



## Tanpinar's 'Five Cities'

By Ahmed Hamdi Tanpinar, translated by Ruth Christie

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### First English translation of Ahmet Hamdi Tanpinar's 'Beş Şehir'.

Five Cities, ably translated by Ruth Christie, is a first-rate achievement and an important addition to any collection in which Turkey features prominently.

—Vince Cxyz, [Arts Fuse](#)

Ahmet Hamdi Tanpinar's 'Five Cities' was first published in Turkish as 'Beş Şehir' in 1946 and revised in 1960. It consists of five essays, each focused on a city significant in Anatolian history and in Tanpinar's emotional life. Part history, part autobiography, part poetic meditation on time and memory, 'Five Cities' is Proustian in style, with a tension between a backward-looking melancholy and a concern for the unpredictable future of the author's country. Comparable to Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk's 'Istanbul: Memories of a City', 'Five Cities' emphasizes personal attitudes and reactions but has a wider scope of geography, history and culture.

### Contents

1. Ankara; 2. Erzurum; 3. Konya; 4. Bursa; 5. Istanbul;

### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Ruth Christie studied Turkish language and literature at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, UK. She has translated a large number of works of Turkish fiction and poetry into English.

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