

antonella barina



**Listen
Not the turning stars
But the infinite space
Between them**

TURNING
The cities of the moon
(a trip in Turkey)



edizione dell'autrice

*My hands dance like a tree
I whirl around like the moon*
(Mevlâna Jalaladdin Rûmî,
Mystic Poems,
XIII century)

I visited Turkey, alone and veiled, in december 2000 to further my research into the feminine Divine. I intended to visit Antioch of Pisidia, scenery of the Christian legend of Saint Margaret, who studied since 1978. I expected to find in Cappadocia a representation of this saint, which I managed only a few hours before leaving. I meant to also visit the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük (6800-5700), the primary site of the Aegean Sea and around the Middle East.

The trip coincided with the annual ceremonies dedicated to the Persian poet and mystic Mevlâna Jalaladdin Rûmî, father of the Whirling Dervishes. So I arrived in Konya just in time to the first dance. Turning.

edizione dell'autrice

Anno VII n.37 Venezia mar-apr 2011

Iscrizione al Tribunale di Venezia

n.1503 del 10 marzo 2005

Dir.resp. prop. ed. Antonella Barina

Bimestrale stampato in proprio,

Santa Croce 1892/B Venezia

Turning - Le città della luna © Barina

1/a ed.: Turning - Le città della luna (Empiria, Roma, 2005)

2/a ed.: Turning - Las ciudades de la luna (Ed.d'A., 2006)

3/a ed.: Turning - Le città della luna (Ed.d'A., 2007)

edizione dell'autrice@libero.it

www.autoeditoria.it

TURNING

The cities of the moon

1. WHY DERVISHES DANCE

Why do Dervishes dance?
To lose themselves in God
Because it is Full Moon
They give life to the Planets

2. KONYA

Go to meet them veiled
Something is laughing inside you
and you still don't know what
Go among them veiled
You know who they are
they know nothing of you
Yes go veiled
The moon behind the cloud
Does not break her journey
Go among them veiled
You are beginning
to know yourself
If that is what they want
go veiled
They have made you the same as the others
They have made you different
Go to them veiled
You have entered their city
You have eaten their bread
Go with them veiled
Here you're in the circle
dancing with them

3. MY PEOPLE

Some call them a wild people
driven from the beaches by settlers
but the women of Sagir
goddesses smiling like crescent moon
Another kind of wildness
Of barbarousness

4. ANTIOCHIA OF PISIDIA

In the city of the Moon
In the city of Men
Signs rise in clouds
and secret chambers open

5. PEARL

Lunar luminous pearl
in the womb of a sleeping
drunk dragon dreaming
of giving birth to the moon

6. THE HOUSE OF MENANDER

In the meanders
of the Menander' house
Tethys lives
Tethys with wings in her hair
Tethys seawind
Thetys naked
The sea
Around her fishes flying
like my thoughts
following a strange image
of you
Men
god son man
Moon

7. WARS

Sun born of Moon
obscures her night
Arms the armies

We live in a world where
what is Moon is sin
Where Sin, the Moon, is sin
No longer Shamas for us
No longer the Sun
for the women

Wars

What happened
to the dance of Lissa
Sun and Moon in the hands
a wheel turning on herself
giving birth to the planets

Lady of the universe
darkened by blood offerings

War songs
War cries
War gods

Sun against Moon
Moon against Sun

The time when stars
made war on the stars
This is the sin

8. STARS

Elsewhere

High on the Karakuyu
with open arms
I touch both Sun and Moon

On the same stone
the same dream
Sunset and moonrise

An instant of marriage
One star setting
while the other rises

Every day every night
A long dream
A song

Stars

9. THESE ARE SIGNS

You know me
A modern woman
You find me
at congresses
near power
But in me there is *other*
Another semantic system
We can call it
Ancient Woman
When I listen to her
I understand other things
These are signs
When the door opens
and the answer to your question
arrives
These are signs
Before going to the mountain
a black dog appeared
watching us
eye to eye
These are signs
Really the cat
that follows you now
is the one that
first followed you
Don't be afraid

Do not fear
These are signs
We can't know
from whom or what
If it is all
a blank page
we are reading it

10. ON THE TURKISH ROADS

Look, my Sicilian uncle
is getting on the bus
He's just like he was
thirty years ago
Miracles happen
on Turkish roads

11. THE DOGS OF YALVAÇ

Goodbye
Black dog of Yalvaç
Goodbye
White dog of Yalvaç
I go to Haçilar on the lake
I go but do not leave
Mount Karakuyu
Goodbye
Red bitch of Yalvaç
canine Artemis
with long dugs
I hope today as well
they will offer you
your daily bread

12. CROSSROADS

Trees with long trunks grow
at Yalvaç's crossroad
destined to firewood
Behind the door of stone
Beyond Antiochia city

