

Nayır, Yaşar Nabi (b 1908 Üsküb, now Skopje in Yugoslavia), Turkish poet, author and publisher. From 1926 to 1936 Yaşar Nabi published poems in literary journals. He belonged to a group known as

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the Seven Firebrands (*Yedi Meşale*), the other members being the short-story writer Kenan Hulusi, and the poets Sabri Esat Siyavuşgil, Muammer Lütfi, Vasfi Mahir Kocatürk, Ziya Osman Saba and Cevdet Kudret. In 1928 the group brought out a joint selection of their works, *Yedi Meşale*, and for eight months produced a review, *Meşale*. With youthful enthusiasm they called for originality and sincerity in art, declaring that the range of themes must be extended, and reality transcended. However this rather artificially formed group soon broke up. Its place in the history of the development of modern Turkish literature has largely gone unrecognized, its claims being immediately superseded by such extremely individual talents as Cahit Sıtkı Tarancı (qv), etc.

Yaşar Nabi, who is an ardent Kemalist, has been greatly influenced by Western culture in general, French in particular. Throughout his many activities he has always fought for the supremacy of artistic values and the rejection of fanaticism of whatever kind. His review, *Varlık*, since it first came out in 1933, and particularly in the period from 1940 to 1956, was the rallying-point of the most gifted Turkish writers. In its pages he championed the cause of Turkish new literature, and in particular the New Poetry. Thus *Varlık* has played an important role in the cultural life of Turkey. The same may be said of the *Varlık* publishing house, founded in 1946, which produces carefully prepared, well-chosen editions of Turkish works and foreign translations at prices within the means of the broad reading public. Hence Yaşar Nabi must be looked upon as not only an author and anthologist, but as the man who has done most to promote an interest in the arts amongst the public in republican Turkey. In 1966 Nabi founded the review *Cep Dergisi*. Collections of poems: *Kahramanlar* (Heroes, 1929), *Onar Misra* (Ten Lines Each, 1932); essays: *Balkanlar ve Türklük* (The Balkans and Turkishness, 1936), *Edebiyatımızın Bugünkü Meselerleri* (Problems of Our Literature Today, 1937), *Nereye Gidiyoruz?* (Where Are We Going?, 1948), *Yıllar Boyunca* (As the Years Pass, 1959).

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