

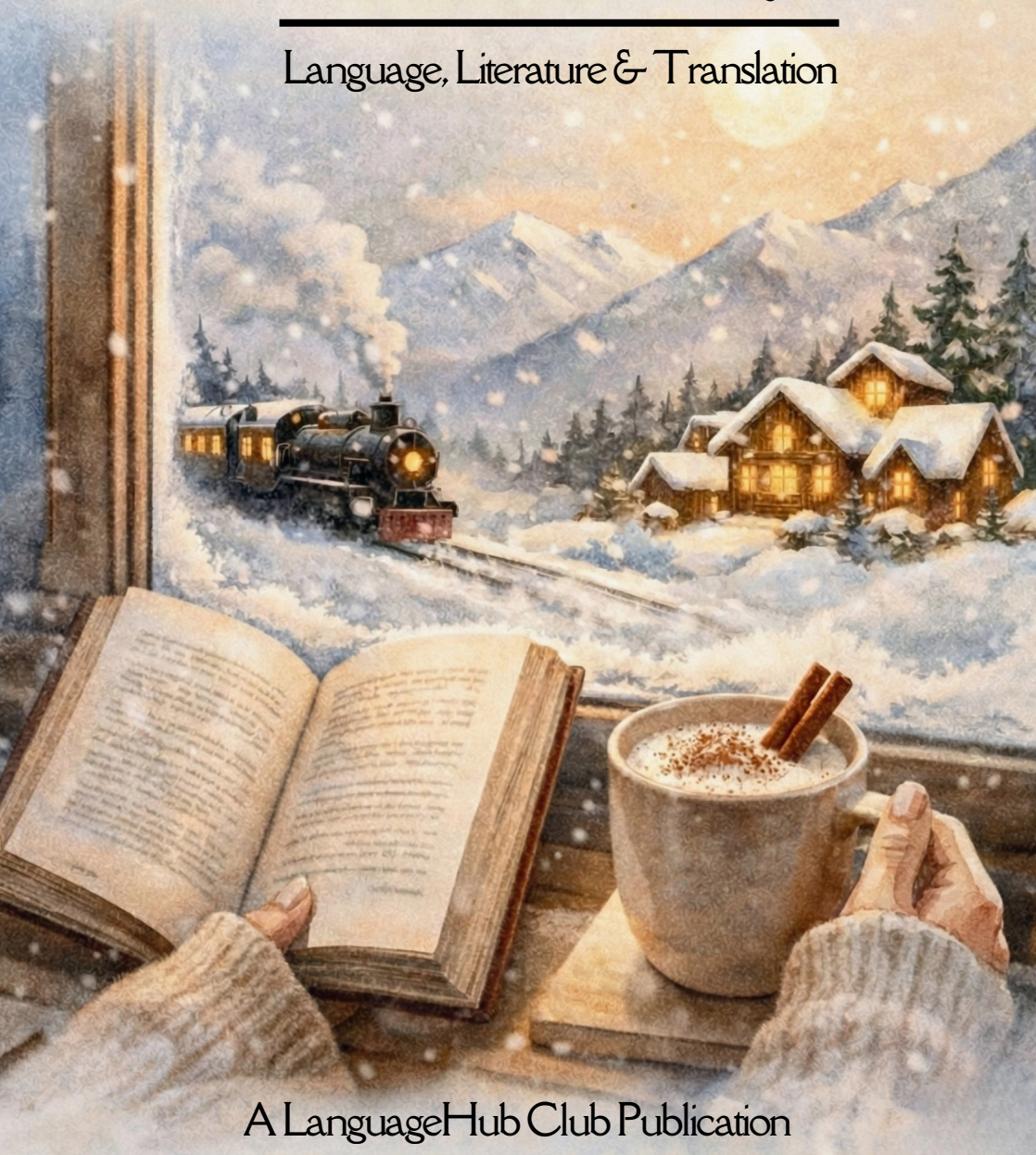
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In Gratitude to Our Mentor

Although her name is not mentioned enough, Dr. Meryem Odabaşı's presence is felt in every single sentence. She is the heartbeat of this entire publication. From the very first draft to the final polish, she tirelessly worked on every text, guiding us with patience and wisdom. This fanzine would simply not exist without her invisible, yet indispensable labor. She did much more than just review every single text in these pages. She not only helped with the fanzine, but she also gave direction to our lives. By founding this fanzine, she created a home for our ideas. She sacrificed her valuable time and poured her energy into our growth, purely out of dedication to her students. It is a rare educator who works this hard without expecting anything in return.

We want to thank you, Dr. Meryem Odabaşı, for your selfless labor of love and for believing in us when no one else did. This fanzine belongs to you as much as it belongs to us.

***With deepest gratitude,
The Lotus Fanzine Team***



PREFACE

Dear Readers,

This fanzine you hold in your hands feels like it's coming from inside a winter fairy tale. When you look out the window, perhaps it's snowing, or perhaps just a cold wind is blowing, but in these pages, you will find all the magic, all the warmth, and all the melancholy of winter.

Winter is truly a strange season. On the one hand, it brings a coldness that makes one withdraw and feel lonely; on the other hand, even in the cold, it creates a closeness that brings us together, leading us to conversations and stories over warm tea. In this issue, you will discover precisely this duality.

From the snowy peaks of Erzurum to the long, rhythmic journey of the Eastern Express, this issue gathers the quiet spirit of winter. We move between snow-covered cities and distant celebrations such as Christmas lights, Nardugan fires, and Lunar New Year lanterns, tracing how different cultures welcome the turning of the year. There are snowmen built with frozen hands, stories of Ayaz Ata, the warmth of salep and gingerbread, the steady comfort of knitting on long evenings, and the hopeful whisper of New Year's resolutions. Woven together with elders' advice and steam rising from tea glasses, these pages hold winter not only as a season of cold but also as a season of closeness, memory, and shared warmth.

In each text, you are invited to see winter from a different perspective, through the voices of our friends. This issue does not tell the story of just one season; it gathers many experiences and emotions woven around winter. The poems, too, belong to cold evenings, to the silence after snowfall, and to the quiet feeling of sitting by a window and watching the world slow down. They carry whispers of loneliness but also the gentle comfort of shared tea, shared stories, and shared light.

We had a lot of fun as a team preparing this issue. Each writer put a piece of themselves into these pages. We hope you feel the same warmth as you read it. Now, grab a warm drink, settle into a comfortable spot, and join us on this winter journey.

Stay warm.

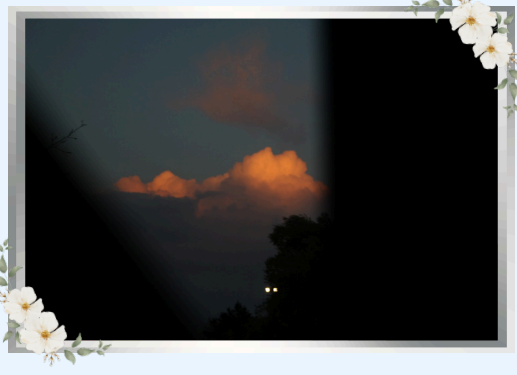
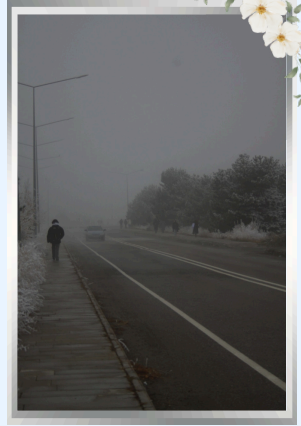
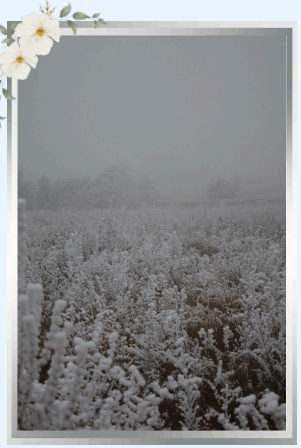
Ozan CEYLAN



THE SEASON OF WINTER

*When winter is said, coldness and snow come to mind.
If there is no coldness and snow, can it be said "winter" for winter?
Neither blood nor snow has come yet.
Can coldness be known as winter without snow?
Even if it's freezing outside, it's warm inside.
Stove or heater, welcome with open arms.
We are in December, and then it's January.
The winter season will end in February.
Each season has its own feature.
Winter has its own charm.
There is a depth to the night in this season.
The season of winter is known as the depth of nights.
Even darker and deeper nights,
Nights, give me my sleep I've missed
I can't find it this time; congratulations, nights!
The season of winter presents us with long nights,
The nights are long; we are your guests today.
Speaking is what remains of words in these nights.
People converse with each other; they come face-to-face.*

Ahsennur BİNGÖL



photographed by
Alperen ERDOĞMUŞ



THE SEASON OF RETURNING INWARD



For many of us, summer has always been the most beloved season. I've often wondered why this is so, and after thinking about it for a long time, I've come to a few conclusions. Summer offers us speed, movement, and an outward-looking rhythm; it invites us to live outside ourselves. Winter, on the other hand, pulls us inward. We spend more time alone, not necessarily in a negative way, but in a way that encourages reflection and stillness. And perhaps that's why I might secretly belong to the winter side of things. I have several reasons for seeing summer as a more fluid, free-flowing season.

