





## **Standing on the Threshold, Forgetting and Remembering: The Case of 6 February Earthquake Survivors Settled in Kayseri KYK Gevher Nesibe Dormitory**

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### **Abstract**

This study scrutinizes the process of experiencing the 6 February Earthquake as a social crisis and transferring it to social memory in the case of earthquake survivors who were placed in Kayseri KYK Gevher Nesibe Dormitory after the earthquake. The article analyses the earthquake as a social crisis and transition period, emphasizing that the earthquake operates as a social crisis that involves a three-phase transition for individuals: separation, threshold, and reintegration. Accordingly, the social pain accompanying the earthquake experience leads to the individual's temporary separation from the social structure. This is followed by the threshold/liminal phase, a temporary transitional period in which the daily routines are disrupted and which will ultimately result in reintegration with the social structure. Since the threshold stage of social crises temporarily moves the individual to an in-between state, it creates a process in which forgetting and remembering reflexes are operated and the experience is made meaningful. This study aims to reveal how earthquake survivors residing in KYK GN Dormitory, who temporarily experience a state of being in-between outside the social structure due to the disaster, make sense of their earthquake experiences through remembering and forgetting as a means of reintegrating into social life. In order to achieve this goal, the focus was placed on the experiences and opinions of earthquake survivors. In this framework, the study sought to answer the questions of how earthquake survivors remembered the earthquake and how social solidarity and religion helped them cope with the earthquake experience. A qualitative research method was used in the study. The research field consists of earthquake survivors who were placed in Kayseri KYK GN Dormitory. The sampling technique is purposive sampling. Data collection was conducted through structured in-depth interviews, and data analysis was carried out using descriptive analysis. The findings indicate that earthquake survivors focused on experiencing and remembering the pain associated

with what they experienced and lost. It was also observed that they perceive religion and social solidarity as mechanisms that promote social integration by compensating for the pain.

### Keywords

Social Crisis, Social Memory, Disaster, February 6 Earthquake, Remembering-Forgetting.

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