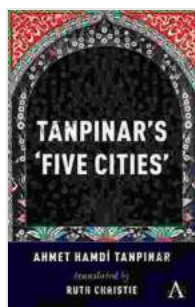


Tanpinar: Five Cities, an Anthem of Cosmopolitanism



Ahmet Hamdi Tanpinar (1901-1962) was a Turkish poet, novelist, essayist, and literary critic. He is considered one of the most important figures in modern Turkish literature. Tanpinar's work is often characterized by its cosmopolitanism and its exploration of the tension between East and West.



Tanpinar's Five Cities (Anthem Cosmopolis Writings)

by Ahmed Hamdi Tanpinar

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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In his essay "Five Cities," Tanpınar reflects on the five cities that have had the greatest impact on his life: Istanbul, Konya, Ankara, Erzurum, and Bursa. These cities represent different aspects of Turkish history and culture, and Tanpınar's essay provides a unique insight into the Turkish experience.

Istanbul: The City of Contrasts

Istanbul is the largest city in Turkey and has been the capital of the country at various times throughout history. It is a city of contrasts, where East meets West and the past meets the present. Tanpınar describes Istanbul as a city of "contradictions" and "paradoxes." He writes:

> "Istanbul is a city that is both ancient and modern, Eastern and Western, Islamic and Christian. It is a city of contrasts and paradoxes, where the past and the present coexist in a strange and beautiful harmony."

Istanbul is a city of great beauty and history. It is home to some of the world's most famous landmarks, including the Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, and the Topkapi Palace. Tanpınar was particularly drawn to the city's rich literary and cultural heritage. He writes:

> "Istanbul is a city of poets and writers. It is a city that has inspired countless works of art and literature. I have always felt a special connection to Istanbul, and I have always been drawn to its beauty and its history."

Konya: The City of Mysticism

Konya is a city in central Turkey that was once the capital of the Seljuk Empire. It is a city of great religious significance, and it is home to the Mevlana Mausoleum, the burial place of the famous Sufi poet Rumi.

Tanpınar describes Konya as a city of "mysticism" and "spirituality." He writes:

> "Konya is a city that is steeped in history and religion. It is a city of mystics and poets. I have always been drawn to Konya's spiritual atmosphere, and I have always found it to be a place of great peace and tranquility."

Tanpınar was particularly interested in Rumi's teachings on love and tolerance. He writes:

> "Rumi was a great poet and a great mystic. His teachings on love and tolerance have had a profound impact on my life. I believe that his message is more relevant than ever in today's world."

Ankara: The City of Progress

Ankara is the capital of Turkey and the second largest city in the country. It is a modern city that has been transformed in recent years by rapid economic growth. Tanpınar describes Ankara as a city of "progress" and "modernity." He writes:

> "Ankara is a city that is constantly changing and growing. It is a city of progress and modernity. I have always been impressed by Ankara's energy and its dynamism."

Tanpınar was also critical of Ankara's rapid growth. He writes:

> "Ankara is a city that is growing too quickly. It is a city that is losing its sense of history and its sense of place. I worry that Ankara is becoming too much like other modern cities and that it is losing its unique character."

Erzurum: The City of Cold

Erzurum is a city in eastern Turkey that is known for its cold winters. It is a city of great strategic importance, and it has been fought over by many different empires throughout history. Tanpınar describes Erzurum as a city of "cold" and "isolation." He writes:

> "Erzurum is a city that is both beautiful and harsh. It is a city of cold and isolation. I have always been drawn to Erzurum's beauty, but I have also been chilled by its cold."

Tanpınar was particularly interested in Erzurum's history as a battleground. He writes:

> "Erzurum has been fought over by many different empires throughout history. It is a city that has seen much bloodshed. I believe that Erzurum's history is a reminder of the fragility of peace and the importance of tolerance."

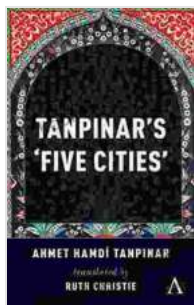
Bursa: The City of Beauty

Bursa is a city in northwestern Turkey that was once the capital of the Ottoman Empire. It is a city of great beauty, and it is home to many beautiful mosques, tombs, and gardens. Tanpınar describes Bursa as a city of "beauty" and "serenity." He writes:

> "Bursa is a city of beauty and serenity. It is a city of gardens and fountains. I have always found Bursa to be a place of great peace and tranquility."

Tanpınar was particularly drawn to Bursa's natural beauty. He writes:

> "Bursa is a city that is surrounded by mountains and forests. It is a city of green and water

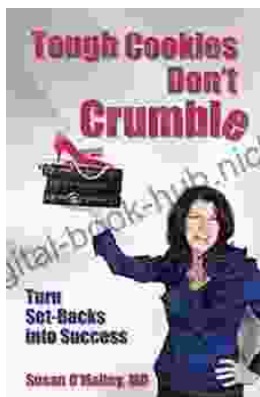


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