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**Modern Turkish authors**

Мақала қазіргі түрік жазушыларының шығармашылығына арналған.

 What is literature? Literature is a masterpiece, it's an art. Literature is a mirror of a nation, its reflection, its soul and heart. Literature is an essential part of our daily life. Literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material. Broadly speaking, "literature" is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. Literature represents a language or a people: culture and tradition. But, literature is more important than just a historical or cultural artifact. Literature introduces us to new worlds of experience. We learn about books and literature; we enjoy the comedies and the tragedies of poems, stories, and plays; and we may even grow and evolve through our literary journey with books. Ultimately, we may discover meaning in literature by looking at what the author says and how he/she says it. We may interpret the author's message. In academic circles, this decoding of the text is often carried out through the use of literary theory, using a mythological, sociological, psychological, historical, or other approach. Whatever critical paradigm we use to discuss and analyze literature, there is still an artistic quality to the works. Literature is important to us because it speaks to us, it is universal, and it affects us. Literature is always beautiful.

 Turkish literature is quite rich and bright. It has outstanding writers, gorgeous poets, great authors, such as Asik Veysel, Sinasi, Yunus Emre, Tevfik Fikret, Orhan Pamuk, Asli Perker, Lokman Polat, Emine Caykara, Peride Celal, Duran Çetin, Sabri Kalic, Selâhattin Kantar, Yadé Kara, Nihan Kaya and others. Look at the distinguished Turkish writers of today. While it is impossible to rank the most important authors in contemporary literature, here is a list of some (Turkish language) authors with some biographical notes and links to more information about them and their work.

 Orhan Kemal (1914-1970) is a twentieth century Turkish realist author. Orhan Kemal, (Mehmet Raşit Öğütçü) writer of short stories and novels was born in Adana in 1914 and died in Sofia in 1970. His father, Abdülkadir Kemali, was an MP from Kastamonu during the first term parliament of the Turkish Republic. Abdülkadir Kemali, a lawyer by profession, established The Ahali Party which was dissolved causing its founder to have to flee to Syria. In order to accompany his father, Orhan Kemal had to miss his final year of secondary school. Orhan Kemal stayed in Syria for a year, returning to Adana in 1932. He worked as a laborer, weaver and clerk in cotton gin mills. He did not complete his secondary education due to financial constraints. He wrote over 40 books, which include novels, short story collections, an autobiography and several plays and film scripts. Kemal’s first poem was published in Yedigün under the name of Raşit Kemal (Duvarlar 25.04.1939) Further poems written under the same pen name are Yedigün and Yeni Mecmua 1940. On meeting Nazım Hikmet, Kemal wrote under the name of “Orhan Raşit” (Yeni Edebiyat 1941) Impressed by Nazım Hikmet, Kemal concentrated on stories as opposed to poems. His first story, “Bir Yılbaşı Macerası”, being published in 1941. In 1942 he adopted the name Orhan Kemal when writing stories and poems in Yürüyüş. He found fame through stories in Varlık in 1944, his first collection of short stories “Ekmek Kavgası”, and first novel “Baba Evi”, was published in 1949. Early works depicted characters form the immigrant quarters of Adana Kemal described the social structure, worker employer relationships and the daily struggles of petty people from industrialised Turkey. He aimed to present an optimistic view through the heros of his stories. He never changed his simple exposition and thus became one of the most skilful names of Turkish stories and novels. He also wrote film scripts and a play called “İspinozlar”. Dramatisations have been made of “72.Koğuş”, “Murtaza”, “Eskici Dükkanı”, “Kardeş Payı”. After his death a novel award was arranged in his name (1971). Short story collections: Sarhoşlar (Drunkards/1951), Grev (The Strike/1954), Arka Sokak (Back Street/1956), Babil Kulesi (The Tower of Babel/1957), Kardeş Payı (A Fair Share – winner of the 1958 Sait Faik Short Story Award), Önce Ekmek (Bread Comes First – co-winner of the 1969 Sait Faik Short Story Award). Major novels: Avare Yıllar (Vagrant Years/1950), Bereketli Topraklar Üzerinde (On Fertile Soil/1953), 72.Koğuş (Ward 72/1954), Devlet Kuşu (Windfall/1958), Gâvurun Kızı (Infidel’s Daughter), Kaçak (Fugitive/1970).

