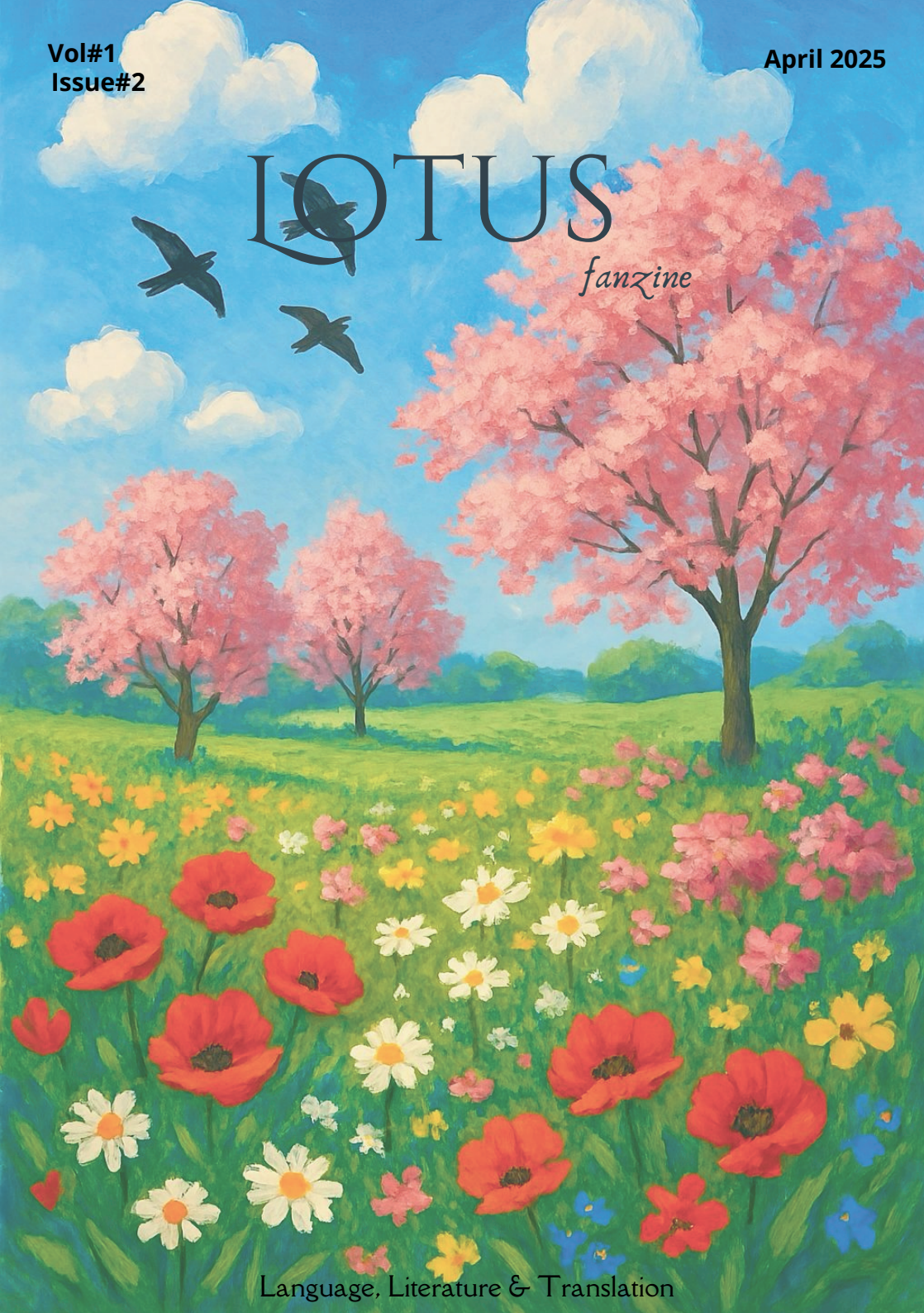


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# LOTUS

*fanzine*



Language, Literature & Translation



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## PREFACE

*Dear Readers,*

With the soft thaw of winter and the first blossoms of spring, we are proud to present the second issue of our fanzine, crafted with care by the vibrant voices of Atatürk University students studying languages. This fanzine is a creative initiative of **LanguageHub**, our student club dedicated to language, culture, and expression.

Spring is more than just a time of blooming flowers—it is a state of mind. It's about rediscovering hope after long, cold days; finding beauty in small moments; and embracing change with open arms. These pages reflect that spirit through stories, poems, essays, and artwork that echo the energy and imagination of our student community.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the talented writers and artists who contributed to this issue. Your words and visions have brought this fanzine to life and made it something truly special.

Whether you're reading beneath a tree in full bloom or between busy lectures, we hope this edition brings a breath of fresh air and a spark of inspiration.

*Editors:*

**DR. MERYEM ODABAŞI**  
**OZAN CEYLAN**







## LIKE A SPRING DREAM

*Sky looks bright; ground looks green.  
Soft echoes run along on the grand meadow.  
Wind whispers secrets to the leaves on the  
tree,  
Like a painting made under a dream's  
shadow.*

*In the compassionate arms of the rising sun,  
Silence is a familiar song for your kind  
soul,  
And peace dances with every gentle breath,  
Like it starts to calm the nature with a soft  
laugh.*

*Every darkness turns into a soft sigh.  
Flowers bloom in front of your sight.  
They tell you the happiest stories,  
As you get high with their addictive scent.*

*Stars shine, hang on the velvet air.  
Lights start to fade away with fear.  
You can hear the sincere songs of river.  
In this purity, even time would disappear.*



SAREN AZ DEMİR





The word “spring,” meaning the season, comes from old phrases like “springing time” dating back to the 14th century. Originally, it meant the act or time of beginning or appearing. The word evolved from Middle English springen and Old English springan, verbs meaning “to rise” or “burst forth”. It was not originally connected to the season.