If I were to imagine summer as a musical instrument, it would undoubtedly be a guitar. It's something that everyone enjoys listening to – quick, effortless, and full of melodies that stir countless emotions while keeping the listener alive and entertained. Winter, on the other hand, is a piano. With its cold, ivory-white keys, it reflects a snowy night to us. Each touch on the keys becomes a snowflake falling into silence. The notes linger in the air like ice crystals, leaving a delicate shiver behind. This is the sound of winter—quiet, reflective, and still—like Debussy's "Des pas sur la neige" (Footsteps in the Snow).

But this inward turn is not a lack but a refuge. Feet stretched toward the stove, popping chestnuts, faces and words drawn on the fogged glass ... That armchair we sink into while reading. Outside, the world may stand pure white, but inside, there is the crackle of firewood and the warmth of companionship.

The fatigue that comes after a snowball fight melts away at the first touch of that warmth. It is not the cold we love, but the warmth that rises in the midst of it. Perhaps winter is not a cold season at all but a lovely invitation to return to who we truly are.



Feyza ÜNAL





THE WHITE BRIDE

*The white bride arrived; the wind whispered
Pure, luminous and surely sacred.
The ash of the Skye fell
Till the mountains were comely dressed.
Then the trees shiver out a trembling hymn-
A divine melody, rim to rim,
Beneath the white bride's hem,
Soul of the earth's glim.*

Resul ALAN





illustrated by
Sude Melek
SUVAREN





THE LOVE OF WINTER

When I think of winter, a peaceful, quiet moment comes to mind. Sitting by the fireplace with a hot coffee in hand, watching the snowflakes slowly drift by the window... I stretch out my feet, watching the snow, losing track of time. Winter always reminds me of love. Perhaps because it's the coldest season, that's when you crave warmth the most. Sitting and talking with your loved one, possibly going outside and playing like a child in the snow... Each of these enhances winter and warms the heart even in the midst of the cold. I think winter is the season of love. Because love is experienced as delicate, silent, and sincere as snowflakes, just like winter itself. After all, if one falls in love in the midst of winter, doesn't one feel the coldest in the midst of frost? The lines from D.H. Lawrence's 'A Winter's Tale' describe love as warmth in the midst of winter, emphasising that love can enhance even the cold:

*"Yesterday, the fields were only grey with scattered snow,
And now the longest grass-leaves hardly emerge;
Yet her deep footsteps mark the snow, and go,
On towards the pines at the hills' white verge."*

This warmth that warms the heart in this bitterly cold season isn't the warmth of a stove flame but a feeling that gently warms the heart, radiating from within. A loved one's smile, a sincere look, is as white as the snow outside but as vibrant as the warmth within. Even in the midst of winter, this warmth that connects us to life warms not the hands but the heart.

Tubanur KELEŞ



illustrated by
Ceren ÇÖMEZ



WINTER

*When icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in a pail,
When Blood is nipped, and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who;
Tu-whit, tu-who: a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.*

*When all aloud the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and raw
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who;
Tu-whit, tu-who: a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.*

W. Shakespeare

KIŞ

*Sarıktlar duvarda dizili durduğunda,
Çoban Dick parmaklarına hobladığında,
Tom salona kUCAğında odun taşıduğında
Süt kovada buz tutup eve geldiğinde
Kan donup yollar çamurla dolduğunda,
Baykuş süzülür gece vakti ortaya,
Hu-huu, hu-huu;
Hu - huu, hu-huu: neşeli bir seda,
Pasaklı Joan çorbayı karıştırırken ocakta.*

*Dışarıda rüzgâr gürleyip estiğinde,
Öksürük papazın vaazını kestiğinde,
Kuşlar karda büzüşüp tünediğinde,
Marian'ın burnu soğuktan kızardığında,
Közlenmiş elmalar tavada cızırdadığında,
Baykuş süzülür gece vakti ortaya,
Hu-huu, hu-huu;
Hu - huu, hu-huu: neşeli bir seda,
Pasaklı Joan çorbayı karıştırırken ocakta.*

translated by

Zehra ÇAKIR

NARGUDAN: THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE TURKS

The winter solstice is a blessed day marking the longest night of the year, after which the daylight hours begin to lengthen, and it is accepted as a herald of spring. This day, which holds an essential place in our culture, is rooted in the traditions of the Central Asian Turks and is known as the Nargudan Festival. It is celebrated each year on the first full moon after December 22, according to the lunar calendar.

The word “Nargudan” is derived from “nar”, meaning “sun”, and “tugan”, meaning “born”, thus signifying the “Born Sun” (Doğan Güneş). The increasing visibility of the sun symbolised rebirth for the Turks, representing the new year, and was regarded as a gift from God.

This symbolic battle in which night is defeated by day was celebrated in the evening with careful preparations, accompanied by dancing around a fire beneath the pine tree. In ancient Turkic belief, the pine tree was the sacred tree of life located at the centre of the world. It was believed to connect the earth and the sky and to symbolise the continuity of life despite all hardships. Since it does not shed its leaves even in winter and remains evergreen, it was called the “tree of life” (hayat ağacı). Indeed, we frequently encounter the tree-of-life motif in Anatolia, appearing in items such as carpets, kilims, and clothing.

On the day of celebration, people wore new and clean clothes. All relatives gathered together, meals were prepared, and beforehand, people took care to keep their living spaces clean. Young girls and women distributed handkerchiefs embroidered with the tree-of-life motif to participants in the ceremony, which could be tied to the tree. Afterwards, wishes and desires were written on them and tied to the tree of life. These handkerchiefs were woven from the hair of animals such as sheep and goats and decorated with tree-of-life motifs.

Gifts were prepared for the God Ülgen and placed under the pine tree, accompanied by prayers. The wisest and oldest person of the region, known as Ayaz Ata – also referred to as “Ayaz Bobo” or “Ayaz Ota” in different Turkic cultures – led the ceremony, wearing his finest clothes. It is believed that he was accompanied by a young girl, either his granddaughter or a girl of similar age, known as Ayaz Kız or Kar Kız.



In conclusion, this day symbolises rebirth, as the harsh, exhausting days of winter give way to the warmth of spring, and daylight hours begin to increase. It continues to exist in our history as a significant day on which all evils are forgotten, love prevails, and people come together in unity and solidarity to celebrate the victory of the Sun.

Nisa GÜNEŞ

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illustrated by
Aleyna RAHİMİ





A LEGEND IN TURKISH MYTHOLOGY: AYAZ ATA

Ayaz Ata is a legendary figure in Turkish mythology who represents winter, cold, and harsh natural conditions. He is essentially the mythological explanation for why the air suddenly feels sharper, lakes freeze overnight, and people start questioning their clothing choices. His name combines “Ayaz” (biting cold) and “Ata” (elder or ancestor), showing that he is both ancient and authoritative. When winter arrives, Ayaz Ata is believed to be the one taking charge.

According to legends, Ayaz Ata does not arrive quietly. When he steps onto the earth, his breath turns water into ice, his presence covers mountains with snow, and strong winds follow wherever he goes. People bundle up, animals seek shelter, and nature slows down. However, Ayaz Ata is not simply a troublemaker who enjoys making everyone cold. Behind his icy behaviour lies a deeper purpose.

In Turkish mythology, winter is not seen only as a time of hardship but also as a necessary pause. Ayaz Ata’s cold allows the earth to rest, cleanses nature of harmful elements, and prepares the land for spring. In this sense, he is strict but fair—like a tough teacher who gives difficult lessons so students can succeed later. The cold may be uncomfortable, but it plays an important role in the natural cycle.

