its soil imbued with the blood of her own people, socialist Albania of the generation of Enver Hoxha, is marching today with its head high and with militant step on the broad road of socialism and communism, in struggle with all her enemies and the enemies of mankind, against imperialism and social-imperialism, against revisionism and world reaction, and there is no force on earth to check and stop this triumphant revolutionary march.

Abdyl and Naim were two of the most brilliant figures of our National Renaissance, of that revolutionary democratic epoch of great importance in the history of the Albanian people, which marked the emergence of our nation from the medieval-feudal and imperialist darkness into the broad road of the armed uprising of the Albanian people for freedom and independence, democracy, light and education.

The men of the Albanian Renaissance were «distinguished people of progressive ideas, courageous, revolutionary illuminists with a great and ardent love of country», they were great thinkers and fighters of pen and rifle, talented organizers and diplomats. They had written on their banner the unity of all the people in the struggle for freedom, for national independence and for Albania's territorial unification, for Albania's road of democratic social progress. Theirs was the line of the tit-for-tat struggle against all the enemies of Albania, fought with word and pen, with organization and politics, with rifle and uprising, for the salvation of the Homeland, for the freedom of the people, for democracy and progress.

Just as all the genuine patriots of the past, from the time of our national hero, the great Scanderbeg, our men of the Renaissance, were not individual «heroes», but an entire pleiad of the true sons of the people, carriers of the best virtues of the people, linked like muscle to bone with the people, champions of the loftiest interests of the people, of the people's spirit of unyielding resistance to any enemy, of boundless love of country, of militant determination and unexampled vitality.

Such were Abdyl, Naim and Sami, Naum Veqilharxhi and Zef Jubani, Jani Vreto and Kostandin Kristoforidhi, Pashko Vasa and Jeronim De Rada, Koto Hoxhi and Hasan Tahsini, Zija Prishtina and dozens of other distinguished patriots and fighters of the Renaissance, whom our people remember with profound love and respect. Glory in the centuries to our immortal men of the Renaissance!

Its profoundly political and liberation character, its pronounced popular and democratic content, its reliance on the inexhaustible forces of the people, its revolutionary method of struggle — the armed uprising, as the main road to attain the national objectives, its channelling of all the efforts for the development of the national language and culture into this main stream, as a means of awakening and rousing the masses of the people to the liberation armed struggle — these constitute some of the fundamental distinguishing features of that great movement which is known as «the Albanian National Renaissance».

These fundamental features characterize the whole activity of the Albanian League of Prizren, founded on June 10, 1878, which represents a culminating and glorious moment in the epoch of our National Renaissance. The Albanian League of Prizren was the result and the direct continuation of the previous efforts made by the Albanian people for freedom and independence. It constitutes a brilliant epic in the unbroken chain of the heroic struggles waged in the centuries by our insurgent and indomitable people, who «blazed the trail of history sword in hand», always keeping ablaze their ardent desire for freedom, for living



as masters in their own country, their love for their rich language, their brilliant traditions, their good customs and their inviolable personality.

The Albanian League of Prizren fought with all its forces to make a reality of the essential objectives of the national movement of the Albanian people: recognition of the Albanian nation and unification of all the Albanian territories into a free state, the right to national autonomy from the Ottoman rule and prevention of the partitioning of Albania by the Great Powers of Europe and the rabid chauvinists of the Balkans.

The League of Prizren and the Albanian people who united themselves around it in all the regions of our country, did not submit to pressure, blackmail and violence by the imperialist Great Powers, but with unprecedented courage and bravery, revolted and, arms in hand, faced up to the Ottoman occupiers, the ill-famed Treaty of San Stefano of the year 1878 and the anti-Albanian decisions of the Congress of Berlin of the same year, entailing the partition of Albania. The League of Prizren and the Albanian people fought with courage and heroism against the slicing-up of Albania by the Great Powers, against the vile chauvinistic aims of the neighbouring Balkan monarchies and their barbarous inroads into the Albanian regions.