 Melih Cevdet Anday (1915-2002) - Turkish poet and writer who has been one of the forefront poets of the Garip movement together with Orhan Veli and Oktay Rifat. His unique poetry stands outside the traditional poetic movements searching for new ways in poetry. Their new poetry resolved to make itself simple, colloquial, matter of fact—an artless art designed to serve the common people.He studied sociology in Belgium for two years. He has been a prominent figure on the Turkish literary scene since 1940. In 1971 UNESCO honored him as one of the world’s major literary figures. Major poetry collections: Garip (Strange -- co-authored with Orhan Veli and Oktay Rifat/1941), Rahatı Kaçan Ağaç (Perturbed Tree/1946), Kolları Bağlı Odysseus (Odysseus Bound/1963), Göçebe Denizin Üstünde (On the Nomad Sea/1970), Teknenin Ölümü (Death of the Boat/1975 -- winner of the 1976 Yeditepe Poetry Award), Ölümsüzlük Ardında Gılgamış (Gilgamish in Pursuit of Immortality/1981 -- winner of the İş Bankası Literature Award for 1981), Sözcükler (Words -- a collection of poems written before 1978; winner of the 1978 Sedat Simavi Literature Award. His plays have been compiled and published in two volumes. Major novels: Aylaklar (Loafers/1965), Gizli Emir (The Secret Order/1970 -- winner of the 1970 TRT Achievement Award for Fiction), İsa’nın Güncesi (Diary of Christ/1974). Poetry:"Garip" (with Orhan Veli and Oktay Rifat, 1941),"Rahatı Kaçan Ağaç" (1946),"Telgrafhane" (1952),"Yanyana" (1956),"Kolları bağlı Odysseus" (1963),"Göçebe Denizin Üstünde" (1970),"Teknenin Ölümü" (1975),"Sözcükler" (1978),"Ölümsüzlük Ardında Gılgamış" (1981),"Güneşte" (1989),"Yağmurun Altında" (1995)/ He is also famous for his novels, here they are:"Aylaklar" (1965),"Gizli Emir" (1970),"İsa'nın Güncesi" (1974),"Raziye" (1975).

 Aziz Nesin was a famous Turkish writer and humorist of Crimean Tatar origin and author of more than 100 books. (1915-1995). He is Turkland’s best and most popular humorist ever. After serving as a career officer for several years, he became the editor of a series of satirical periodicals with a socialist bent. He was jailed several times for his political views. He provided a strong indictment of the oppression and brutalization of the common man. He satirized bureaucracy and exposed economic inequities in stories that effectively combine local color and universal verities. He won numerous awards in Turkland, Italy, Bulgaria and the former Soviet Union. His works have been translated into over thirty languages. He was marvelous writer. Several of Nesin's works have been published in English language translation. They are: Istanbul Boy: The Autobiography of Aziz Nesin, Turkish Stories from Four Decades, Dog Tails, Memoirs Of An Exile, Hayri the Barber Surnâmé, Out of the Way! Socialism's Coming!, The Dance of the Eagle and the Fish, Socialism Is Coming: Stand Aside, The Tales of Nasrettin Hoca and others.