13. ROSE SCENT

Scent of roses
Of death
In my dream
Something is over

14. BACK

Stone teeth on the earth
At Edçilar pass
do not look back

15. BLACK EAGLES

Sagalassos
on the mountain crest
Crown of black eagles
over my head

16. SULTAN

The bull dared the moon
Horns dashed
against the snowy Sultan
Against memory

17. CIRCLING

Snow on Dedego Dagilar
Snow on Barla Dagi
Black clouds against the sun
Haçilar on Eğidir Lake
Haçilar on Burdur Lake
On every lake a village
called Haçilar
Around every lake
a road like this one
with a bus like this
circling it

18. TURNING

Turning around myself
I grow confused
Looking for myself
I get lost

19. LADY OF DOOM

Yesterday I was rich
Today I have nothing
Shining lady of doom
the Moon

20. BLACK ECATE

Nameless
horned with serpents
stares at me
Eyeless

21. ANA TANRIÇA

Me of earthquakes
Me of the double-edged axe
Me on the throne of leopards
Me with the moon and the bull
Me of the beginning
and of the end
and of the returning

22. HARMANÖREN

Every Lake
is the eye
of God

23. MYSTERY

In the first hollow
I shall place my soul
I shall mix it
with water and meal
In the second hollow
I shall mould it
From the third hollow
I shall take other flour
From the fourth
with my hands
I shall sprinkle water
In the fifth hollow
I shall light a fire
The sixth is a hot stone
The seventh hollow is the *tandır*
So I prepare my *yuaçka*
Come to my table

24. GELVERİ

Wild horses
beat inside me
in the vallies of Gelveri
Come to me

25. DERINKUYU

A deep well
swallows me
Echoing air
rotating

26. KAYMAKLI

In the rock cavities

new awareness
and ancient Mysteries
leaven

Egg in egg
seasoning below
around the Black Stone
of Kaymakli

27. THE TEMPLES OF THE GRAPE

Daughter of the moon
blood of Dionysus
milk of lion
The transformation of the grape
was the most secret of all

Breath and time
transmuting
the happy humour of must
into drunken vapor

There below
the temples of the grape
sheltered in the Earth

And the dance
the song
and the poetry

28. THE SEED OF THE TREE

In the Dark Church
bird feeds on it
It flowers on the rug
where Mevlana prays
It protects the doves
of Ishtar
To those buried
it promises rebirth
By nourishing it
we become tree
What a life
in the little seed
What a light
in a little pearl

29. WHAT IS THIS CROSS

North
West to East
South

What is this cross

I draw on the map
Christ's tree
Father and Mother

30. GÖREME

You cannot see
In truth
without seeing
we can see

31. TO THE APOSTATE GIULIANO

Who knows
what you meant
by carrying from Pessinus
the black stone of Cybele
What message you sent
to the world
What you read
in your failure
Sometimes
a delicate scion
does not graft
Yet the seed
that is spat
on the earth
becomes a laurel
Because of your dreams
the nest of a stork
now crowns you

32. ONE

Slow clouds drift
over Uçhisar's rock
There below I see *all the things*
All in me
One

33. DEATH

The illumination is
a little death
The great one
may take us thus

34. AKBABA

What are we
On a stone
birdshit
dust stars light

35. JAR OF WATER

I am a little jar of water
on the mule's back
And I am the water
And the jar
And the mule

36. MARGA

Looking for the pearl
I turn from my way
Turning to my path
I discover the pearl

37. THE TURNING DANCE

The wind is turning
I turn the corner
I turn away
I turn, a wheel
Motionless I move
turning into pearl
turning into moon
I turn myself into myself
and turn turn turn
in the whirling dance

38. IT DISAPPEARS

How the image
of that is turning
disappears

39. SHAMS

*(Among cushions, veiled
with azure eyes she nurses
her daughter)*

I succumb to the evening
I retire
Shining night of mystic union
And definitive abandonment

Shams!

40. LISTEN

Not the turning stars
but the infinite space
between them

NOTE

1. Dervishes: mystic men, their turning dance (*sema*) is a form of communion with God; **Planets:** the dance may date back to a sacred astral ritual.

2. Konya: sacred city of Islam, in the heart of Anatolia, where Mevlâna Jalaladdin Rûmî lived, one of the greatest mystic poets of the world literature.

3. Sagir: mountain village above Yalvaç, where a temple of the moon is supposed to have existed; **like crescent moons:** the half-moon is the symbol of Men, Anatholian god of the moon; the sign persists in the crescent, the islamic half-moon.

4. Antiochia of Pisidia: the Roman city near Yalvaç, connected by a sacred way to the overhanging temple of Men; **Men:** the cult of the young Anatholian moon-god intersects with those of Artemis, Demeter, Cybele; **secret chambers:** the caves under the temples.