Today, Ayaz Ata still appears in folk tales and cultural traditions among Turkic communities. Even if his name is not always spoken, every freezing wind and icy morning feels like a quiet reminder of his presence. In Turkish mythology, Ayaz Ata remains a powerful symbol of winter—feared, respected, and understood as an essential part of life’s natural balance.



Ömer Deniz ERYILMAZ



illustrated by

Sude Melek SUVEREN



NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS: NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS



The New Year is not just the beginning of another year for many of us but also a turning point when we set new goals and take steps toward becoming our best selves. Nearly all of us strive to make positive changes in our lives in some way. However, have you ever thought that this act of setting goals actually has a special name? It is called “New Year’s Resolutions”. In other words, it is a promise that people make to themselves at the start of the year to improve their quality of life. The idea behind it is that the beginning of a new year symbolises a fresh start, free from the mistakes and the bad habits of the past.

Setting New Year’s resolutions helps us stay motivated, gives us hope for the future, and makes us feel that we have control over our own lives. These resolutions can be about anything in our lives, from physical appearance to mental health. For instance, some people want to lose weight to live a healthier life and to feel more confident about the way they look, while others prefer to focus on their financial goals by making smarter spending choices. Learning a new language is another common goal, as it serves as a bridge between cultures and brings them closer together. Finally, spending more time with family and friends is considered one of the most valuable goals, since time passes quickly and the moments we miss never come back.

Long story short, the New Year is a great chance to stop postponing and finally focus on the goals you want to achieve or the things you genuinely care about.

**Hanife ÖZTÜRK &
Hasret TUTAR**



2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

FAVORITE MOMENTS

LESSONS LEARNED

MADE IT HAPPEN

HOW CAN I MAKE 2026 BETTER?

THE PERSON I WANT TO SPEND THE MOST TIME WITH THIS YEAR:

GOOD DEEDS I WILL DO THIS YEAR:

PROMISE TO MYSELF THIS YEAR:

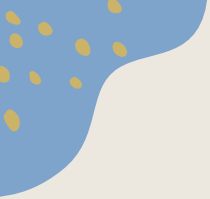
BOOKS TO READ:

PLACES TO VISIT:

WATCHLIST:

CAREER AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS TO ACHIEVE BY 2027:

LETTER TO MY FUTURE SELF





THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS



Winter might be charming with beautiful snow and various activities, but the most meaningful part of this season is Christmas, celebrated on December 25th. Although associated with lights, candles, and decorations, its beauty goes far beyond these visible aspects. Christmas is not merely a casual festival; it embodies profound religious, historical, and cultural significance that continues to influence modern traditions around the world.

To understand the significance of Christmas, its religious origins must be examined. Fundamentally, Christmas is rooted in the religious commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ, which marks the foundation of Christian belief. Although the Bible does not give an exact date, early Christian leaders chose December 25th to honour this event. This religious foundation eventually inspired various cultural traditions, including the figure of Santa Claus, which blends faith with festive celebration.

Santa Claus, inspired by the generous Saint Nicholas, is one of the most recognisable figures associated with Christmas. Representing the blending of religious tradition with modern customs, his image has become central to gift-giving, symbolising joy, kindness, and the spirit of giving.



His sleigh, traditionally pulled by reindeer, adds a magical dimension to the holiday, capturing the imagination of children. Through Santa Claus, people connect with the festive side of the holiday while still honouring its deeper meanings.

To sum up, Christmas is much more than a season of lights; it is a time of reflection, generosity, and togetherness. Its religious roots remind people of hope and faith, while cultural elements like Santa Claus bring joy to homes across the globe. By celebrating Christmas, individuals honour centuries-old traditions and embrace values of kindness and love, inspiring people to share happiness and cherish meaningful connections.

Muhammed ALBAYRAK

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

illustrated by
Fatma
Bengüsu
YAZICI

The term “white elephant” is used in English to describe objects that are difficult to possess yet have limited practical value. This meaning serves as the basis for the gift-giving event known as the White Elephant Gift. Unlike traditional gift-giving, this event focuses on fun and social interaction rather than the monetary value of gifts. Therefore, low-cost, funny, or functionless presents are preferred at the event.

The White Elephant Gift Exchange is a game-based event that follows a set of stages. Firstly, each attendee brings an appropriate present, and all wrapped presents are placed on a typical table. Then the attendees are randomly arranged. The first person chooses and unwraps a present. The next attendees choose one of two options: choosing a wrapped present or taking an unwrapped present from another attendee. The game finishes when all attendees have a present.

In this event, the concept of the white elephant, which was initially associated with a negative connotation of functionless gifts, becomes one of the central elements of the entertainment. Thus, the gift exchange departs from monetary value or expectations of reciprocity and focuses primarily on interaction among attendees. The White Elephant Gift Exchange can be considered a contemporary social practice that highlights the social and communicative aspects of gift-giving by bringing individuals together around a shared play experience.



Sude Naz ERDEM



THE LUNAR NEW YEAR: THE BONDS MEET AGAIN

Throughout history, people have relied on the Moon to structure time and shape cultural practices. The Lunar New Year, also known as the Chinese New Year, is an essential tradition for Chinese society and many cultures worldwide. It determines significant festivals and events derived from religious and historical customs passed down for centuries.

These cultural aspects are manifested through myths and symbols like the story of Nian, a terrifying creature believed to terrorise villages at the end of each year. According to the myth, Nian could be driven away by loud sounds and the colour red, explaining the use of fireworks and red decorations. Additionally, the Chinese zodiac plays a key role, with twelve animals representing years and influencing personality traits and fortune. The Lunar New Year also comes to life through everyday rituals. One notable custom is cleaning homes to clear away bad luck and welcome new beginnings. Another key practice is exchanging red envelopes, or hongbao, as a gesture of prosperity. Food culture plays a meaningful role too, with dishes like dumplings and fish symbolising abundance. Through these rituals, the festival demonstrates shared values and solidifies collective identity.

Ultimately, the Lunar New Year is a time for families to reunite and strengthen bonds. Loved ones gather to share meals and well-wishes, creating memories that fortify emotional connections. Beyond festivities, the festival emphasises solidarity and the preservation of cultural legacy. It is not only a way to mark time but also a poignant reminder of shared heritage and the lasting power of family unity.

Muhammed ALBAYRAK



YOUR COLD HANDS ARE MY WARMEST LAND

*From the warm shores I have lived,
Wiping the salt of the sea from my palms,
I have come to warm your cold hands.
I'm the summer sun which you crave,
And you are the silent bird of snowflakes.*

*In the frosty winter of Erzurum
Even only whispering your name
Leaves my body in flames.*

*I cannot think; I cannot comprehend,
Whenever I am surrounded by your presence.
I am the fierce blue of waves,
You are the cold breath standing high on the mountains.*

*I know, we are not meant to be,
But you cannot deny
That my warmth was always your destiny.*

*I must admit,
It was not by chance that I came to this city.
I demanded, I rebelled,
Not knowing what awaited me,
Even though I could have gone somewhere meant for me.*

*The first moment we met,
I understood why fate dragged me down here,
Because your winter never stopped calling my SEA.*

TUNA



SNOWMAN 101

Anyone can stack snow, but only a few people understand the physics of keeping it standing. Building a snowman is way more than just a nostalgic childhood ritual. It is basically a crash course in structural engineering. At first glance, it might look like you are just stacking a few snowballs. But crafting a figure that lasts requires understanding snow consistency and structural balance. You also need a decent bit of creative flair. The secret sauce to any legendary snowman is the quality of the snow. You are looking for that perfectly packable stuff, which happens when temperatures hover right around freezing. This keeps enough moisture in the flakes to act as a natural glue. If the snow is too dry or powdery, it won't bond. If it is too slushy, your masterpiece will turn into a sad puddle.

The process is simple:



- Start with a small hand-pressed ball, then roll.
- As it gathers mass, it becomes a heavy, rock-solid base.
- A classic snowman follows a strict three-tier hierarchy. You need a massive base for stability, plus a medium torso and a smaller sphere for the head.
- You must flatten the top of each sphere before stacking the next one to make sure your guy doesn't fall over. This creates a shelf that distributes the weight evenly.

illustrated by
Fatma
Bengüsu
YAZICI



- Also, don't forget to mortar the joints. You should pack extra snow into the seams where the spheres meet to give it some extra muscle against the wind and gravity.