The battles fought by the forces of the armed people under the League of Prizren, such as the battle against Mehmet Ali Pasha at Gjakova, or the glorious battles for the defence of the Albanian territory in Plava and Gucia, Hot, Gruda and Ulqin, the bloody battle of Shtimje, the innumerable series

of them, which went on for three years on end, and in which our people, with their spirit of mass heroism wrote one of the most glorious pages in the history of their efforts for their freedom, their soil and their Homeland, will remain unforgettable in the centuries.

The League of Prizren grew into a general national movement which involved the efforts and the struggle of our people in all the regions, where the Albanians constituted a compact whole, and the majority of the population in the four vilayets of that time, namely, Shkodra, Kosova, Manastir and Janina. It was not fortuitous that Abdyl Frashëri and his fellow-fighters chose Prizren as the centre of the League of the Albanians. Legendary Kosova has always been a centre of ardent Albanian patriotism, just as all the regions of Albania in the South and in the North, in the West and in the East. Branches of the Albanian League were set up everywhere, and in the liberated regions they replaced the Ottoman administration with an Albanian administration, and the people, without distinction of religion and region, were all united under the banner of the League.

This just, profoundly popular war, which was characterized by the active mobilization of all the creative energies, the ardent patriotism of the broad masses of our people and their spirit of mass heroism, brought forth such outstanding political, military and national-cultural personalities like Abdyl Frashëri, Sulejman Vokshi, Ymer Prizreni, Pashko Vasa, Thimi Mitko, Haxhi Zeka, Iljaz Dibra; it brought forth heroic fighters and people's leaders such as Mic Sokoli, Ali Ibra, Shuaip Spahiu, Isuf

Sokoli, Ramadan Zaskoci, Jakup Ferri, Odhise Kasneci (Nesturi), and many and many others, to whose memory our people bow with deep respect.

The decision of the Presidium of the People's Assembly to award the title «Hero of the People» to the outstanding fighters of the Albanian League of Prizren, Abdyl Frashëri, Sulejman Vokshi and Mic Sokoli, and to decorate many other patriots of that period, is an expression of the high appreciation by our Party and People's Power of the heroic struggle which these great patriots waged for the interests of the people and the Homeland, a high assessment by the Party, the People's Power and people of the League of Prizren itself and its patriotic and revolutionary activity. Glory to the fighters of the Albanian League of Prizren, who fought with such courage and heroism for the freedom of the people, for the Albanian land, for the Albanian nation!

Abdyl Frashëri was the political leader and the ideologist of the Albanian League of Prizren, the wise diplomat who represented the League with dignity in the foreign world and defended with persistence the interests of the Albanian nation before the Great Powers, against the savage aims of the Balkan chauvinists who wanted the partitioning of Albania. He was the soul of the League of Prizren and of its struggle, the inspirer and architect of its program, the tireless activist, fighter and organizer for putting this militant and revolutionary program into practice. As the principal and the most consistent representative of the more progressive wing of the League, defying the Otto-

man Empire and the Great Powers, relying on the forces of the people and waging a tit-for-tat struggle with all the enemies in order to win the autonomy of Albania from Istanbul and against the slicing-up of Albania by the chauvinistic monarchies of the Balkans, which were backed up by the imperialist Great Powers of Europe, Abdyl Frashëri was the first to call on the people to rise up in arms.

The Albanian people throughout our national territory followed Abdyl Frashëri all along the path of honour because the aspirations of this great patriot were the aspirations of the people themselves, because the war he was leading expressed the loftiest interests of the Albanian people and nation. The Ottoman occupiers condemned Abdyl Frashëri to a life of imprisonment, but he never bent to them, and the people kept him in their hearts and made him immortal. And it is our people again, who today, with the glorious Party of Labour at their head, and having become masters of their own country, brought the remains of their unforgettable son to rest forever in our sacred soil which gave him birth and for which he consumed his life. May the memory of the great revolutionary patriot Abdyl Frashëri remain alive forever!

