The Bedouzzaman Said Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies at John Carroll University is pleased to invite you to the Fall 2011 conference on the occasion of the centennial anniversary of Bedouzzaman Said Nursi’s Damascus sermon.

Bedouzzaman Said Nursi is one of the most influential personalities in the modern history of Turkey. Born in 1876, Nursi lived in a time of substantial socio-political change, including the era of the Ottoman Sultan Abdulhamit II. Meanwhile, he gave his famous sermon, known as “Damascus Sermon,” in October of 1911. In the late period of the Ottoman Empire, he was appointed as a member of Dar al-Hikmah al-Islamiyyah, the highest religious institution in the state. In 1930, Nursi reviewed the sermon and translated it into Turkish with some new additions. Nursi elaborated on the problems of the Islamic world and presented remedies in his sermon. After the establishment of modern Turkey, he was incarcerated without conviction for over 30 years. In 1960 when he died, the New York Times estimated his followers to be approximately 1 million. Nursi is somewhat controversial, and yet his writings remain highly influential in the Turkish-speaking world today.

This conference aims to shed light on Nursi’s views of the problems of the Islamic world and assessing his remedies in light of his Damascus sermon.

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