- Once the structure is standing tall, it is time to give it some life. The classic look calls for a carrot nose and coal eyes, but feel free to get modern.
- Throw on a scarf or a thrifted hat or some sturdy branches to give your silent friend a personality of its own.



illustrated by
Eylül KILIÇ

At the end of the day, building a snowman is all about celebrating the fleeting beauty of winter. However, if you happen to be building one in Erzurum, the rules of nature hit a little differently. In a city where the cold is so legendary that it could freeze a thought mid-air, don't be surprised if your snowman abandons his post. He might knock on your window and beg for a steaming glass of Turkish tea.

Metehan MENDERES

THE LAST LIGHT

*Every evening in winter, one window stayed lit after
all the others went dark.*

*No one knew who lived there, but the light made the
street feel less cold.*

One night, the light went out.

*By morning, the snow had melted just enough to
reveal footsteps leading away.*

The street was warm for the first time.

Ozan Arda ÖZTÜRK

WINTER SPORTS



Winter is a special season that offers unique experiences despite its cold weather. Nature covered with a white blanket is not only visually beautiful but also creates excellent opportunities for sports and entertainment. Winter sports help individuals stay physically active and make the winter months more enjoyable. Among these sports, skiing, ice skating, and curling stand out for their popularity and distinct experiences.



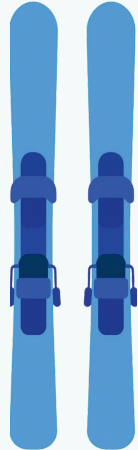
Skiing is one of the first activities that comes to mind when winter sports are mentioned. Practised on snowy mountains, this sport combines speed and balance, delivering adrenaline-filled moments. Ski resorts in cities such as Bursa and Erzurum in Türkiye offer essential opportunities for those who want to try skiing. However, receiving proper training before skiing is significant. Slopes with different difficulty levels provide suitable options for both beginners and experienced skiers.

Ice skating is a sport where elegance and aesthetics meet athletic performance. Thanks to ice rinks in city centres, it can be practised without travelling far into nature. This sport draws attention, especially with its visual appeal. Although standing on the ice may be difficult at first, moving becomes more enjoyable as basic techniques are learnt. Ice skating not only improves physical balance but also helps build self-confidence.

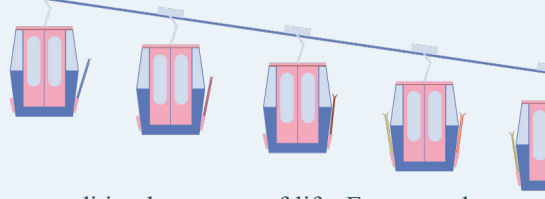
Curling is a winter sport based on team work and strategy. Played by sliding stones on ice, this game is often described as “chess on ice”. Although it may seem easy, making accurate shots requires practice and concentration. In this respect, curling is an entertaining sport that highlights mental skills as much as physical ones.



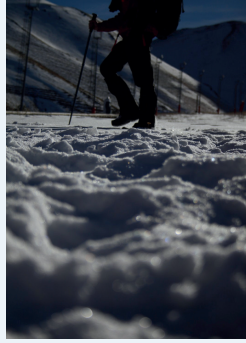
In conclusion, winter sports offer people active, enjoyable, and educational experiences despite the cold weather. Sports such as skiing, ice skating, and curling make winter memorable not only for its cold but also for its excitement and fun. These activities are ideal options for those who want to spend the winter season actively and productively rather than passively.



ERZURUM: THE HEART OF WINTER SPORTS



Imagine a city where the snow isn't just a weather condition but a way of life. Erzurum, the newly crowned 2025 European Capital of Winter Sports, stands as Türkiye's premier destination for snow enthusiasts. Just 15 minutes from the city centre, Palandöken offers one of the longest skiing seasons in the world. What makes Erzurum unique is its versatility. Whether you are a professional athlete or a weekend adventurer seeking an adrenaline rush, the city caters to everyone. From night skiing under the stars to ice climbing, paragliding, and even human slingshot experiences, the adrenaline never stops. On the other hand, if you are looking for a more tranquil escape, Konaklı Ski Centre offers serene alpine landscapes and high-altitude trails, which hosted the 2011 Winter Universiade. Erzurum has more than just mountains and cold weather. It is a specialised hub for winter disciplines.



photographed by **Alperen ERDOĞMUŞ**

The city boasts the country's first and only ski jumping towers, which remain active year-round thanks to their synthetic surfaces. For those interested in team sports, the city's Curling Arena and multiple ice hockey halls provide a professional atmosphere that has shaped the history of Turkish winter sports.

From the biathlon tracks of Kandilli to the modern ice rinks in Yenişehir, every corner of the city has the soul of winter. With its high-end hotels, advanced artificial snow systems, and proximity to modern healthcare, Erzurum seamlessly blends safety with adventure. It is not just a sports centre; it is a natural park where history meets the crystal snow. Whether you are here for the thrill of the various experiences or the warmth of a traditional tea after a long day on the ice, Erzurum promises an unforgettable winter tale.

Ömer Faruk AKTAŞ



A CITY UNDER SNOW: ERZURUM

*In Erzurum, where the winter carves,
Its name on every stone
The mountains breathe in silver winds,
And freeze the night alone.
The wind of Palandöken whispers like ancient songs.
Footprints of people walking in the snow,
When the harsh winter comes,
Snow-covered wise people already know.
Erzurum, the hero born from freedom's light,
From mountain slopes, the people's voices rise
Our flag waves high, a beacon shining bright,
Their anger echoes under open skies.
Dark nights stretch long across the land,
Frost bites hard with an icy hand
But warmth you seek is not the snow,
It's in the hearts of those you know.*



M. Emin SEREN



photographed by
Alperen ERDOĞMUŞ



To attract the best students for market purposes

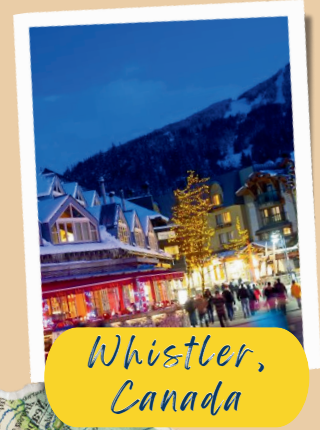
SAY GOODBYE TO BORING WINTERS & WELCOME UNFORGETTABLE WINTERS

Winter is not merely a season of cold nights spent under blankets in front of the television. In the right place, it becomes an adventure—filled with skiing, crisp mountain air, and winter sports that set the heart racing. Therefore, dress warmly, and let us begin counting the world's finest winter destinations.

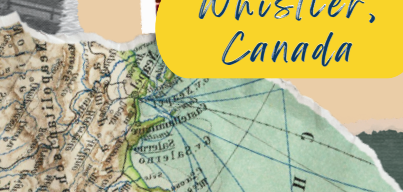
Top 5 Most Popular Winter Holiday Destinations in the World:



1) (Of course number one has to be Erzurum.) Erzurum is an ideal destination for winter sports, offering a magical snow holiday with its long winters and clear air. Beyond Palandöken, its ski resorts, historic sites, and snowy landscapes make the city truly special.



2) Whistler, one of the world's largest ski resorts, offers vast skiable terrain, high-quality deep snow, and lively village views. With slopes for all levels, modern lift systems, and a vibrant après-ski culture, it is an excellent destination for both adventure seekers and those looking for a relaxing winter holiday.





Aspen,
USA

3) It is an incredible destination for those who love luxury, offering high-end resorts, exclusive shopping, fine dining, and a vibrant winter lifestyle all in one place.



Zermatt,
Switzerland

4) Zermatt offers a unique experience with its iconic Matterhorn views, high altitude, clean air, and intense focus on environmental conservation.



Innsbruck,
Austria

5) Innsbruck combines historic charm and Alpine winter sports, offering easy access to multiple ski resorts thanks to its location in the Alps. With its well-preserved old town, imperial architecture, and mountain views visible from almost every point in the city, it adds a rich cultural dimension to a winter holiday.

In a nutshell, winter wraps these places in a white blanket, turning them into a peaceful, fairytale-like land. Its fresh air brings calm and invites people to enjoy nature's beauty.