Today, Spring is one of the foremost dynamic, reviving, and important seasons of the year. It is the time of year that falls between winter and summer, occurring from March to June in the Northern Hemisphere and from September to December in the Southern Hemisphere. It is marked by blossoming plants, rising temperatures, and longer days following the chilly winter period.

In early spring, the Earth’s tilt towards the Sun increases, leading to longer daylight hours in that hemisphere. This warming causes plants to grow quickly, which is why the season is called spring. Snow starts to melt, increasing water flow in streams, and frosts become milder. In areas without snow and rare frost, both air and soil temperatures rise more quickly.

After the cold, dark months of winter, spring arrives with a sense of recharging, filling our lives with warmth, light, and life. Nature comes back to life in spring. Trees start to bloom, blooms sprout in each colour, and creatures stir from hibernation. The melodies of fowls return to the skies, and the days develop longer and sunnier. The world feels livelier and fuller of plausibility. This change in nature frequently reflects in people’s emotions—many feel livelier and more joyful. It also has profound typical implications in numerous societies and conventions. It is seen as a time of resurrection, trust, and modern beginnings. In verse, craftsmanship, and writing, spring frequently symbolizes youth and the excellence of life.

***MUSTAFA EREN DOKTAŞ***



## SPRING

...  
There is no time like Spring,  
When life's alive in everything,  
Before new nestlings sing,  
Before cleft swallows speed their journey back  
Along the trackless track, —  
God guides their wing,  
He spreads their table that they nothing lack,  
Before the daisy grows, a common flower,  
Before the sun has power  
To scorch the world up in his noontide hour.  
...

CHRISTINA ROSETTI

## BAHAR

...  
Yoktur bahar gibi zaman  
Ömürdür canla yankılanan her an  
Ne vakit ki kuş yavruları civıltıyla ötmeden  
Çatal kuyruklu kırlangıçlar geri dönmeden  
Kuş uçmaz kervan geçmez yollardan  
Tanrı yol gösterir kanatlarına  
Kurur sofralarını bir noksan bırakmadan  
Daha papatya sıradan bir çiçeğe dönüşmeden  
Daha güneş kudretini bulmadan  
Öğle vaktinde dünyayı yakıp kavurmadan  
...

translated by  
FADİME ACAR

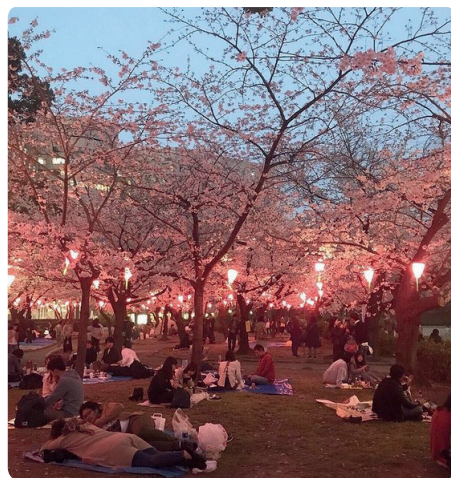


## CELEBRATE SPRING: A SEASON OF JOY AND HOPE



Spring is a unique season that marks the awakening of nature, the blossoming of life, and the opening of a brand-new chapter in our souls. After winter's grey and cold atmosphere, this period offers a visual feast with the colourful blooming of flowers and positively affects human psychology. The miraculous energy of nature increases the levels of happiness hormones, hence contributing to people's mental well-being. This cheerful state of people has led to the organisation of various activities, celebrations, and festivals in the regions where they live. People worldwide celebrate spring's arrival with colourful festivals, using different traditions and beliefs. Streets become full of happiness, music, and dancing.

With the arrival of spring, people organise events, festivals, and celebrations to share their hopes and happiness. Here are examples of how different cultures worldwide celebrate the joy of spring:



- ✿ In India, during the Holi Festival, people throw coloured powders at each other to say goodbye to winter and welcome the lively spirit of spring.
- ✿ In Japan, the Hanami tradition is about watching cherry blossoms.
- ✿ Nowruz marks the beginning of the new year in Iran and Central Asia, and people jump over fires to cleanse themselves of bad energy.
- ✿ In Bulgaria, people give each other red and white bracelets on Baba Marta Day to wish for health and happiness in spring.
- ✿ In the United States, the National Cherry Blossom Festival is celebrated when cherry trees from Japan bloom, showing nature's beauty.







- 🌸 In Egypt, people enjoy traditional picnics during Sham El-Nessim to welcome spring.
- 🌸 In the Netherlands, the Keukenhof Gardens become a colourful spring scene with millions of blooming tulips.
- 🌸 In Valencia, Spain, the Las Fallas Festival includes showing and burning big puppets as a joyful tradition.
- 🌸 In Nepal, the Bisket Jatra Festival celebrates the new year with god statues carried through crowded streets.
- 🌸 In Mexico, people climb ancient pyramids during the Primavera celebrations to greet the sunrise.

Spring is a season and a symbol of hope and joy in life. It serves as a unifying force, bringing together different cultures worldwide to celebrate this special time. Despite their geographical distances, these cultures all express their love for nature and the joy of spring uniquely. This universal celebration of spring reminds us that we are all part of a global community, connected by our shared experiences and emotions.

