

NÂZİM HİKMET

OTTOMAN EMPIRE (1902–1963)

LANGUAGE: TURKISH

CEVİZ AĞACI

Başım köpük köpük bulut, içim dışım deniz,
ben bir ceviz ağacıym Gülhane Parkı'nda,
budak budak, şerham şerham ihtiyar bir ceviz.
Ne sen bunun farkındasın, ne polis farkında.



Nâzım Hikmet was the first great modern Turkish poet. His mother was an artist and his grandmother was a poet. Born in the Ottoman Empire, he went to Moscow at age twenty to study at the university. In 1923 Turkey declared itself a republic after fighting a war for independence. When Hikmet returned to Turkey he was persecuted for his communist ideas. He was imprisoned for a total of fifteen years, often in terrible conditions. He was forced to leave Turkey in 1952 and lived out the rest of his life in exile. In 2009 the Turkish government finally restored citizenship to the late poet.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
ağacı (n.)	a woody, perennial plant, typically having a single trunk and bearing lateral branches	tree
ağacıym (adj. + n.)	a woody, perennial plant belonging to the speaker	my tree
başım (adj. + n.)	the upper part of the human body, containing the brain, mouth, and sense organs	my head, my skull, my cranium, my noggin
ben (pron.)	used to refer to the speaker	I
bir (v. + art.)	from the verb <i>to be</i> + a single person or thing	am a, am one
budak (n.)	a knob, protuberance, or node in a stem, branch, or root	knot, gnarl, snag, node
bulut (n.)	a visible mass of condensed water vapor floating in the sky	cloud, fog, mist, haze, nebula
bunun (pron.)	referring to the thing just mentioned	this, that, it
ceviz (n.)	the large, wrinkled, edible seed of a deciduous tree, consisting of two halves contained within a hard shell	walnut
deniz (n.)	the expanse of salt water that covers most of the earth's surface	sea, ocean, waters, surf, brine
dışım (adj.)	located toward the outside of something	(my) outer
farkında, farkındasın (v.)	aware or conscious of	are aware of, are conscious of
Gülhane Parkı'nda (n.)	a historical park in the city of İstanbul— <i>Gülhane</i> means "Rosehouse"	Gülhane Park
içim (prep.)	situated within the confines of something	inside, within
ihtiyar (adj.)	having lived for a long time	old, elderly, aged, wizened, ancient

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
köpük (adj.)	having been fractured or damaged	broken, torn, disjointed, no good
ne (adv.)	used to form a negative	no, not, neither, nor
ne (pron.)	that which	what
polis (n.)	the civil force of a national or local government, responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the maintenance of public order	police, cops, police force, officers of the law
sen (pron.)	used to refer to the person or people the speaker is addressing	you
şerham (n.)	a small piece of something larger	shred, splinter, sliver, fragment, bit

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

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REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: _____

Pick a scribe for the group, and work together to answer the questions.

What are the best parts of this translation, and why do you think they are good?

What elements of the original poem did you lose in the translation? What did you manage to keep?

Did you achieve something new with your translation, and if so, does it make sense in the poem or not?