Zeliha KARASU & Hüseyin ALICI

The Eastern Express is an approximately 1,300-kilometre journey stretching from Ankara to Kars. Along the line, the landscape changes from the steppes of Central Anatolia to the snow-covered mountains of Eastern Anatolia; at each stop, the land reveals a different winter face. The train visits cities such as Kırıkkale, Kayseri, Sivas, Erzincan, and Erzurum, each presenting a distinct winter scene.

As the tracks reached out toward the yellow steppes of Kırıkkale, the lights of Ankara faded behind me; the silence of the lands where I spent my childhood mixed with winter's white blanket. The train pauses briefly here, and passengers feel the sharpness of winter on their faces for the first time. That familiar bite strangely warmed me, making the magic of the journey even more straightforward.



When the train neared Kayseri, the morning sun fell upon the snow-covered slopes of Mount Erciyes. The frozen fields, villages covered in white, and smoke trails in the distance revealed themselves like winter paintings beyond the window. On the Sivas–Divriği line, the train slows. The train travels between mountains and narrow valleys in this section, and this part is a favourite among photographers.

Here, the snow falls heavier, quieter; even the sound of the train seems swallowed.

Between Kemaliye and Erzincan, the train follows the Euphrates. The unfrozen parts of the river sparkle like silver, while the rocky hills along the river stand frozen. This is the most photographed segment of the route—because here, winter stops being merely a landscape and becomes a state of the soul.



illustrated by
Buğra İLDEMİR



The Erzurum–Kars stretch is truly a land of snow. Temperatures often fall below zero; ice crystals form on the windows. Since it is warm inside the train, the ice crystals on the windows adhere like thin, delicate patterns. These are the patterns, small but unforgettable traces left by winter.

This long journey, lasting about twenty-four to thirty-two hours, presents winter in its most charming form. And at the end of all this whiteness: Kars.

The sound of sleds echoing across frozen “Çıldır Gölü”, the wind passing among the stone walls of the “Ani Harabeleri”, and buildings that bear the marks of Russian architecture ... Here, winter is not merely a season but a living character.



On this journey, I understood that winter is not only the season of cold but also a quiet stretch of time that leaves a mark inside a person.

Bengü AYDIN

WINTER FESTIVALS IN TÜRKİYE: A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE, NATURE & SPORT

Turkey is renowned not solely for its summer tourism but also for its vibrant and colourful winter festivals. Throughout the winter season, diverse regions of the nation host festivals that blend local cultural practices, traditional culinary offerings, musical performances, and winter sports. These events draw both domestic participants and international tourists, thereby contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage.



Among the most favourite winter festivals in Turkey is the **Erzurum Palandöken Winter Festival**. During the festival, attendees can participate in competitive skiing events, enjoy a range of snow-related activities, attend musical performances, and savour traditional culinary offerings from Erzurum, such as Cağ Kebabı. Furthermore, the festival enhances winter tourism while also familiarising visitors with the city's historical ambience.

Another significant occasion is the **Kars Snow and Ice Festival**, typically conducted in proximity to the renowned frozen Lake Çıldır. This festival encompasses equestrian sleigh rides across the frozen expanse of the lake, traditional folk dances, intricate ice sculptures, and performances of local musical ensembles. It provides a distinctive experience by amalgamating the region's natural splendour with its cultural heritage. Additionally, visitors have the chance to sample local delicacies, such as goose meat, which enjoys considerable popularity in Kars during the winter months.





The **Uludağ Winter Festival**, hosted in Bursa, is also widely recognised. Uludağ ranks among Türkiye's premier ski destinations, and the festival showcases skiing competitions, winter sports tournaments, DJ performances, and a variety of outdoor entertainment options. It attracts many young people and tourists who want to enjoy both sports and fun in a snowy environment.

In addition to these, smaller winter festivals are organised in cities such as Sarıkamış, Kartalkaya, and Erciyes. These festivals help local economies grow and encourage people to explore different parts of Turkey during winter.

In conclusion, winter festivals in Türkiye offer a perfect mix of entertainment, culture, and nature. They show that Türkiye is a four-season country and provide unforgettable experiences for visitors who enjoy winter activities and cultural celebrations.

Osman Efe BAHADIR



NEEDLE-FREE & FABULOUS: KNIT A SCARF BEFORE SUNSET!



With winter just around the corner, we all crave that soft, cosy scarf feeling to beat the chill. But what if I told you that making your own is surprisingly simple? It sounds fantastic, doesn't it? The best part? You won't spend hours on this project; you can finish an entire scarf quickly! Grab just two balls of *Alize Puffy Fine* yarn in your favourite colour, and you're ready to start!

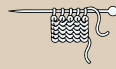
This fun, quick project uses a special yarn with pre-made loops, meaning you don't need any needles or hooks! You will be "knitting" with just your hands, which is perfect for beginners!



What Do You Need?



2 Balls of Alize Puffy Fine yarn
(any colour you like)



A flat surface (like a table or your lap)

*If you're a beginner, bright colours would be better options for you.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1) Setting Up the Loops (The Foundation):



Lay Out the Yarn: Unroll the first ball of yarn and place the strand on a flat surface with the loops facing up.



Count the Starting Loops: Count out 11 consecutive loops. These loops will be the width of your scarf, forming your Foundation Row (Row 0)





Identify the Working Yarn: the long strand of yarn still attached to the ball is your working yarn.





2) Starting Row 1 (The First Knit Row)

This step creates the first row of your scarf.

 **Prepare:** Bring the long strand of working yarn up so it lies above your 11 foundation loops.

 **The First Stitch:** Take the first unworked loop from the working yarn (the loop closest to your foundation).


 **Pull Through:** Push this working loop up through the first foundation loop (the one at the end of your row).


 **Repeat Across:** Take the next working loop and pull it up through the second foundation loop. Continue this process until you have pulled a new working loop through all 11 foundation loops.


You now have 11 new loops on top, which form your first knit row!


3) Repeating for Length (The Main Body)

You will now repeat the knitting process to create the rest of the scarf.

 **Ready the Yarn:** simply move your working yarn so that the new loops (the ones you just created) are ready to be worked into.

 **Knit Across:** take the next unworked loop from the working yarn. Pull it up through the first loop of the row you just finished.

 **Repeat:** Continue pulling one new working loop up through each of the 11 stitches from the previous row.


 **Keep going!** Repeat this step until your scarf is the perfect length or until you are almost finished with your second ball of yarn.





4) Finishing (Casting Off)


When your scarf is long enough, you need to lock the stitches so they don't unravel.


 **Start the Cast-off:** Take your first knitted loop (Loop A) on the final row.

 **Pull Loop B Through Loop A:** Take the second knitted loop (Loop B) and pull it through the centre of the first loop (Loop A).

 **Continue Across:** Now, take the third knitted loop (Loop C) and pull it through the loop you just created (the remaining loop from the previous step).

 **Repeat:** Continue pulling the next loop through the previous one until you only have one loop remaining.

 **Secure the End:** Cut the working yarn, leaving a tail of about 15-20 cm. Thread this tail through the last remaining loop and pull it tight to create a knot.

 **Tidy Up:** Tuck the leftover yarn tail into the back of your scarf stitches to hide it.

Congratulations! Your warm and cosy 11-stitch scarf is finished!
Get ready to face the cold in style.



LIVING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE'S RHYTHM

Living in harmony with the rhythm of nature is one of the most fundamental rules of a healthy life. While our body's resistance tends to decrease during the harsh winter weather, nature offers us the exact protection we need during this period. Winter fruits and vegetables are incredibly rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that strengthen our immune system like steel.

Eating seasonally is critical not only for our health but also for a tastier and more economical shopping experience. By choosing foods grown in their natural cycle and under direct sunlight instead of greenhouse products, we provide our bodies with the freshest fuel while also preserving the balance of nature. Remember, every food is most healing and delicious in its own time!

VEGETABLES

- apple
- banana
- quince
- pomegranate
- grapefruit
- orange
- mandarin
- kiwi
- chestnut
- persimmon

FRUITS

- pumpkin
- leek
- brussel sprouts
- cabbage
- cauliflower
- spinach
- jerusalem artichoke
- broccoli
- chard
- celery
- beetroot
- radish
- black cabbage
- chicory
- chives

Mehmet Göktuğ DİLEK





WINTER'S FAVOURITE: PUMPKIN SOUP

Pumpkin soup is a delicious dish that serves as a vitamin powerhouse, especially on cold days. Although it may seem simple to make, there are a few critical tips. This process consists of three main stages: preparation, cooking and pureeing.



