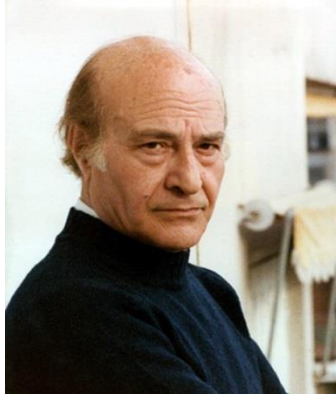




ODYSSEAS ELYTIS

“When the first rain- drop fell the summer died”



Odysseas Elytis was born on 2 November 1911 in Heraklo, on the island of Crete, and died in 1996. He was one of the most important poets and the last representative of the literary generation of the 30 's. He was awarded the National Poetry Prize and the Nobel Prize for literature. The Greek light, the blue of the sky and green-blue of the sea as well as the blessed hard soil, were the source of his inspiration to show the strength, the beauty and reconstructive power of the Greek language. He managed to make the Greek language known on a global basis, as a lot of his poems were translated in many languages. He taught us that the gust of wind, the warmth of the sun glean, the clarity of the blue sky, as well the rights of our country have a voice and can be heard, transported and can definitely make the world go round. His poems moved and inspired numerous poets. Among his best- known poems are “Axion Esti” meaning “Worthy It Is”, the Monogram, Sun the First, The Sovereign Sun, West of Sorrow, The small Cyclades, etc.

Quiz

- 1) Which was Elytis’ first volume of poetry?
- 2) When did Elytis take the Nobel Prize in Literature?
- 3) What does his famous and mostly translated poem “Whorthy It is” talk about?
- 4) Which famous Greek musician composed Elytis’ poem “To the Little North Wind”(that comes from his poetic collection entitled “The Small Cyclades”)?