**NAZ KARADAĞ**



## NEVRUZ



You know those days when your heart feels light, the sun shines a little brighter, and the birds sing more cheerfully? One of those days is Nevruz, which symbolizes the beginning of spring, the rebirth of nature, and fresh starts. This holiday, which has a history of thousands of years and means “new day,” is celebrated in a wide area from Central Asia to Anatolia, and from the Balkans to Iran.

The origin of Nevruz is based on the cycle of nature and the seasonal cycles of farming communities. Although the word itself has Persian roots, Nevruz has been celebrated for centuries in the Turkic world and in Anatolia with shared beliefs, common excitement, and in ways that reflect the unique characteristics of Turkish culture.

The things done during this holiday are also significant and traditional. This time, when winter ends and nature comes to life, it gives people a chance to renew both their bodies and souls. Traditional celebrations like jumping over fire, painting eggs, and going on picnics are some of the ways people use this chance. Traditions such as knocking on doors and visiting homes are also observed on this day. In ceremonies, children go from house to house and collect gifts prepared for them. The most important aspect of Nevruz celebrations is that it is a festival of solidarity, love, and compassion. Before the holiday, money, clothes, and some of the holiday meal are given to the poor, the sick, and those in need.

Many places still observe Nevruz today with prayers, poems, traditional dances, and festivals. This holiday not only reminds us of our past but also helps us look to the future with hope. In short, Nevruz is seen as a day when both the earth and people can breathe again — a fresh new beginning. Maybe that’s why, on every Nevruz, we feel a special excitement inside us that we can’t explain.



### ***İLEYNA FİLİZ***





## THE ENKINDLED SPRING

*I am amazed at this spring, this conflagration  
Of green fires lit on the soil of the earth, this blaze  
Of growing, and sparks that puff in wild gyration,  
Faces of people streaming across my gaze.*

*And I, what fountain of fire am I among  
This leaping combustion of spring? My spirit is tossed  
About like a shadow buffeted in the throng  
Of flames, a shadow that's gone astray, and is lost.*

D.H. LAWRENCE

## BAHARIN KIVILCIMI

*Hayret ederim bu bahara, bu yangın hâline,  
Toprağın bağrında tutuşmuş yeşil ateşlere,  
Büyümenin alevine, delicesine savrulan kıvılcım seline,  
Gözümün önünden geçen insan yüzlerine.*

*Ve ben, bu alevlerin içinde neyim, hangi pınarım ben  
Bu sıçrayan bahar yangını içinde?  
Bir gölge gibi savrulurum, kalabalığın içinde yiten,  
Alevlerin ortasında yolunu şaşırmış, kendine uzak bir  
gölgeyim ben.*

translated by  
YAĞMUR ERÇEK



## THREADS OF SPRING: THE COLOURFUL CHARM OF MARTENITSA

### What is Martenitsa?

Martenitsa is a traditional folk custom prevalent in Bulgaria and North Macedonia. It consists of red and white threads woven together, with decorative and symbolic meanings. Martenitsa is worn on 1st of March each year to celebrate spring's arrival and wish for good health throughout the year. By wearing this ornament, people also celebrate the awakening of nature and the renewal of life.

### Meaning and Symbolic Value of Martenitsa

The red and white threads in a Martenitsa carry deep symbolic meanings. Red symbolizes life, health, and energy. It is also associated with strength, happiness, and vitality. White represents purity, cleanliness, and peace. When combined, these two colours reflect the idea of both personal well-being and the arrival of spring.

In other words, red and white threads express the harmony between human health and the awakening of nature. This tradition continues as a ritual that symbolises the connection between people and nature and marks a healthy beginning to each new spring. The symbolic value of Martenitsa lies in celebrating health, happiness, and inner peace, while also expressing a deep desire to live in harmony with the natural world.

### Traditional Use of Martenitsa

A Martenitsa is traditionally made by braiding red and white threads. These threads are usually thin and carefully twisted or braided together. Natural materials such as cotton, wool, and silk are commonly used in making Martenitsas. After the threads are combined, they are often shaped into forms like tassels, beads, or knots. Martenitsas can be worn as bracelets or necklaces or crafted into small decorative figures.

### Where is the Martenitsa Worn?

The Martenitsa is usually worn as a bracelet, necklace, or small ornament on the body. Wearing on the wrist is believed to protect the wearer from negative energy. If worn around the neck, it is also thought to offer protection. In some regions, Martenitsas are tied to tree branches to celebrate spring's arrival and nature's awakening.



illustrated by  
**CANSU KURTOĞLU**



### **When to Put On and Take Off the Martenitsa**

The Martenitsa is traditionally worn on the 1st of March. This date symbolises the arrival of spring and is also a time to wish for a healthy and prosperous year. The Martenitsa is kept on the body for a specific period and removed toward the end of March or when the first migratory bird, such as a swallow or stork, is seen. The exact timing for putting on and taking off the Martenitsa varies by region and tradition, but it is usually removed around this time. Once removed, it is often tied to a blossoming tree branch or left somewhere in nature, depending on local custom or personal preference.

As a result, the Martenitsa has become a folk tradition in the modern world and a timeless symbol of healthy living and harmony with nature. Today, this tradition—bearing the traces of the past—has taken on a deeper meaning: connecting with the past while leaving hope for the future. Just like the arrival of spring, the Martenitsa offers us a colourful smile each year—perhaps a little more happiness, a little more hope, and, of course, a little more red and white.