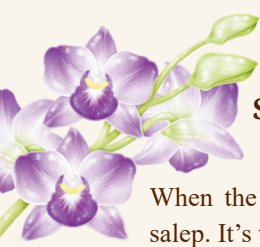
The first step in cooking perfect soup is gathering high-quality ingredients. You will need 500g of pumpkin, an onion and a potato. After peeling them, you should chop them into small pieces. The key point is that chopping the vegetables into uniform pieces ensures that they cook evenly. This way you won't have some pieces hard and others soft. Next it is time to cook.

Start by frying the onion in a large pot with a little oil. After that, add your pumpkin and potatoes and pour in some water. Let it boil, then turn down the heat and wait for 20 minutes. Make sure the vegetables are fully boiled. The final step is making the soup smooth. Take the pot off the stove and use a blender to mix everything until there are no lumps left. At this stage you can add some salt, pepper or any other spices you like. After that your delicious soup is ready to be served.

Overall, pumpkin soup is not only easy to make but also very healthy. A good tip is to freeze the leftovers, as it tastes even better the next day. It is a practical dish that will become a favourite in your kitchen. Enjoy your meal if you decide to give it a try!

Merve TANĀ





SALEP: THE TIMELESS WARMTH OF WINTER

When the weather gets cold, one drink becomes a winter favourite in Türkiye: salep. It's warm, thick, sweet-smelling, and feels like a dessert in a cup!

What is Salep?

Salep is a traditional winter drink made from the powdered tubers of wild orchids. It has long been cherished across Turkey and the Middle East as the ultimate winter warmer.



Where is Salep Grown?

Salep orchids grow naturally in the wild; they are tough to cultivate commercially. Therefore, production is limited, and real salep is rare and expensive since producing 1 kg of pure salep powder requires 2,500–4,000 orchid tubers.

Main Growing Regions in Türkiye:

- Kahramanmaraş
- Isparta
- Burdur
- Denizli
- Muğla
- Van
- Bitlis
- Hakkâri
- Diyarbakır
- Kastamonu

Important Note: Due to overharvesting, many wild orchid species used for salep are endangered. In Türkiye, collecting orchid tubers from the wild is restricted and legally controlled. As a result, most products sold commercially are “salep-flavoured” rather than pure salep.

How is Salep Produced? (Step by Step)



1) Collection:

Tubers are harvested from wild orchids (under strict legal control).



2) Cleaning:

Soil and impurities are removed.

3) Blanching: Tubers are boiled briefly to stop enzymatic activity.



4) Drying:

Tubers are dried for weeks under the sun or in shaded areas.



5) Grinding:

After thoroughly drying, they are ground into a fine powder.

How to Make Salep

INGREDIENTS

- 1 litre milk.
- 1-2 grams of salep powder.
- 4-5 tablespoons of sugar.

STEPS

- Mix milk, sugar, and salep in a pot.
- Cook on low heat.
- Stir continuously until thick.
- Serve hot and add cinnamon!



Why Do People Love It?



Warm and comforting.



Perfect for cold winter nights.



Thick and creamy texture.



A childhood favourite for many people.

Beyond its taste, salep carries a sense of tradition. From street vendors serving steaming cups in bustling city squares to families preparing it at home on snowy evenings, the drink is woven into winter rituals both old and new. It warms the hands, soothes the throat, and brings a gentle calm that feels especially welcome during the colder months. In a season defined by warmth and togetherness, salep remains a beloved classic—a simple, comforting pleasure that captures the very spirit of winter.

Sidelya SELÇUK

GINGERBREAD COOKIE RECIPE

(Soft, Spiced, and Perfectly Festive)



INGREDIENTS



- 100 g butter (softened)
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup molasses
- 2 + 1/4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg (optional)
- A pinch of salt



MALZEMELER

- 100 g tereyağı (oda sıcaklığında)
- 1/2 su bardağı esmer şeker
- 1 adet yumurta
- 1/3 su bardağı pekmez
- 2 + 1/4 su bardağı un
- 1 çay kaşığı karbonat
- 1 çay kaşığı tarçın
- 1 çay kaşığı zencefil
- 1/2 çay kaşığı karanfil (öğütülmüş, opsiyonel)
- 1/2 çay kaşığı muskat (opsiyonel)
- Bir tutam tuz



INSTRUCTIONS (YAPILIŞI)

- 1- Beat the butter and brown sugar until creamy and smooth.
(Tereyağı ve esmer şekeri kremamsı olana kadar çırp.)
- 2- Add the egg and molasses, and continue mixing.
(Yumurta ve pekmezi ekleyip çırpmaya devam et.)
- 3- In another bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and spices.
(Ayrı bir kapta un, karbonat ve baharatları karıştır.)
- 4- Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture.
(Kuru malzemeleri yavaş yavaş sıvı karışıma ekle.)
- 5- Form the dough, wrap it in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
(Hamuru yoğurup streçle sar ve en az 1 saat buzdolabında dinlendir.)
- 6- Roll the chilled dough on a lightly floured surface.
(Dinlenen hamuru hafif unlanmış tezgahta merdane ile aç.)
- 7- Cut into shapes using cookie cutters.
(Kalıplarla şekiller kes.)
- 8- Bake at 175°C (350°F) for 8–10 minutes (edges should be set but the center soft).
[175°C fırında 8–10 dakika pişir (kenarlar hafif sertleşsin, içi yumuşak kalsın).]
- 9- Let cool completely—decorate with royal icing if you like.
(Soğuyunca istersen royal icing ile süsle.)

Tip: Don't overbake! Soft gingerbread stays soft by baking for a short time.

(Püf nokta: Hamuru fazla pişirme—yumuşak gingerbread'in sırrı kısa pişirme!)



Yeşim YÜKSEL

Now, grab your warm cup of salep & gingerbread cookie and settle in for a wonderful story.





MAGI'NİN HEDİYESİ (THE GIFT OF THE MAGI)



BİR DOLAR SEKSEN YEDİ KURUŞ.

Hepsi bu kadardı. Eti ve diğer yiyecekleri titizlikle ve hesaplıca alırken bunu bir kenara koymuştu; bir kuruş, bir kuruş daha ve sonra bir kuruş daha ... Della üç kere saydı. Bir dolar seksen yedi kuruş. Ve yarın Noel olmalıydı.

Kendini yatağa atıp ağlamaktan başka yapacak bir şey yoktu. Della da öyle yaptı.

Evin hanımı giderek sessizleşirken biz de eve bir göz atabiliriz. Mobilyalı odalar haftalık 8 dolar. Bunun hakkında söylenebilecek pek bir şey yok.

Koridorun aşağısında bir mektubun sığamayacağı kadar küçük bir posta kutusu vardı. Elektrikli bir zil de vardı ancak ses çıkarmıyordu. Ayrıca kapının yanında bir isim vardı: "Bay James Dillingham Young."

İsim oraya yazıldığında Bay James Dillingham Young'a haftada 30 dolar ödeniyordu. Şimdi, haftada 20 dolar ödendiğinde ismi çok uzun ve önemli göründü. Belki de "James D. Young" olmalıydı. Ancak James Dillingham Young mobilyalı odalara girdiğinde ismi çok daha kısa bir hale geldi. Bayan James Dillingham Young, onu sıcacık sarmaladı ve "Jim" diye seslendi. Hanımefendiyle tanışmıştınız zaten, Della.

Della ağlamayı kesti ve yüzündeki yaşları sildi.

Camın kenarında durdu ve ilgisizce dışarıyı seyretti. Yarın Noel olmalıydı ve Jim'e hediye almak için sadece bir dolar seksen yedi kuruşu vardı. Aylarca kenara koyabildiği kadar biriktirmişti, sonuç ortadaydı. Haftada 20 dolar pek bir para değildi. Her şey beklediğinden pahalıya patlamıştı. Hep böyle olur zaten.

Jim'e hediye almak için sadece bir dolar seksen yedi kuruşu vardı. Onun Jim'i. Ona güzel bir hediye almak için saatlerce ağzı kulaklarında planlar yapmıştı. Yeterince güzel bir şeyler... Neredeyse Jim'e sahip olmanın onuruna değecek bir şey.