 Yusuf Atılgan (27 June 1921, Manisa - 9 October 1989, İstanbul) was a Turkish novelist and dramatist, who is best known for his novels Aylak Adam (The Loiterer) and Anayurt Oteli (Motherland Hotel). He is one of the pioneers of the modern Turkish novel. Atılgan is considered as one of the pioneers of the modern Turkish novel. His novels had a psychological style, digging into themes such as loneliness, questioning, meaning of life. Atılgan finished middle school in Manisa, then high school in Balıkesir. He graduated in Turkish language and literature from İstanbul University. He finished his thesis titled Tokatlı Kani: Sanat, şahsiyet ve psikoloji under supervision of Nihat Tarlan. Atılgan then began teaching literature at Maltepe Askeri Lisesi in Akşehir. In 1946, he settled down at a village named Hacırahmanlı near Manisa where he took up writing. His novel Aylak Adam was published in 1959 which dealt with psychological themes such as loneliness, scope and possibility of love, meaning of life, seeking and obsession. This was followed in 1973 by Anayurt Oteli, which narrated the life of a hotel doorkeeper(named Zebercet) in an Anatolian town, with deep psychological examinations and touching themes such as sexuality and obsession. It gained further fame with a film based on the novel. In 1976, he began working in İstanbul as an editor and translator. His novels: Aylak Adam (1959), Anayurt Oteli (1973), Canistan (2000), Short Stories, Bodur Minareden Öte (1960), Çocuk Kitabı: Ekmek Elden Süt Memeden (1981), Eylemci (Bütün Öyküleri (1992). He graduated from the Turkish Language and Literature Department at İstanbul University. After working as a teacher for a while he settled in a village in the Aeagean region and became a farmer. His collection of short stories is entitled Bodur Minareden Öte (Beyond the Short Minaret/1960). With his first novel Aylak Adam (The Loiterer) he won second place in the 1958 Yunus Nadi Novel Award. His second novel Anayurt Oteli (Motherland Hotel) was published in 1973.

 Haldun Taner (1915 -1986) is a well-known Turkish playwright and short story writer. He was born on March 16, 1915 in Istanbul. After graduating from the Galatasaray High School in 1935, he studied politics and economy at the University of Heidelberg in Germany, until a serious health problem forced him to return to Turkey, where he graduated from the Faculty of German Literature and Linguistics in 1950. He also studied theatre and philosophy at the University of Vienna between 1955 and 1957 under the direction of Heinz Kindermann (1894–1985), an Austrian theater and literary scholar. As a well-disciplined writer accumulating a rich blend of culture, Taner wrote a great number of stories, generally humorous; essays, newspaper columns, travel writings and theatre plays, in particular, brought him several important awards including the New York Herald Tribune Story Contest First Prize (1954), the Sait Faik Story Award (1954), the International Festival of the Humor of Bordighera Award (1969), and so on. Among his plays, the most popular is Keşanlı Ali Destanı (Epopee of Ali of Keshan). His stories have been translated into German, French, English, Russian, Greek, Slovanian, Swedish, and Hebrew. He studied political science and economics at Heidelberg University and held a degree in German literature from İstanbul University. He has written short stories, comedies, satires and has introduced Brechtian epic theater in Turkland. He also wrote cabaret plays, combining political satire with the techniques of the traditional Turkish theater. He taught art history and dramatic literature at İstanbul University and was a well-known columnist for several dailies. His plays, which still retain their topical significance, their social and political relevance and entertaining quality, have enjoyed great success in Turkland and abroad. Major plays: Fazilet Eczanesi (The Pharmacy of Virtue/1960), Lütfen Dokunmayın (Please Do Not Touch/1960), Keşanlı Ali Destanı (The Legend of Ali of Keşan/1964), Gözlerimi Kaparım Vazifemi Yaparım (I Close My Eyes and Do My Duty/1964), Eşeğin Gölgesi (The Shadow of the Donkey/1965), Sersem Kocanın Kurnaz Karısı (The Shrewd Wife of the Stupid Husband – winner of the 1971 Turkish Language Association Drama Award). Major short story collections: Yaşasın Demokrasi (Long Live Democracy/1949), Şişhane’ye Yağmur Yağıyordu (It Was Raining in Şişhane/1953), On İkiye Bir Var (One Minute to Twelve – winner of the 1955 Sait Faik Short Story Award).

 As we have already mentioned, literature is a life, it never stops, it breathes, increases. Nowadays Turkish language is a global one, everyone is eager to learn, to know, to master it, because especially Turkish language helps to open many doors ahead. Certainly, it is a vital, key, essential, main and major language. We expect much from contemporary Turkish literature. These days reader knows a lot and he feels like knowing more and more. I think, contemporary Turkish literature quite coincides his requirements.