***CANSU KURTOĞLU***



## ***SPRING AS A CATALYST FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL REJUVENATION: THE IMPACT OF NATURE ON MENTAL HEALTH***



Spring symbolises the awakening of nature and rejuvenation. It also plays a crucial role in mental well-being. When it comes after the gloomy winter days, spring provides both psychological and emotional benefits.

One of the most striking effects of spring is increased sunlight. Sunlight is a critical neurotransmitter that boosts the development of serotonin and protects against psychological illnesses like depression. It also helps improve sleep patterns by regulating the production of melatonin. The pineal gland produces the “hormone of darkness,” melatonin, which affects people’s comfort at night.

Spring is known as the season when everything wakes up. Trees bloom, grass sprouts, and nature awakens. This rejuvenation also affects people. It encourages people to go out and spend time in nature, and they engage in lots of activities, which affects physical and mental health. Physical activities reduce tension and increase happiness by providing endorphins, which are known as painkillers for the body. In spring, social interactions, which are essential for emotional well-being, tend to increase as people spend more time outdoors and feel more energized by the season’s warmth and renewal.

Moreover, many people look to spring as a fresh start, setting new goals, focusing on their health, and pursuing personal projects. Spring gives them the energy to follow their desires. The season’s sense of renewal breathes hope into their routines, turning ordinary days into opportunities for growth.

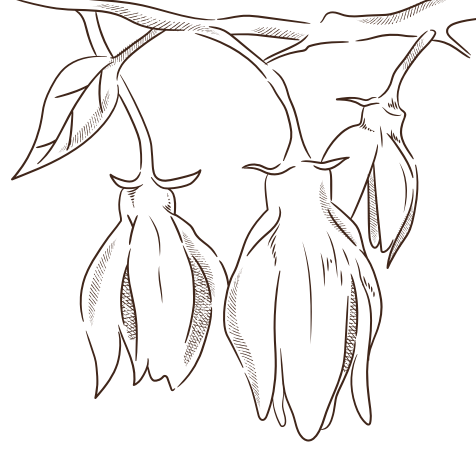
Changes in nature strengthen the connections between people and help them deal with stress. They lower anxiety levels and promote a more comfortable lifestyle. Soaring in sunlight and physical activities reinforce social interaction and create positive impacts on people. These natural changes promote a sense of belonging and well-being, fostering a healthier and more balanced life.

Even though the mental impacts of spring include individual differences and personal habits, which are changeable from person to person, generally, this season heals a person’s psychology and increases their quality of life.

***EKİN NUR ÖZDEMİR***



Baharda kış,  
kışın da baharı özler insan.  
Ne uzaksa onu özler.  
Kavuşmak şart mı?  
Boş ver!  
Bazı şeyler yokken güzel.



## ÖZDEMİR ASAF

*One longs for winter in spring,  
and spring in winter.  
Longs for whatever is far.  
Is it necessary to reunite?  
Never mind!  
Some things are beautiful only in their  
absence.*

translated by  
**ELİF KAMLI**



## MYTHOLOGY AND SPRING: GREEK AND EGYPTIAN MYTHOLOGIES



One of the most significant transformations in human history has been the arrival of spring. Many ancient cultures have explained the awakening of nature, the increase in abundance, and the revival of life through myths. In Greek and Egyptian mythologies, spring is depicted through cycles of death and rebirth, shaped by the stories of gods and goddesses.

Greek mythology contains numerous tales that portray the arrival of spring and nature's awakening. In these stories, natural cycles and seasons are closely tied to the actions of deities. The most well-known of these myths is the story of Persephone, daughter of Demeter, the goddess of agriculture and fertility, and the symbol of spring. While picking flowers in a meadow, Persephone is seen by Hades, the god of the Underworld, who falls in love with her. With the consent of Zeus, who is also Persephone's father, Hades abducts her to make her his wife. Overcome with sorrow, Demeter neglects her divine duties, leading to a great drought. As people struggle with famine and can no longer offer sacrifices to the gods, Zeus decides to intervene. He sends Hermes, the messenger god, to demand that Hades release Persephone.

Hades agrees, but not before tricking Persephone into eating pomegranate seeds while in the Underworld. According to belief, anyone who eats in the land of the dead is bound to it. As a result, Persephone must spend six months of the year with her mother on Earth and the other six months in the Underworld with her husband.

Each time Persephone descends, Demeter resumes her mourning, bringing autumn and winter. Conversely, her return is celebrated with blooming flowers and greening leaves: nature's rebirth and spring's arrival.

Other myths also associate spring with rebirth. After a wild boar kills Aphrodite's mortal lover Adonis, anemones bloom from his spilled blood. Dionysus—the god of wine, celebration, and fertility—is born from Zeus's body after his mother Semele dies, and his birth is celebrated as a symbol of life's return, closely tied to springtime festivities.







Similarly, Egyptian mythology explains life's cyclical nature and spring's arrival through divine narratives. One of the most important myths linked to spring is the murder of Osiris, the god of fertility and agriculture, by his brother Seth, the god of deserts and drought. Out of envy, Seth tricks Osiris, kills him, dismembers his body, and casts the pieces into the Nile.

With Osiris's death, the land dries and nature halts, causing famine. His wife, Isis, gathers the scattered parts and resurrects him with magic. Osiris's revival brings life back to nature, symbolizing the return of spring. The annual flooding of the Nile is interpreted as Osiris's return.

After his resurrection, Isis gives birth to their son Horus. When he matures, Horus confronts his uncle Seth to avenge his father. He emerges victorious, securing the permanence of life and fertility, symbolizing spring's arrival. Horus's rise is celebrated alongside the rejuvenation of the earth.

