



Endquote

Song of the Istanbul Hamsi Fishermen

*Oh I am a fisherman
and I fish in Emirgan
and I haul the mighty hamsi from the deep
I fish there come what may
and they seldom get away
and the ones I bring ashore I always keep.*

*Peep in my yoghurt pot
and you'll see I've caught a lot
although, with cig in mouth, I try to look blasé
I never show delight
even when my line is tight
as if 'eight at once' just happened every day.*

*Oh the hamsi he is strong
several centimetres long
and he wriggles like a devil to be free
but he knows he's had his lot
when I slip him in my pot
for he has a dinner-date at home with me.*

*So it's home at evening's chill
to Reshitpasha up the hill
with my hamsi pot a-bobbing on my knee
I'm not a layabout
and the bus is crowded out
so why does no-one come and sit near me?*

Hugh Mitchell

(Translator's note: 'Hamsi' is the Turkish word for 'anchovy'.)