Today in commemorating the work of Abdyl Frashëri, the Albanian people bow with the greatest respect also before the memory of Abdyl's brother and close co-fighter, Naim. The immortal figure and work of Naim Frashëri, this ardent fighter of our National Renaissance, who consumed his life like «the candle» in the service of the Homeland and the people, has remained and will remain

engraved forever in the mind and hearts of the Albanian people.

Naim was an outstanding thinker who contributed so much to the development of our national culture. He is our great national poet, who sang so sweetly to the Motherland and the beauty of the Albanian nature, who sang so ardently to the freedom and the indomitable patriotic spirit of the Albanian people. Naim put his powerful talent and his magnificent literary activity in the service of the greatest and most sacred cause, the liberation of the Homeland and the Albanian people. He was not a poet of drawing-rooms and of a mean petty world, he never sang praises to Sultans and oppressors, conquerors and blood-suckers, instead he sang to the people and their struggle for freedom, to the bravest of the brave, our national hero, who led our people in the epoch-making legendary struggle which is named after him-Gjergj Kastrioti-Scanderbeg. Naim sang to the pure spirit and feelings of our people, he sang to the Albanian soil, its inspiring beauty. The work of Naim was a progressive call addressed to the people to revive the glorious traditions and virtues, which have characterized our people at all times, and to take up arms for the liberation of the country from the foreign yoke.

Naim is the real founder of Albanian literary language, which, from a pronounced political standpoint, he viewed as a powerful barrier against the danger of foreign cultural assimilation and as a sharp weapon to arouse the national consciousness of our people in struggle against slavery.

The light which Naim lit was never extinguish-

ed, it continued to illuminate the road of war for freedom, the road of honour and progress to the subsequent generations. As an inseparable part of the great spiritual treasury of our people and as a brilliant expression of his creative genius, his historic work lives on and is respected in new socialist Albania. The name and work of great Naim will burn always like an inextinguishable torch in the Albanian land.

The great patriots and fighters of our National Renaissance did not live to see the fruit of their work. Yet their sweat and blood were not shed in vain. Their seeds struck root and grew into the efforts of the following generations which, treading in the footsteps of their ancestors, kept the traditions of the struggle for freedom always alive.

The great uprisings of the years 1910-1912, the heroic battles and the indefatigable patriotic activity of Ismail Qemali and Luigj Gurakuqi, Isa Boletini and Ded Gjo Luli, Çerçiz Topulli and Mihal Grameno, Hasan Prishtina and hundreds upon hundreds of others, which were crowned with a historic victory, the proclamation of independence on November 28, 1912; the uninterrupted wars of the Albanians against the interventions and invasions of the imperialists; the great peasant uprising of Haxhi Qamili of the years 1914-1915; the glorious epic of Vlora of 1920; the bourgeois-democratic revolution of 1924; the struggle of the revolutionary democrats like Avni Rustemi, Bajram Curri and their comrades-in-arms, and of the communist groups against the tyrannical, anti-popular, anti-national and obscurantist regime of Ahmet Zogolli; the armed resistance to the Italian fascist invasion

of April 7, 1939 — all this is vivid historic testimony which shows that our people have never laid down their arms and never for a moment given up their war and efforts for national independence and liberation.

In the most glorious epic of the many centuries-long history of our people, the Anti-fascist National Liberation War, our heroic Party inherited, developed and raised these glorious militant revolutionary traditions higher and enriched them with a new content in the unexampled struggle for the construction and defence of socialism, for the triumph of Marxism-Leninism and the cause of the revolution and the liberation of the peoples.

Comrades,

Our great men of the Renaissance, and most prominent among them, the Frashëri brothers, dreamed, thought, strove, fought and consumed all their lives for the good of the Homeland, in order to see Albania a free, beautiful, prosperous and advanced country.