These mythological tales not only explain the cycles of nature but also reflect the shared human emotions surrounding life, death, and rebirth that have endured since ancient times. The arrival of spring has always been met with joy, hope, and the promise of renewal across cultures. The stories of gods in Greek and Egyptian mythology represent humanity's timeless bond with nature and the deep meanings behind seasonal change. Even today, the freshness and happiness we experience with the onset of spring mirror these ancient cycles. For spring is not merely a season, it is the herald of rebirth, hope, and the eternal rhythm of life.

***BENGİSU AŞAR***





## SPRING FEELING

*Thinking is an act, feeling is a fact  
It is like the moon I watched from afar  
You keep giving me butterflies  
Like the pollen falls from its flower  
The art of being average at everything  
keeps me closer to you  
I bloom like flowers from your heart  
Sounds like a love song  
I sometimes feel like I am fighting for a life  
I don't have time to manage.  
It feels like you are the meaning of it  
This spring is saving me from cold winters.*



## EYLÜL ŞİMŞEK

## ONGUN KHAN: THE GOD OF ABUNDANCE IN TURKISH MYTHOLOGY



Turkish and Altai mythology is a reflection of the rich cultural fabric of Central Asia. In this mythology, gods and goddesses play essential roles in many areas, from natural events to the specification of fate. Ongun Khan, part of this pantheon, is known as the god of cornucopia and abundance. Ongun Khan is a divinity with deep roots in Turkish and Altai mythology. The word “Ongun” means “fertile,” and the title “Khan” represents an influential leader or ruler.



Ongun Khan is associated with various attributes linked to abundance and prosperity. He is often portrayed wearing green clothes, symbolising fertile fields. He holds agricultural tools and animal figures, showing that he protects farming activities and animal husbandry. Additionally, his face is cheerful, as abundance and prosperity are usually associated with joy.

In Turkish and Altai mythology, Ongun Khan appears in various mythological stories. In these tales, Ongun Khan takes steps on different adventures to bring abundance to the people. Stories, especially those where Ongun Khan brings rain from the sky, enhance the earth’s fertility, and help the seeds grow during harvest time, are widespread.

Ongun Khan is an essential god in Turkish and Altai societies, considering the significance of agriculture and animal husbandry. Abundance and prosperity are critical to the survival of these societies. Belief in Ongun Khan is a source of hope and trust for these communities.

Special cults and rituals are dedicated to Ongun Khan in Turkish and Altai societies. Prayers and offerings are made to Ongun Khan during harvest times and at the beginning of agricultural activities. These rituals are traditional practices aimed at increasing the land’s fertility and strengthening the community’s unity.

The legends about Ongun Khan reflect the values and beliefs of Turkish and Altai societies. These stories emphasise the connection between people and nature, agriculture’s importance, and its value. Ongun Khan’s tales strengthen the community’s social structure and add meaning to people’s lives.

**MERYEM MELİKE ÖNEMLİ**

## ***SPRINGTIME IN LITERATURE: A SYMBOL OF REBIRTH***



Throughout literary history, spring has symbolized renewal, hope, love, and transformation. From the blossoming of nature to the awakening of human emotion, the season has served as a fertile ground for metaphor and artistic exploration. Particularly in English literature, spring is used to emphasize the beauty of nature and as a literary tool to delve into deeper themes such as youth, innocence, and spiritual rebirth.

The symbolism of spring is rooted in its natural characteristics. After winter's cold and dark color, spring emerges with warmth, colorfulness, and vividness. This shift from death to life has made it a powerful emblem in storytelling, poetry, and drama. Writers have used spring to emphasize literal seasonal change and the transformation of characters and emotional states. One of the most famous literary uses of spring is found in William Shakespeare's 98th sonnet, where he writes:

“From you, I have been absent in the spring,  
When proud-pied April, dressed in all his trim,  
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything...”

Here, Shakespeare speaks of spring as a season invigorating nature with youth and liveliness. Even though the world around him is blooming, he expresses a sense of absence and longing due to the separation from his beloved. Beyond Shakespeare, many other English writers drew inspiration from spring. Geoffrey Chaucer begins “The Canterbury Tales” with a vivid depiction of April's renewing rains and the stirring of life.



illustrated by  
**CANSU KURTOĞLU**

William Wordsworth, one of the significant figures of the Romantic period, frequently celebrated spring as a source of spiritual renewal and emotional depth. In conclusion, spring has been a powerful source of inspiration in English literature. Its natural beauty and transformative qualities make it an ideal metaphor for personal and universal themes. Whether spring is used to signify emotional rebirth, the start of a romantic journey, or the renewal of faith and purpose, it continues to inspire writers across centuries. The season's presence in literary works reminds readers of the ever-present possibility of growth and new beginnings, even after the darkest winters.

**NEVA NAZ KARACA**





## LINES WRITTEN IN EARLY SPRING

...

*The birds around me hopped and played,  
Their thoughts I cannot measure:—  
But the least motion which they made  
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.*

*The budding twigs spread out their fan,  
To catch the breezy air;  
And I must think, do all I can,  
That there was pleasure there.*

*If this belief from heaven be sent,  
If such be Nature's holy plan,  
Have I not reason to lament  
What man has made of man?*

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

## BAHARIN İLK GÜNLERİNDE YAZILMIŞ DİZELER

...

