

NÂZİM HİKMET

OTTOMAN EMPIRE (1902–1963)

LANGUAGE: TURKISH

BUGÜN PAZAR

Bugün pazar.

Bugün beni ilk defa güneşe çıkardılar.

Ve ben ömrümde ilk defa gökyüzünün

bu kadar benden uzak

bu kadar mavi

bu kadar geniş olduğuna şaşarak

kımıldamadan durdum.

Sonra saygıyla toprağa oturdum,

dayadım sırtımı duvara.

Bu anda ne düşmek dalgalara,

bu anda ne kavgâ, ne hürriyet, ne karım.

Toprak, güneş ve ben...

Bahtiyarım...



Nâzim 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
bahtıyarım (adj.)	avored by good luck or fortune	I'm lucky, I'm fortunate, I'm blessed
ben / beni (pron.)	used to refer to the speaker	I, me
benden (prep + pron.)	away from the speaker	from me
bu anda (adv.)	referring to a particular moment in time	at this moment, in the moment, at that time, at the time, then
bu kadar (adv.)	to a great extent	so, so much, extremely, remarkably
bugün (n.)	literally means "this sun"	today, this day, present day
çıkardılar (v.)	from the verb <i>çıkarmak</i> —to remove or take out	they took me out, they let me out, they brought me out
dalgalara (n.)	bodies of water curling into arched forms; large expanse of sea	the waves, the ocean, the waters, the deep blue
dayadım (v.)	from the verb <i>dayanmak</i> —to lean upon something	I leaned, I propped, I rested, I positioned
durdum (v.)	from the verb <i>durdur</i> —to come to a stop	I kept, I stood, I stayed, I paused
düşmek (adj.)	moving downward, typically rapidly and freely without control	falling, rolling, collapsing, plunging, ebbing, tumbling
duvara (n.)	a continuous vertical brick or stone structure that encloses or divides an area of land	(up against the) wall, barrier, partition, enclosure, rampart, fortification, panel, barricade
geniş (adj.)	covering or affecting a large area	wide, broad, expansive, spacious, vast, carefree
gökyüzünün (n.)	the region of the atmosphere and outer space seen from earth	the sky, the heavens, heaven, the firmament, the blue yonder
güneş / güneşe (n.)	the natural light of the day	sun, sunshine, sunlight, daylight, light of day
hürriyet (n.)	the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved	freedom, liberty, independence
ilk defa (adv.)	the first occurrence of something notable	for the first time

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
karım (adj. + n.)	the woman married to the speaker	my wife, my spouse, my better half, my woman, my significant other
kavga (n.)	a forceful or violent act of confrontation	struggle, conflict, fighting, quarreling
kimildamadan (adj.)	not moving or making a sound	still, quiet, unmoving, motionless, stock-still, immobile, transfixed, static
mavi (adj.)	of a color intermediate between green and violet, as of the sky or sea or sunny day	blue, azure, sky blue, powder blue
ne (adv.)	used to form a negative	no, not, neither
olduğuna (conj.)	introducing a subordinate clause expressing a statement or hypothesis	that, which
ömrümde (prep. phrase)	referring to the entire period of one's existence	in my life
oturdum (v.)	the past tense of the verb <i>oturmak</i> —to sit down	I sat, I sat down
Pazar / pazar (n.)	the first day of the week; market	Sunday, market day, market, bazaar, fair
şaşarak (n.)	feeling of wonder or surprise	amazement, astonishment, wonder, awe
saygıyla (adv.)	full of a sense of worth	with respect, with esteem, with dignity, respectfully
sırtımı (adj. + n.)	the part of the speaker's body that extends from the neck to the lower end of the spine	my back, my spine, my torso
sonra (adv.)	immediately or soon afterward	then, next, after
toprak / toprağa (n.)	the solid surface of the earth	earth, dirt, ground, land, soil
ve (conj.)	additionally	and
uzak (adj.)	far off or apart in space	distant, remote, far off, faraway

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

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kimildamadan durdum. _____

Sonra saygıyla toprağa oturdum, _____

dayadım sırtımı duvara. _____

Bu anda ne düşmek dalgalara, _____

bu anda ne kavga, ne hüriyet, ne kanım. _____

Toprak, güneş ve ben... _____

Bahtiarım... _____

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

MAKE IT FLOW

Now it's time to think about:

- **FORM:** Do you want your translation to follow the same form? Will it have the same number of lines and stanzas?
- **SOUND:** Which sounds stand out to you in the original? Will your translation sound similar? Is that important to you?
- **SYNTAX:** This means the word order. Word order changes across languages, so you may need to rearrange words so that the poem “flows” in English. Read your translation aloud. Does it sound natural to you? Read it aloud as a group. What do your group members think?

Remember that you can't possibly capture every aspect of the original language, and you can't avoid adding something in the new language.

[illegible]

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?