Sami Frashëri, the wise ideologist of our National Renaissance and the great scholar and philosopher of those times, wrote the book «Albania, her past, her present, and her future». In it he spoke about an Albania of the future, democratic and progressive politically, a country which, according to him, would be strong provided it had the support of the people; he spoke about an Albania where metals would be extracted and processed, where railroads would be built and industry and handicrafts developed, swamps drained, land irrigated and agriculture, livestock-raising and

fruit-growing flourish. Sami wanted an Albania free from the darkness of ignorance, where primary education would be compulsory and free of charge, secondary schools and universities would be opened, the academy of sciences and institutes of study and printing presses would be set up, national art and culture would develop, the woman would be liberated from the heavy yoke of backward customs and from submission to man, and so on. He called on the Albanians to fight for their rights, for the good of their nation, saying: «let us push aside whomever is on our way and tries to stop our advance on this sacred road, throw him down, tread on him, and go ahead... Let us be afraid of nothing, let us try and never stop trying till we attain what we are after».

«Happy is the man who will live to see her a lady», wrote Naim Frashëri about Albania, expressing the ardent desire of all the patriots of our National Renaissance. And here, today, thanks to the leadership of the Party and through the blood and sweat of the people, socialist Albania has become a «lady», and what a «lady»! She has become «her own mistress», enjoying the respect of numerous friends throughout the world and fearing no enemies, rabid though they may be. She has become a heroic fighter, clad in the red garb of socialism and communism, holding rifle and pick in her hand, and forging ahead with youthful courage and vigour on the road to the complete construction of socialist society with her own sweat; there is no force on earth to stop her on this road. Glory in the centuries to our Party of Labour, which is the worthy follower of the patriots of our National Renaissance,



the carrier and consistent applier of the ideas and teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, loyal to the end to the interests of the people, socialism and communism!

Our men of the National Renaissance dreamed of an Albania liberated from the regressive and obscurantist feudal order. Today, our Homeland is the country where not only the remnants of feudal relations, but also capitalist relations of exploitation of man by man have been liquidated once and for all, and socialism, the most progressive order the history of mankind has ever known, has triumphed both in the city and countryside.

With us, the dictatorship of the proletariat is in power and stands as firm as a granitic rock, it guarantees genuine and most complete democracy for the broad masses of working people, with the working class in the lead, and only for them, which ensures the constant advance on the glorious road of the construction of socialism, and defends the interests of the people and socialism from any enemy.

The great deed of the Party and people has turned Albania into a socialist country, where there is only development, prosperity, progress, social justice, employment, education, a happy and joyful life, and consistent struggle for the complete construction of socialist society and the defence of socialism and of the Homeland from all the enemies.

The happy life we are enjoying in socialist Albania has been achieved with much sweat and great efforts, through heroic struggle and untiring work to overcome countless difficulties, to break the savage imperialist-revisionist blockade, to foil all the

sinister designs of the internal and external enemies. The great pressure of the deep economic and financial crisis of the capitalist and revisionist world on our socialist economy has had no negative consequences or impact on us because the people, under the leadership of the Party, have put their shoulder to the work for the construction of socialism, relying on their own forces.

Our socialist economy is sound and stable. Small socialist Albania is the first country in the world free from taxes, a country which knows no crisis, unemployment, or price rises, a country whose Constitution sanctions that it accepts no credits or «aid» from any capitalist and revisionist state.

Our Party has created the new man of socialist society with a proletarian world outlook and lofty moral virtues, who thinks, works, fights and lives as a revolutionary for the construction of socialism, for coping with and breaking the hostile encirclement and blockade of imperialism and revisionism, and for the defence of the Homeland. The irresistible march of our socialist revolution stamped the great evil of religion and backward customs out of social life, opened the doors of schools to the people, emancipated the woman, opened broad prospects to the vigorous outburst of the inexhaustible abilities and energies of the masses of working people, with the working class at the head.

The imperialist Great Powers and their chauvinistic lackeys have not given up their ambitions towards Albania; today these ambitions are of the same nature as those of the time of the men of our National Renaissance, if not more savage and diabolic, though in new conditions. The imperialist

superpowers are leading the world towards war, they are striving to set fire to Europe, the Balkans, and the entire world. Modern revisionism is totally in the service of capitalism and imperialism. The new opportunism in fact has become the most devoted ally of US imperialism, and the most zealous supporter of the most reactionary and fascist forces of the world. US imperialism and Russian social-imperialism are contending with one another for world domination. Their clamour about détente is demagoguery and a mask. Today, stormy clouds darken the skies and hang over the peoples and continents.