*Kuşlar sekîp oynuyordu çevremde,  
Ne düşündüklerini bilemem elbette.  
Fakat en ufak bir hareketlerinde bile  
Bir sevinç vardı ölesiye.*

*Tomurcuklu dallar açmıştı kollarını,  
Serin rüzgârı yakalamak için.  
Ve elimden geldiğince düşünmeliyim:  
Orada bir sevinç gizliydi derin.*

*Bu inanç göklerden geldiyse eğer  
Ve Doğa'nın kutsal bir planıysa bu,  
Üzûlmekten başka ne gelir elimden,  
İnsanın insana yaptığııı gördükçe?*

translated by  
ZEHRİ ÇAKIR

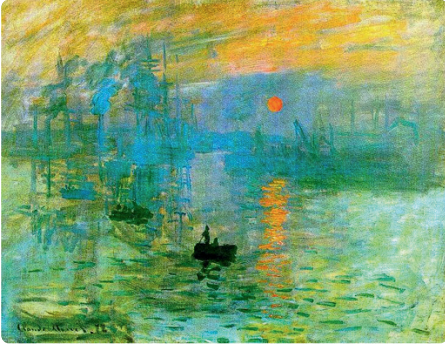






## THE SPIRIT OF SPRING IN MONET COLOURS

### Impression, Soleil Levant



The influence of spring on people has been a common theme in art for centuries. Although the emotions that spring evoke may differ, the form of expression remains the same. This is why we can see the theme of spring in many different branches of art, especially in painting.

Spring has stirred such deep emotions in people that it gave rise to Impressionism in painting—an art movement centered on conveying the impressions that nature leaves on an individual. Claude Monet, known as the pioneer of the Impressionist movement, and his paintings are among the finest examples of this style. In fact, the movement's name was inspired by Monet's 1872 painting "Impression, Sunrise" ("Impression, Soleil Levant"). Although the exact number is not certain, it is believed that a large portion of Monet's approximately 2,000 paintings were created in this style.

"Woman with a Parasol," also known as "La Promenade" or "Madame Monet and Her Son," is one of the finest examples of Monet's Impressionist style. Painted on a summer day in 1875, the painting features a strong upward perspective and captures the effect of sunlight through the use of shading and reflections. Despite its pale colors, the vivid brushstrokes effectively convey the sensation of that beautiful summer day. The figures depicted in the painting are Monet's first wife, Camille, and their son, Jean. This painting, one of his largest works from the 1870s, was among the 18 Monet pieces exhibited at the second Impressionist exhibition in April 1876.

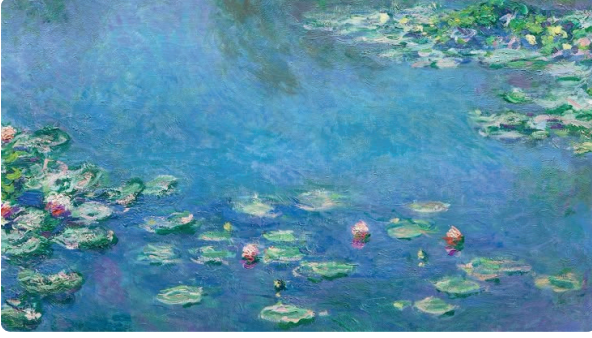


*(Inspired by Monet's La Promenade)*

illustrated by  
**ALEYNA RAHİMİ & HİLAL YİĞİT**



## Water Lilies (Nymphéas)



Among my favorites is “Water Lilies (Nymphéas),” which is also one of Monet’s most outstanding works. Painted between 1914 and 1917 and based on a trio of blue, green, and pink tones, this painting was completed after Monet moved to the village of Giverny in April 1883.

After creating his famous water lily pond there in 1890, the surroundings provided endless inspiration for many of his works, including the Munich painting.

Monet played a decisive role in the emergence of French Impressionism through his mastery of composition and color. In designing the bridges and arranging the water channels of his garden, he drew inspiration from Japanese styles. While form and space were interpreted as surfaces, these surfaces appeared both transparent and reflective of forms beyond the picture frame, thus giving the paintings a multidimensional and undefined depth. Monet’s paintings reflect not only nature but also his inner world. He went beyond merely observing nature, transferring the emotions and impressions it evoked in him onto his canvases. He successfully conveyed this emotional intensity through the interplay of color and light created by his brushstrokes. Especially with the works he produced in his magnificent garden—an endless source of inspiration—he continues to inspire people today and beautifully showcase the wonders that nature offers.

***NİSA GÜNEŞ***



## HEARTS THAT WARM WITH SPRING

*The bitter cold of winter passed,  
The frozen ache has gone at last.  
Spring arrived with warming light,  
Love blew in with winds so bright.  
In gardens bloom the colors wide,  
With love, the hearts of people sighed.  
Sweet scents drift through earth and sky,  
And peace within our souls draws nigh.*

**TUBANUR KELEŞ**



illustrated by  
**ALEYNA RAHİMİ &  
HİLAL YİĞİT**



## BAHAR GELİYOR

Damlardaki kar, saçaklardaki buz ,  
Kanı kaynayan suya dar geliyor.  
Haberin var mı? Oluklardan  
Akan su sesinde bahar geliyor.

Duy güneyden estiğini rüzgarın ;  
Göreceksin neler olacak yarın.  
Yuvada çırpınan yavru kuşların  
Uçmak bevesinde bahar geliyor.

CAHİT SITKI TARANCI

## SPRING COMES AGAIN

*Snow on the rooftops, ice on the eaves,  
The stream runs wild — it strains and heaves  
Do you hear it, the gutter's refrain?  
In the song of the flow, spring comes again.*

*Hear the wind that blows from the South,  
You'll see what tomorrow brings about.  
Young birds flutter inside their nest,  
With dream of flight — for spring brings zest.*

translated by  
**İBRAHİM ETHEM KAPLAN**



### Ready for a spring-themed personality quiz? Time to find your flower era: Which Spring Flower Are You?

Spring is the season of renewal and nature's awakening. But which spring flower reflects your soul? Trust your instincts, answer the questions, and discover your inner bloom!

