



# The meaning of water in Nemili-nedragi

**a novel by Ivan Vazov**

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# Introduction

Nemili-nedragi is a short novel written by **Ivan Vazov**.

The book depicts the life of the Bulgarian rebel refugees in Romania, in the years shortly before the **Liberation**.

In the beginning of the story (**Chapter 2**), water is represented in the form of the river Danube, which is the border between Bulgaria and Romania.



# Water represented in the story

*„И те ходеха често на брега на Дунава и гледаха зелените хълми на България. На̀, тя е там, усмихва им се, вика ги, говори им, показва им небето си, показва им огнищата им, възпоминанията им, мечтите им...“*

*“And they often went to the coast of Danube and watched the green hills of Bulgaria. There it is, it smiles at them, calls them, talks to them, shows them its skies, their fireplaces, their memories, their dreams...”*

*From Nemili-nedragi, ch. 2*

# The meaning of water in the novel

The water here represents the separation between the exiled rebels and their homes, as well as their feeling of *saudade*. As they look across Danube, into Bulgaria, they know they're a few steps away from returning to their motherland, their home and their families.

Yet they know they cannot go back yet. Not while it is *under the yoke* of the Ottomans.



Thank you for  
your attention!

Antoan Dimitrov

