



After Chatwin's Songlines and the idea of 'singing the world into existence', Luxury Travel Stories is about the idea of connecting the world via 'stories' in postcard format: a photo with accompanying text. The old cliches of 'travel making the world smaller'- this is our way of singing the world into existence.

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Hafez in Istanbul

by TOK DALANG on Oct 14, 2013 • 2:51 am



Image: Wikimedia Commons

Hafez in Istanbul

I sit, wrapped in my beloved's embrace, on the upper floor of a nondescript bar in Ortakoy, regarding the Bosphorus from a distance. A sparkling, crystalline mass beneath the burning September sun, which seems to dance ever so lightly upon its waves, it flows onwards, undeterred by the ravages of time, and the hordes that have all laid a claim upon its cerulean expanse at one point or another. Lazily sipping away on the pints of lager in our hands, as if having all the time in the world, the call to prayer sounds, and a flock of birds hastily head toward us, only swooping upwards over our heads at the last second. Overlooking the world below, daubed in pastel hues of beige, pink, and blue, my hand in hers, I remember a verse by the Persian sage Hafez, whose ghazals once resounded in the now silent Ottoman palaces:

*A flower on my breast and wine in hand with my beloved fine;
On a day like this, the sultan of the world is but a slave of mine*

- [Joobin Bekhrad](#)

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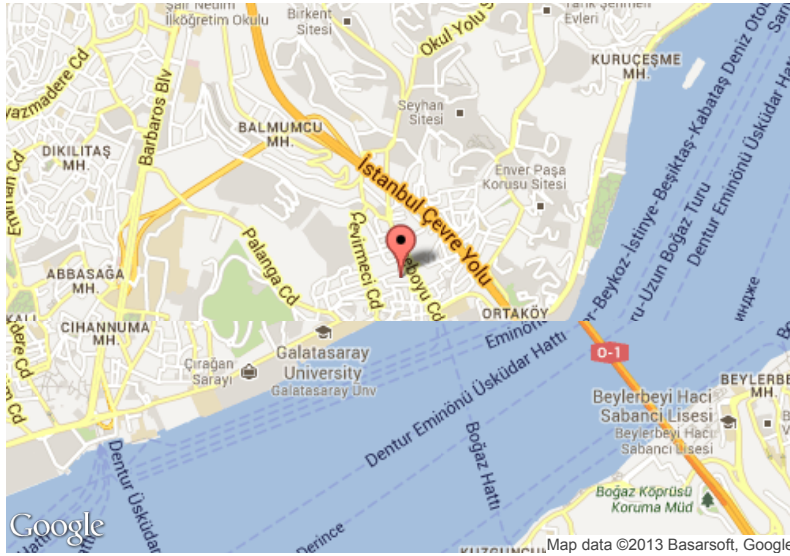
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