**1. One morning, you wake up in a spring garden. What is the first thing you do?**

- A) Turn my face to the sky to feel the sun.
- B) Walk silently among the flowers and listen to nature.
- C) Pick the most beautiful flower and keep it with me.
- D) Get lost in the garden, ready to explore.
- E) Sit down and take in the moment.

**2. The wind whispers something to you. What do you hear?**

- A) "A new day, a new beginning!"
- B) "Calmness and peace are with you."
- C) "Listen to your heart, love is everywhere."
- D) "Run towards freedom, forget the limits!"
- E) "Be still and let life flow."

**3. What colour best represents spring for you?**

- A) Bright yellow => Radiant like the sun.
- B) Pure white => Tranquil and peaceful.
- C) Soft pink => Romantic and delicate.
- D) Deep purple => Mysterious and free-spirited.
- E) Light blue => Serene and introspective.

**4. A butterfly lands on your shoulder. What do you do?**

- A) Make a wish instantly.
- B) Stay still and observe it.
- C) Gently try to hold it in my hands.
- D) Let the wind carry me away with it.
- E) Close my eyes and feel its presence.

**5. A melody of spring starts playing. What kind of song do you hear?**

- A) A buoyant and lively tune.
- B) A soft and peaceful piano melody.
- C) A slow and romantic love song.
- D) A bold and adventurous rhythm.
- E) A dreamy and soothing instrumental.

**6. You pick a bouquet of the most beautiful flowers in the garden. Who do you give it to?**

- A) I share it with all my friends.
- B) I give it to my family because I love them.
- C) I give it to someone I have feelings for.
- D) I keep it to myself because flowers should remain free.
- E) I leave it in the garden so it can continue to grow.

**7. You reach a fork in the road. Which path do you choose?**

- A) A bright trail where the sunshines.
- B) A verdant, peaceful forest path.
- C) A cobbled street filled with nostalgia.
- D) An unknown and mysterious path.
- E) A quiet path leading to a hidden meadow.

**8. If you had a time machine, which moment would you relive?**

- A) A time when I laughed the hardest.
- B) A quiet and peaceful moment.
- C) A beautiful memory of love.
- D) An exciting adventure filled with discoveries.
- E) A moment of solitude where I felt at peace.

**9. A spring rain begins. What do you do?**

- A) Dance in the rain.
- B) Sit by the window and sip my tea.
- C) Walk under the rain while humming a song.
- D) Jump into the puddles and have fun.
- E) Close my eyes and listen to the raindrops.

**10. In a dream about spring, how do you see yourself?**

- A) Shining under the sun.
- B) Sitting silently by a peaceful lake.
- C) Walking among the flowers with someone I love.
- D) Wandering free with the wind.
- E) Resting beneath a tree, lost in thought.

**Now, look at next page to see which  
spring flower you are!**







## Which Spring Flower Are You? – The Results & Analysis

**Mostly A's:** You are a sunflower; you radiate warmth!

Cheerful, outgoing, and full of life. Like the sun, you bring warmth and positivity to everyone around you. Every day is an adventure, and you welcome life with enthusiasm.

**Mostly B's:** Your soul is as pure as a daisy!

Calm, loyal, and peaceful. You find joy in the little things and appreciate the beauty of nature. People feel safe and at ease in your presence.

**Mostly C's:** Like a tulip, you bring colour to the world!

Elegant, emotional, and romantic. You see life through an artistic lens and love to find beauty in everything. Your heart is full of deep feelings, and you are zealous about love and art.

**Mostly D's:** Like a violet, you bring quiet beauty!

Free-spirited, bold, and adventurous. You don't like to be confined and are always seeking new experiences. Life, to you, is an uncharted map waiting to be explored.


**Mostly E's:** Like a bluebell, you are a gentle dreamer!


Self-aware, thoughtful, and serene. You find peace in solitude and enjoy deep thoughts and quiet moments. Like a bluebell hidden in the woods, your beauty shines in your way, away from the crowd.


***BENGÜ AYDIN***





## ZODIAC SPRING PREDICTIONS: A SEASON OF CHANGE AND GROWTH


 This spring puts you in the spotlight! It's your time to dream big and take real steps toward your goals. Even if things felt confusing lately, clarity is coming, and you'll start to feel more like yourself. You'll naturally want to focus on self-care, so go ahead and treat yourself. In May, responsibilities around work and money may pop up, so try to stay organized. The small things you do now will build a strong foundation for your future.

 Life might feel a bit slow right now, but try to enjoy the calm because it won't last long. In April, things will start moving forward again, and your birthday season will begin. Time to celebrate yourself! This spring, think about what "wealth" really means to you in your own way. You might face some big changes in your work and money, but trust that you'll learn important lessons from them. As summer comes, you'll feel like making your home nicer and finding peace there. That's your special strength.

 Spring marks the end of an important chapter for you. It's a great time to explore new things; travel, learn, or try a new hobby. Your birthday season starts on May 20, inviting you to share what makes you unique. If you've been thinking about a project, now's the perfect moment to start. The world is ready for you.

 This spring is a time for growth and focusing on your career and long-term goals. You might face some delays or confusion early on, but things will get clearer soon. Balancing your home life and work will be important. You may also experience changes in your close relationships, helping you rethink what makes you feel secure. As summer comes, new opportunities will appear. Stay open and ready for them.