5. Sleeping dragon: guardian of the pearl or mystic treasure, like the female dragon Illiuanka asleep by wine in the hittite pantheon, or the dragon that appears in the Christian legend of Margaret of Antiochia, patron of the birth, whose name means pearl, due perhaps to distant and indirect memories of birth mysteries.

6. Tethys: pre-hellenic creatress goddess of the sea and of the rivers, nurse of Dionysus, correlated to the moon.

Menander: Μέν-ανδρος (Μην-αγούρτης, priest of Cybele).

7. Shamas: Mesopotamian god of the sun; **Sin:** Mesopotamian god of the moon; he also is the Sun of Mevlana; **Lissa:** Goddess of Dahomey of the sun and of the moon that doesn't ask bloody offerings.

8. Karakuyu: mountain of the temple of Men, over Yalvaç, the ancient Antiochia of Pisidia, in the last full moon of 2000, while the songs of the evening pause of Ramadan rise; **moonrise:** when the moon rises.

11. Black dog: the dogs are impure in Muslim tradition, however Mevlana preached to them and they understood; **Haçilar:** neolithic site, near Burdur; **Artemis:** pre-hellenic goddess of the birth and the moon; in Hellenistic representations, goddess of many breasts; **your daily bread:** the offering of bread, divine bread, the dispensation of bread.

13. Scent of roses: traditional Anatolian perfume, scent of the bodies of Christian saints carried from Anatolia.

14. Stone teeth: the teeth of the dragon, the bones of the earth, a transmutation forbidden to watch, secret of childbirth.

15. Sagalassos: ancient city above Isparta.

16. Sultan: Olympus mountain, in the north of Yalvaç.

17. Dedego Dagilar, Barla Dagi: between the lakes and Konya.

20. Nameless: Burdur Museum, unidentified exhibit n.1366. It could represent the triple Ecate, in her night hierophany of black moon.

21. Ana Tanrıça: Anatholic mother goddess, that of Çatalhöyük; now in the Ankara Museum; **Me:** the Mesopotamian name of the attributes of the goddess; **earthquakes:** the eruption of Hasan volcano, reproduced in the paintings of the neolithic city.

22. Harmanören: a place over great Lake Eğidir.

23. Tandir: arcaic Turkish oven, dug in the rocky ground to cook flatbread (*yuaçka*), surrounded by vessels of different dimensions and functions.

24. Gelveri: the name means "come to me", epithet referring to God in the mystic poetry of Mevlana.

25. Derinkuyu: the greatest subterranean city of Cappadocia, in Turkish "deep well".

26. Kaymakli: subterranean city, rich in ovoid cavities, devoted to the cult of wine and oil; **Black Stone:** circular, anthracite, cupellated, from the valley of Ihlara.

27. The temples of the grape: the more ancient levels of the subterranean cities of Cappadocia, such as Derinkuyu and Kaymakli, have rooms for squeezing grapes, which are stored in surrounding rooms; **Daughter of the moon:** the transformation of the grape, connected to the lunar phases; **milk of lion:** sacred alcoholic drink; **breath and time:** in one of the dervish customs, the same word, *dem*, means wine, breath and time, being the trasformation of must assured in the hypogeum by the sapient system of circulation of the air and by the right time of sedimentation.

28. Dark Church: the name of the Cappadocian church with a painting of the symbol of the seed which grows into the tree of life, together the dove (in Greek *περιστερά*, from the Semitic perasch-Istar, bird of d'Ishar).

29. Cross: marking the intersection of the sky with the earth, the tree connecting them.

30. Göreme: a place in the centre of Cappadocia, the name means "you cannot see".

31. The black stone of Cybele: carried by Giuliano in Rome to favour the cult, destined to die out; **the seed:** the propagation of faiths proceeds like pollination; **the nest of a stork:** a stork has built her nest at the head of the monument to Giuliano, in Ankara; in many traditions the stork is symbol of immortality.

32. Uçhisar's rock: the highest monolite of Cappadocia.

34. Akbaba: in Turkish vulture, the animal who tears flesh from, represented in the frescoes of Çatalhöyük.

36. Marga: in Latin pearl, in Mahāyāna terminology the way.

37. The turning dance: "to turn" means to whirl, to turn on one's own axis, to wheel, to change direction, to transform and to transform oneself, and to translate. "Turn" means, amongst other thing, a round, rotation, bend, fold, but also stroke, start, crisis, evolution and even revolution of the planets. A dance that children execute spontaneously. The whirling dance.

39. Shining night: the night of 17th december, end of the annual dervish ceremony, dedicated to Shams, or Shamas, the "sun" of Mevlâna Jalaladdin Rûmî, mystic lover.