But the world «is advancing all the same», the revolution never stops its march. The peoples are understanding who are their friends and who are their enemies. The struggle of the peoples for liberation and against imperialism and neo-colonialism is on the rise; the genuine revolutionaries and Marxist-Leninists have turned their chests to the imperialist-revisionist storm, placing themselves at the head of the proletariat and of the working masses in their complicated and fierce struggle against the capitalist system, which is growing old and cannot escape death.

On the great front of this decisive struggle of the freedom-loving peoples, of the world proletariat, of the genuine revolutionaries and Marxist-Leninists, of all the progressive forces against imperialism and social-imperialism, against revisionism and opportunism, the People's Socialist Republic of Albania holds today a place of honour, as an indomitable fighter which has decided to be loyal to the end to the cause of the freedom of the peoples, the

cause of the proletariat, Marxism-Leninism, socialism and communism.

In the struggle for the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland, in the struggle against all the internal and external enemies, our people, loyally implementing the correct Marxist-Leninist line of our heroic Party, have gained great experience. All the plots of the enemies against socialist Albania have failed so far and they will fail in the future, too. A guarantee to this is the heroic leadership of our Party with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, is the great vitality of our people and the steel-like unity of the ranks of the Party around its Central Committee, and the people around the Party. Against this unity, every attempt of the enemy has been turned to dust and ashes. Any external enemy who underrates the force of this unity and the determination of our Party and people never to divorce their words from deeds, never to deviate in the slightest from the correct Marxist-Leninist line of our Party, commits a grave error and the worst for him.

The great patriots and fighters, who fought for the freedom and independence of our Homeland unsparingly, yearned for a strong and «renowned» Albania. They evoked the glorious times of Scanderbeg. «A great lady you have been, the brave called you mother», wrote at that time Pashko Vasa, this outstanding patriot of the National Renaissance, whose remains are also brought home these days. Now, the name of Albania resounds and is heard with respect throughout the world. And this happens thanks to the correct Marxist-Leninist line of our Party of Labour in the revolution and social-

ist construction, thanks to its consistent internationalist stands in support of the revolutionary movement and the freedom-loving peoples, thanks to the principled and consistent struggle it has always been waging against international imperialism and neo-colonialism, and first and foremost, against US imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, against the forces of reaction, against modern revisionism and opportunism of all hues.

Whenever the modern revisionists, enraged by the firm Marxist-Leninist stand of the Party of Labour of Albania, have extended the ideological disagreements also in the sphere of state relations, they have met with failure and been covered with shame, while Albania has always come out triumphant. The clearest example for this is the reactionary action of Nikita Khrushchev against Albania. Nothing intimidates us, the Albanian communists, the Albanian people, because we are in our right, in the proletarian Marxist-Leninist right, which is a thousand times stronger than the imperialist-revisionist blockade and encirclement, than the blackmail and the threats of the foreign enemies.

The history of our people is the history of their uninterrupted centuries-long struggles against the savage and merciless enemies, who suppressed and exploited, murdered and massacred them in their attempts to subjugate and liquidate them as a people and as a nation. But the enemies have never achieved their fiendish goal. The lofty moral virtues of our people, the revolutionary militant traditions which have made the Albanian people indomitable and have aroused the sympathy and respect in all the freedom-loving and progressive peoples of the

world for the Albanian people and their Homeland, have been tempered in the heat of these wars.

Our Party of Labour has integrated these patriotic, fighting and revolutionary traditions of our forefathers into one with socialist patriotism, which has become a strong weapon for the education of the present generation and the generations to come in the struggle for the uninterrupted flourishing and the defence of our socialist Homeland, for the overcoming of any enemy, any encirclement and blockade with heroism, for always upholding the name and revolutionary dignity of the Albanian people, the Party of Labour of Albania and the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