 Spring brings new energy and a fresh start for you, Leo. It's a great time to focus on your goals and life path. April is perfect for honest talks you might have been putting off. Take a moment to appreciate how far you've come in your career and dreams. This season is all about being brave and following your heart.

 Spring is a time of deep change for you, Virgo. You're invited to let go of control and be more open in relationships and personal growth. This season, it's good to think about what really matters to you and set healthy boundaries. Changes in your daily habits and balance between work and health may happen. As summer comes, you'll find more stability and calm. Remember, both change and rest are part of the journey.





This season brings big changes in your relationships, Libra. You'll get clearer about where to put your energy and when to step back. It's also a time to focus on your emotional health and home life, which might bring up old feelings to heal. Getting support, like talking to someone, could really help. By the end of spring, it's time to commit to what truly makes you happy and balanced.



Spring brings big changes for you, Scorpio. You might face some old feelings around home and family, but this is a chance to grow stronger. It's also a good time to improve your daily habits to support your goals. Your career will get a boost, encouraging you to take bold steps. As summer comes, you'll feel a stronger need for close connections. Trust the process, even if it feels a bit scary.



Your energy and passion are coming back strong, Sagittarius. This is a great time to create, love, and enjoy life without stressing too much. You might face some changes in how you communicate and think, so be careful with your words. In June, you'll feel more connected to your emotions and inner healing. Finding balance between excitement and calm will help you grow in love and life.



Spring brings a big change, focusing on your home and emotional stability. It's a time to rethink what makes you feel secure and let go of old habits. Your career goals are still important, but a strong personal foundation comes first. In June, focus on what brings you joy and creativity. Balancing work with self-care will help you build lasting happiness.



If you've been feeling stuck, spring brings fresh energy for you, Aquarius. It's a good time to speak honestly and see things in new ways. You might find more mental clarity soon, making it a great moment to learn or improve your skills. Remember to take care of your well-being, it's the base for everything else. By summer, focus on nurturing relationships that help you grow and find balance between planning and living in the moment.



Spring brings a big change as some important energies leave your sign. It's time to get clear on what you really want and set new boundaries. You might feel sensitive about letting go of things that don't help you anymore, but this is part of growing. In June, focus on healing and taking care of your emotions. Practices like journaling or meditation can really help as you start fresh.

**ELİF GÜZEL**





## IS FOR SPRING: STORIES, SCREENS & STRINGS

Winter fades, flowers bloom, and spring brings fresh energy and new beginnings. It's the perfect time to enjoy books, movies, and songs that celebrate growth, love, and hope.

Here are some awesome book and movie picks, along with songs you can listen to that totally bring the spring vibe!



### SPRINGTIME READS:

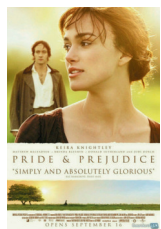


#### **Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery**

Could there be a more inspiring spring story than Anne Shirley's exciting adventures? With her endless curiosity and love for nature, Anne reminds us to find beauty in every moment. Green Gables in spring time is a literary paradise for readers.



**Song: "Here Comes the Sun" – The Beatles**



#### **Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen**

As you know spring is the season of romance, and what is the better way to embrace it than Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy's love story? This novel, full of wit, charm, and lively social gatherings, feels as a garden party on a sunny spring afternoon.



**Song: "La Vie en rose" – Édith Piaf**



#### **Spring Snow by Yukio Mishima**

A poetic and tragic tale set in early 20th-century Japan, Spring Snow captures the fleeting beauty of youth and the delicate bloom of first love. Like the brief but breathtaking arrival of spring, this novel invites readers to reflect on impermanence and passion.



**Song: "Bloom" – The Paper Kites**



#### **Enchanted April by Elizabeth von Arnim**

In this charming novel, four women—each stuck in their own personal rut—find healing and joy when they escape to an Italian villa during springtime. With blooming gardens, fresh air, and newfound friendships, the story becomes a soft celebration of second chances and emotional growth.



**Song: "Banana Pancakes" – Jack Johnson**





## SPRINGTIME SCREENS:



### **Bambi (1942)**

This beloved Disney classic follows Bambi, a young deer discovering the wonders and challenges of the forest. With breathtaking animation and a heartwarming story, it's the perfect film to remind us of nature's beauty and the cycle of life.

🎵 Song: "Mr. Blu Sky" – Electric Light Orchestra



### **The Secret Garden (1993)**

A neglected garden, a lonely girl, and the power of nature's revival. This enchanting adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel is a celebration of healing, friendship, and the magic of spring.

🎵 Song: "Saturday Sun" – Vance Joy



### **Little Forest (2018)**

A quiet, calming film about self-discovery, nature, and the changing seasons. Following a young woman who returns to her rural home to live off the land, Little Forest is a peaceful and inspiring watch, perfect for those who appreciate the simple joys of spring.

🎵 Song: "Good Day" – Nappy Roots



### **5 Centimeters Per Second (2007)**

A visually stunning anime that captures the quiet ache of growing apart and the passing of time. With its soft cherry blossom imagery and gentle pacing, the film evokes the fleeting beauty of spring and the bittersweet feeling of change.

🎵 Song: "Spring Day" – BTS



### **Before Sunrise (1995)**

This romantic film follows two strangers who meet on a train and spend a single spring day together in Vienna. Their deep, spontaneous conversations and emotional connection feel like something blooming unexpectedly; meaningful, and full of life.

🎵 Song: "Pocketful of Sunshine" – Natasha Bedingfield

**NİSA NAZ ÖZKURT & ELİF GÜZEL**

