

NIKOS KAZANTZAKIS

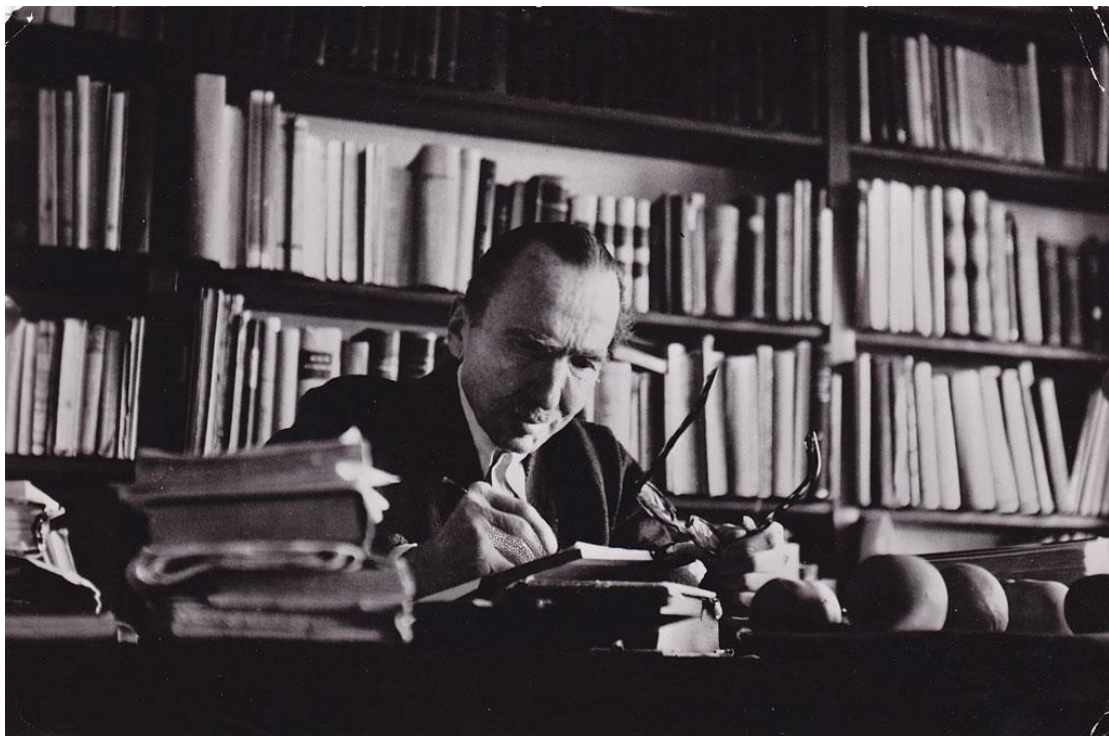
Nikos Kazantzakis was born in Heraklion in 18th February 1883 in Turkish-occupied Crete. He studied law in Athens (1902-1906), and did postgraduate studies in philosophy in Sorbonne (1907-1909), where he was deeply influenced by the philosophical principles of Bergson and Nietzsche. At this time his systematic engagement with the letters begins. He travelled overseas several times as a correspondent for newspapers. He served as general manager at the Ministry of Health (1919), was appointed Minister without Portfolio (1945) and worked as a literature consultant at UNESCO (1946). He was president of the Society of Greek Writers. Widely considered a giant of modern Greek literature he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in nine different years. In 1957, he lost the Prize to Albert Camus by one vote. Camus later said that Kazantzakis deserved the honour "a hundred times more" than himself. He died on 26th October 1957 in Freiburg, Germany. He is buried on the wall surrounding the city of Heraklion near the Chania Gate, because the Orthodox Church ruled out his being buried in a cemetery. His epitaph reads

"I hope for nothing. I fear nothing. I am free."

He considered himself primarily a poet, having written *The Odyssey*, a magnificent work with 24 rhapsodies and 33,333 verses. He was distinguished in dramaturgy (*Prometheus*, *Kapodistrias*, *Kouros*, *Nikiforos Fokas*, *Constantine Paleologos*, *Christopher Columbus*, etc.), in writing travel impressions (Spain, Italy, Egypt, Sinai, China and Japan), in *Philosophical Essays* (*Ascetic*, *Symposium*, etc.). However, he is best known for his novels: *Life and Times of Alexis Zorbas* (1946), *Christ Recrucified* (1948), *Captain Michalis* (1950), *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1951), *Reference to Greco* (1961). His work has been translated

and edited in more than 50 countries and has been adapted for theater, cinema, radio and television.

Heraklion airport is named after Nikos Kazantzakis.



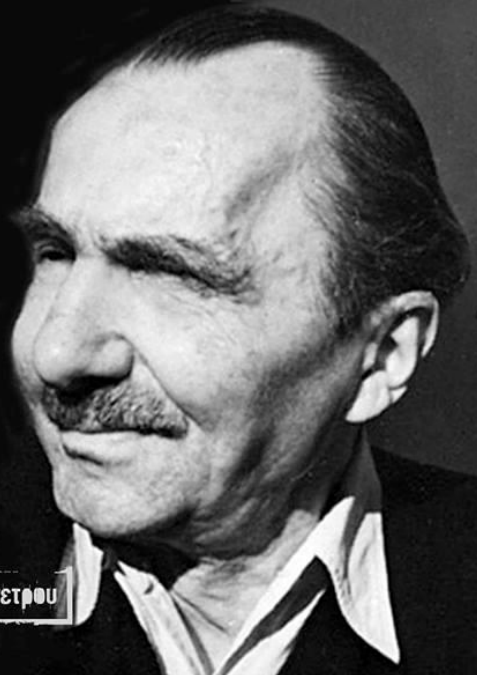


Κάθενας παίρνει το ανάστημα του οχτρού που μαζί του παλεύει.
Μου αρέσει κι ας χαθώ, να παλεύω με το Θεό.
Αυτός πήρε λάσπη κι έπλασε τον κόσμο, εγώ λέξεις ...
Αυτός έκαμε τους ανθρώπους όπως τους βλέπουμε να σούρνουνται στο χώμα
εγώ θα πλάσω με φαντασία και αγέρα, με το υλικό που πλάθονται τα όνειρα,
άλλους ανθρώπους, με πιο πολλή ψυχή, ν' αντέχουν στον καιρό,
να πεθαίνουν οι ανθρωπίοι του θεού και να ζουν οι δικοί μου.

Ντρέπομαι ν' αναθυμούμαι την εωσφορική τούτη αλαζονεία,
μα ήμουν νέος τότε, και νέος θα πει να επιχειρείς να γκρεμίσεις τον κόσμο
και να χεις το θράσος να θες να οικοδομήσεις έναν καινούριο, καλύτερο.

Νίκος Καζαντζάκης (Αναφορά στον Γκρέκο)

festivalaki:cretan festival of arts & culture



**Η ζωή δεν είναι δίκαιη
αλλά αξίζει.
Αξίζει να τη ζήσεις.**

Νίκος Καζαντζάκης

ανδρέας πετρου

VASILIKI KOILADI, 3RD GYMNASIUM OF HERAKLION CRETE

ERASMUS+ KA2 PROJECT, “MY HERITAGE, OUR FUTURE”

INFORMATION ABOUT IMPORTANT LOCAL PEOPLE OF CRETE WHOSE NAMES WERE GIVEN TO STREETS AND OTHER CENTRAL LOCATIONS OF HERAKLION CITY.