

**NADYRBEK
ALYMBEKOV**

Translated from
Kyrgyz by
Richard McCane

THE ISTANBUL BAZAAR

*When you go into the Istanbul Bazaar,
there's no turning back!
There are so many people and shops
that even a prophet could not count them.*

*Longingly you search for old
and catch a grain in the sand,
but here it's overflowing,
only it's expensive.*

*The Bazaar is a mixture of happiness and vanity,
a refuge for poverty...
Although there are all sorts of foods in abundance,
yet the Bazaar is not heaven.*

*It stands in the heart of Istanbul—
you can't avoid it.
So long live the Bazaar:
it told me many things.*

Nadyrebek Alymbekov is a Kyrgyz poet writing in Russian. His poems in English translation by R. McKane have been published by Approach Publishing, London.