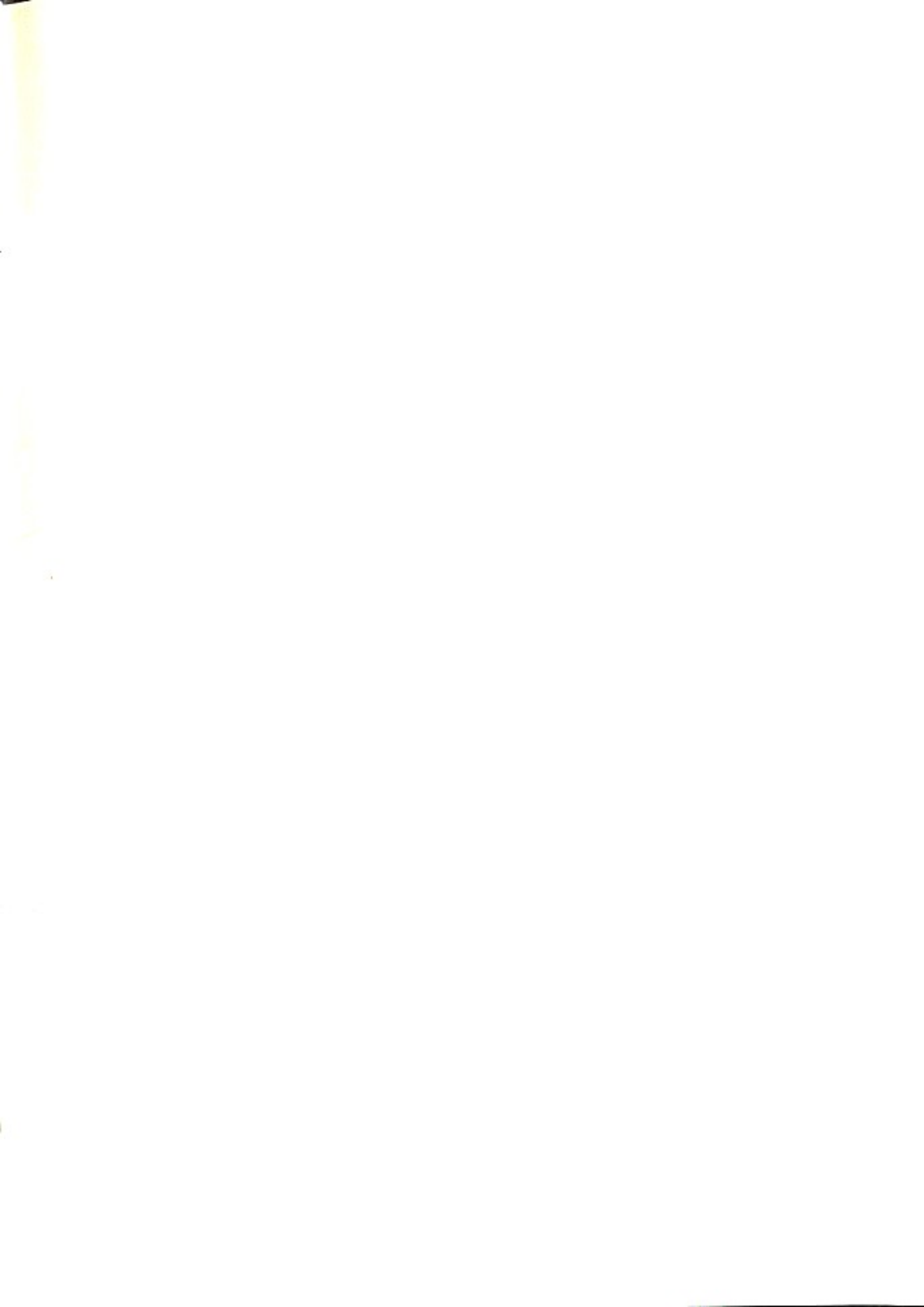
Glory to the fighters and heroes who consumed their lives and shed their blood for Mother Albania and for the good of the Albanian people!

Glory to the eternal memory of Abdyl Frashëri and Naim Frashëri!

Long live our heroic people, builders of socialism!

Long live our glorious Party and the beloved leader of our Party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha!

Glory to Marxism-Leninism!



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