



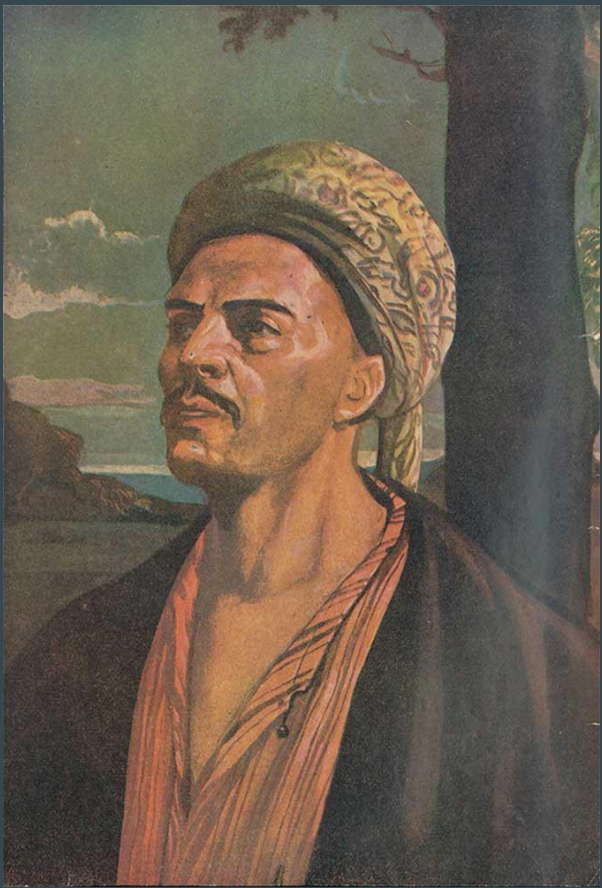
Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Yunus Emre



His life, work and why is he important?



We do not know his place of birth. He is believed to have lived in the middle of the 13th century, during the Mongol invasion and the collapse of the Seljuk State. The shocks and pains of this period left deep traces in Yunus's works.

Yunus Emre is one of the greatest poets of Turkish intellectual literature. He has long, continuous life experiences and feverish minds about existence, non-existence, love and God.



Yunus Emre, who was born in Anatolia, is one of the very names who ensured the integration of Anatolia with the Turkish-Islamic culture. His poems are studied in Yunus Emre Institutes established in many universities around the world. Yunus Emre and many friends like him ensured that Anatolia blended with Turkish culture.



Yunus Emre understands love as an intimacy, a tendency towards God and all the creatures he created. The aim of love is to reach the supreme God, the immortal, to reach the whole in his presence. Since God is identical with man, "who loves himself loves God, whoever loves God loves himself". Because love is to find yourself in the other, the other in yourself.



His poems, which are devoted mainly to the themes of divine love and human destiny, are characterized by deep feeling. He wrote in a straightforward, almost austere style and mainly in the traditional syllabic metre of Anatolian folk poetry. His verse had a decisive influence on later Turkish mystics and inspired the poets of the renaissance of Turkish national poetry after 1910.