Odanın pencerelerinin arasında parlak bir ayna vardı. Belki de 8 dolarlık mobilyalı odalarda olan tarzda bu aynaları görmüşsünüzdür. Epey dardılar. İnsan kendini çok az görebilirdi. Ancak oldukça ince ve hızlıca hareket eden birisiyse kendini tam anlamıyla görebilirdi. Della da oldukça zayıftı ve bu sanatta ustalaşmıştı.

Aniden pencereden uzaklaştı ve aynanın önünde durdu. Gözleri pırıl pırıl parlıyordu ancak yüzü solgundu. Hızlıca saçlarını çözdü ve uzunluğu boyunca aşağı sarkıttı.

James Dillingham Young ailesi sahip oldukları iki şeyden çok gurur duyuyorlardı. Biri Jim'in altın saatiydi. Önceden babasına aitti ve çok daha önceleri babasının babasına...

Diğer şey ise Della'nın saçlarıydı.

Eğer bir kraliçe odalarının yakınında yaşasaydı Della saçlarını kraliçenin görebileceği bir yerde yıkar ve kuruturdu. Della saçlarının bir kraliçenin mücevher ve hediyelerinden çok daha güzel olduğunu bilirdi.

Eğer bütün zenginlikleriyle bir kralla aynı evde yaşasalardı Jim karşılaştıkları her vakit saatine bakardı. Jim hiçbir kralın böyle değerli bir şeye sahip olmadığını bilirdi.

Ve şimdi Della'nın kahverengi bir su akıntısı gibi parlayan saçları üzerine doğru süzülürdü. Dizine kadar geliyordu. Neredeyse kendine bir elbise yapmıştı.

Ve sonra başını hızlı ve gergin bir şekilde tekrar kaldırdı.

Birkaç yaş hala yüzünden süzülürken bir anlığına durup olduğu yerde dikildi.

Eski kahverengi ceketini giyindi. Kahverengi şapkasını taktı. Hala gözlerinde olan parıldamayla hızlıca kapıya ulaştı ve sokağa atıldı.

Durduğu yerdeki tabelada şöyle yazıyordu: "Bayan Sofronie. Her Türden Saç Eşyaları."

Della ikinci kata çıktı ve soluklanmak için durdu. Bayan Sofronie kocaman, oldukça beyaz donuk gözleriyle Della'ya baktı.

Della "Saçımı satın alacak mısın?" diye sordu.

Bayan Sofronie "Saç satın alıyorum" dedi. "Şapkanı çıkar da bakayım."

Kahverengi şelale aşağı doğru süzülürdü.

Bayan Sofronie saçının ağırlığını tartmak için bakarken "20 dolar" dedi.

Della "Hemen ver." diye atıldı.

Ah ve diğer önümüzdeki iki saat Della adeta havalara uçtu. Jim'e hediye bulmak için bir dükkandan öbürüne girdi.

Sonunda aradığını buldu. Bu kesinlikle Jim'den başkası için değildi. Gittiği hiçbir dükkanda, hatta şehirdeki hiçbir yerde buna benzer bir şey yoktu.

Basit işlemeli altın bir saat kösteği idi. Onu değerli kılan pahalı ve saf malzemesiydi. Gösterişsiz ve sade olduğundan ne kadar değerli olduğu belli oluyordu. Bütün kaliteli şeyler böyledir.

Bu O SAAT için gayet yeterliydi.

Onu görür görmez, Jim'in de buna sahip olması gerektiğini biliyordu. Aynı onun gibiydi. Sükunet ve kıymet- Hem Jim hem de köstek, aynı sükunet ve kıymete sahipti. Della bunun için yirmi bir dolar ödedi ve kemerle seksen yedi kuruşu alıp aceleyle eve gitti.

Saatindeki köstekle Jim nerede olursa olsun saatine bakıp zamanı öğrenebilirdi. Saati gayet iyi olmasına rağmen hiç güzel bir kösteği olmamıştı. Bazen saatini çıkarırdı ve hiç kimse onu görmeyecekken bakardı.

Della eve vardığında zihni biraz sessizleşti. Daha mantıklı bir şekilde düşünmeye başladı. Yaptığı şeyin verdiği hüznün izlerini saklamaya çalıştı. Sevgi ve yüce göntüllülük ile verilen armağanlar derin izler bırakırlar. Bu izleri saklamak hiçbir zaman kolay olmaz, inanın dostlar hem de hiçbir zaman...

Kırk dakikaya saçları daha iyi görünmeye başladı. Kısa saçlarıyla fevkalade bir oğlan çocuğuna benziyordu. Ayna karşısında uzunca bir süre dikilip kaldı.

“Eğer Jim beni öldürmezse,” dedi kendi kendine “bana ikinci defa bakmadan önce, para için dans edip şarkı söyleyen kızlara benzediğimi söyleyecek. Ama ah ne yapabiliyordum ki! Bir dolar seksen yedi kuruşla ne yapabiliyordum ki?”

Sekizde, Jim’in akşam yemeği onu bekliyordu.

Jim asla gecikmezdi. Della kösteği elinde sıkıca tuttu ve Jim’in her zaman geldiği kapının yakınında oturdu. Sonra koridorda Jim’in ayak seslerini duydu ve bir anlığına beti benzi soldu. Çoğu zaman sessizce günlük basit şeyler için dua ederdi. Ve şimdi “Nolur Tanrım, hala güzel olduğumu düşünmesini sağla.” diye dua etti.

Kapı açıldı ve Jim içeri adımını attı. Çok zayıf duruyordu ve somurtuyordu. Zavallı adam, sadece yirmi iki yaşındaydı ve sahip çıkması gereken bir ailesi vardı. Yeni bir ceket ihtiyacı vardı ve üşüyen ellerini örtmek için hiçbir şeyi yoktu.

Jim kapının girişinde durdu. Avlayacak bir kuş görmüş avcı köpeği gibi sessizdi. Della’ya tuhaf bir şekilde baktı; gözlerinde anlaşılmayan bir ifade vardı. Della’yı korku kapladı. Bu ne beklediği kızgınlık, şaşkınlık ne de beklediği başka bir şeydi. Jim sadece yüzünde tuhaf bir ifadeyle ona baktı.

Della ona doğru yaklaştı.

“Jim, hayatım,” ağlamaya başladı, “bana öyle bakma. Saçımı kestim ve sattım. Noel’i sana bir hediye vermeden geçiremezdim. Saçım yine uzayacak. Sorun olmaz senin için, değil mi? Saçların hızlı uzar. Noel’deyiz, Jim. Mutlu olmalıyız. Sana güzel, ne kadar güzel bir hediye aldığımı bilmiyorsun.”

“Saçlarımı mı kestir sen?” yavaşça sordu. Jim ne olduğunu anlamak için emek harcıyor gibi görünüyordu. Ne olup bittiğini anlamış gibi durmuyordu.

“Kestim ve sattım” dedi Della. “Beni beğenmiyor musun artık? Benim, Jim. Saçım olmadan da aynı benim.”

Jim odaya göz gezdirdi.

“Saçın yok artık yani?” diye sordu.

“Etrafa bakınmana gerek yok.” dedi Della. “Satıldı, sana söyledim satıldı, artık yok. Noel arifesi bugün sevgilim. Bana karşı iyi davran, senin için sattım çünkü. Başımdaki saç telleri bile sayılabilir belki.” dedi, “ama kimse benim sana olan aşkı ölçemez. Yemeğe geçsek mi Jim?”

Jim, kollarını Della’sının etrafına sardı. On saniyeliğine başka bir tarafa bakmamıza olanak sağladı. Haftada elli dolar ya da yılda bir milyon, ne farkı var? Biri bunun cevabını verebilir ama bu yanlış olacaktır. Magi değerli armağanlar getirmişti ancak o hediyelerin arasında bunlar yoktu. Ne demek istediğim yakında anlaşılacak.

Jim, ceketinin içinden kağıda sarılı bir şey çıkardı. Masanın üstüne doğru savurdu.

“Beni anlamamı istiyorum Dell” dedi. “Hiçbir saç şekli sana olan sevgimin ölçüsünü deęiřtirmmez. Ama bunu açarsan geldiđimde nasıl hissettiđimi anlarsın belki.”

Beyaz parmaklar kađının üzerinden sıyrıldı. Ve sonra sevinç çıđlıđı ve ardından gözyaşlarına dönüřen mutluluk.

Çünkü orada, Della'nın bir dükkân vitrininde görüp uzun zamandır hayranlıkla izlediđi taraklar duruyordu, evet, o taraklar. Tam onun saçına göre olan mücevherlerle çevrili güzelim taraklar. Satın alamayacađı kadar pahalı olduklarını biliyordu. Bu taraklara sahip olabileceđine dair en ufak bir umut kırıntısı olmadan bakmıřtı hep. Ve řimdi onundular ancak saçları çoktan gitmiřti.

Ancak tarakları göđsüne kalbinin üzerine koydu ve sonunda başını kaldırıp bakabildi: “Saçlarım çok hızlı uzar, Jim!”

Ve sonra Della aniden yerinden zıpladı ve ağlamaya başladı, “Ah, ah!”

Jim güzelim hediyesini görmemiřti. Avuçlarını açarak elini Jim'e dođru uzattı. Altın zincir Della'nın kendi sıcaklıđı ve sevgi dolu ruhuymuş gibi nazikçe parlıyordu.

“Harika deđil mi, Jim? Bunu bulmak için bütün řehri alt üst ettim. Artık gün boyu saatine yüzlerce kez bakmak zorundasın. Ver bakayım saatini. Beraber nasıl duracaklar görmek istiyorum.”

Jim oturdu ve gülümsedi.

“Della, Noel hediyelerimizi bir kenara koyalım ve bir süre orada tutalım. řu an kullanmak için oldukça iyiler. Tarakları almak için ihtiyaç olan parayı saatimi satarak kazandım. Ve řimdi sanırım yemeđimizi yemeliyiz.”

Magi, bilirsin bilge adamlardır- tarif edilemeyecek kadar bilge- yeni dođan Mesih'e armađan getirenler onlardı. Noel hediyeleri veren ilk kiřiler onlardı. Bilge olduklarından kuřkusuz armađanları da bilgeceydi. Ve karřınızda sizlere bilge olmayan iki çocuđun hikayesini anlattım. Her ikisi de birbirlerine hediye almak için sahip oldukları en deđerli řeyleri sattılar. Ancak izninizle günümüzün bilgelerine söyleyecek birkaç sözüm var: Bütün hediye verenlerin arasında bu ikili en bilge olanlarıydı. Hediye alan ve verenler arasında böyleleri en bilgeleridir. Dünyanın her köřesinde, bilge olanlardır. Onlar “Magi”dir.

Written by O. Henry
Translated by Yeřim YÜKSEL





BOOK REVIEW: THE FALL OF GREED

Is it truly possible for a person to change their character in old age? For Ebenezer Scrooge, this kind of change seemed impossible until he saw the ghost of his late business partner, Jacob Marley, as a warning. Published in 1843, Charles Dickens' story is more than just a simple Christmas tale. It asks a deep question: Is it possible for someone who has been greedy and alone for years to change through memory, empathy, and facing the reality of death?

One of the most interesting parts of *A Christmas Carol* is how Dickens shows Scrooge's transformation. At the beginning of the story, Scrooge is described as cold, selfish, and disconnected from society. He rejects kindness and values money more than people. However, through the visits of the three spirits, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come, he is forced to look at his life in a new way.

The Ghost of Christmas Past reveals Scrooge's lost innocence and happiness. These scenes are important because they show that Scrooge was not always a mean person. Dickens suggests that loneliness and disappointment shaped his negative character. This adds psychological depth to the story, making Scrooge feel like a real human being rather than just a "bad guy".

The Ghost of Christmas Present focuses on social unfairness and suffering, especially through the Cratchit family. Tiny Tim becomes a powerful symbol of kindness and hope. Dickens uses this part of the story to criticise how society ignores the poor. These scenes encourage both Scrooge and the reader to think about empathy and our responsibility to help others.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come gives the most dramatic lesson: death. Scrooge sees a future where no one is sad about his death. This moment is the climax of his internal conflict. The fear of dying alone and leaving no good memories becomes the reason for his final change. He realises that a life without connection has no meaning.

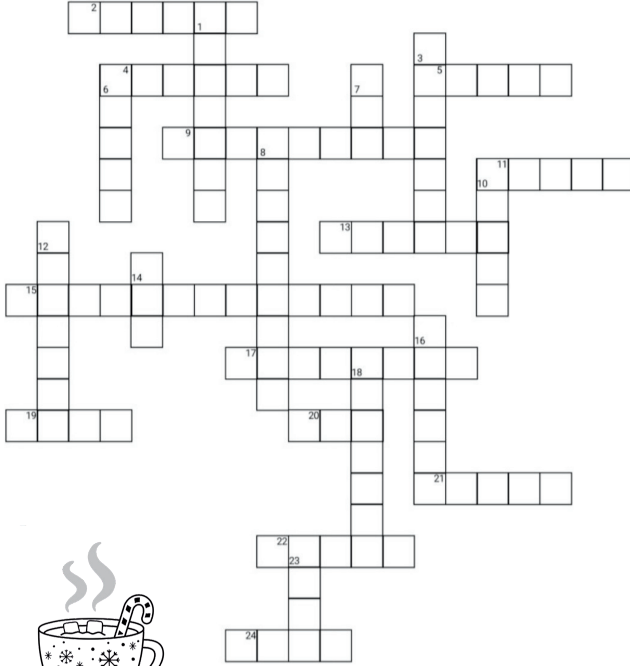
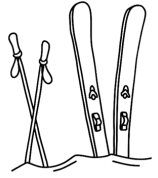
In conclusion, *A Christmas Carol* is not just a holiday story but a lesson about society and morality. Dickens successfully shows the problems of greed and isolation. This idea is clearly seen in Scrooge's final words:

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach."





Winter



DOWN

1. A city in eastern Türkiye known for its harsh winter and heavy snow.
3. The quiet feeling after snowfall.
6. Thin ice crystals forming on cold surfaces.
7. A winter sport done by sliding over snow.
8. Trapped because of heavy snow.
10. A mix of rain and snow.
12. A human figure made from packed snow.
14. Water turned solid by cold.
16. Clothing worn on the hands to keep them warm.
18. A thick cover used to keep warm in winter.
23. Small balls of ice falling from the sky.

ACROSS

2. The coldest season of the year.
4. Extremely cold or turned into ice.
5. A house made of snow in very cold regions. A house made of snow in very cold regions.
9. Injury to skin caused by extreme cold (cold bite).
11. A warm cloth worn around the neck.
13. To become very cold or turn into ice.
15. A warm, sweet drink often enjoyed in winter.
17. A round ball of snow, often thrown for fun.
19. Frozen water falling softly from the sky.
20. A hot drink commonly consumed in cold weather.
21. Covered with or full of snow.
22. The color of fresh snow.
24. Low temperature felt in winter.

Bengü AYDIN

“ Perhaps what your eyes see is where your heart is ready to be.”

J
J M A
F L M I P
R M S A F Q J
E Z P W C P Z E I
S R A P B S K M Z J B
R B H M O A V R U E B M J
F W Q H O P P X A X S V H Z E
B I E K G D I J A J K J V F S C Q
T N Y Z X Y A U H I L R H M O N E Y Z
W D B S N G V M U X Q B S
C L P Q Q Y B P B W W L I T Z
X Y M M H B K G G T L E M H F V T
I I V H Z S T M G Q P E H M C K A S I
O H B B K X F B I K S S R H X W V C U F R
D H G X W E A L T E Z J B D T V O D D C R X Y
O N K W M K E T Z E E K U R S G Q F F K G K Y T L
P V B D G Q P L I F F K O R L M L X T T B E Z Q B H B
I S B W M C U F Y V C Q L A F W M B Y D X M S N P S E V Y
E I N W V R A D U A T S H L J B B S L
C G I V W Y F V S H P L E F B K V S B O C
L D M B N W E T F W Y P V B F V U Y J I S C Q
J X S C V M L V B P W X Q U U H E B X I G Z C C P
Y C U T J T M K R Q I R R V B W T S O A J V B Q A Y S
Q S M M T A B O A D U X H L P R F T Q F E X I N S Z G U H
Z J F C C F C F G K K X J F W P A O J D J H Z N A J P I F F J
P A A L K K F H U M G Z A R L O C O V B V U S U S E R Y F I F L Q
F O L K X K T E M A K A T I O N B F B S D P E H M P C T I K B P Q S O
A E V
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Z A A
O Z L
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E R N
N K K

Bengü AYDIN

