

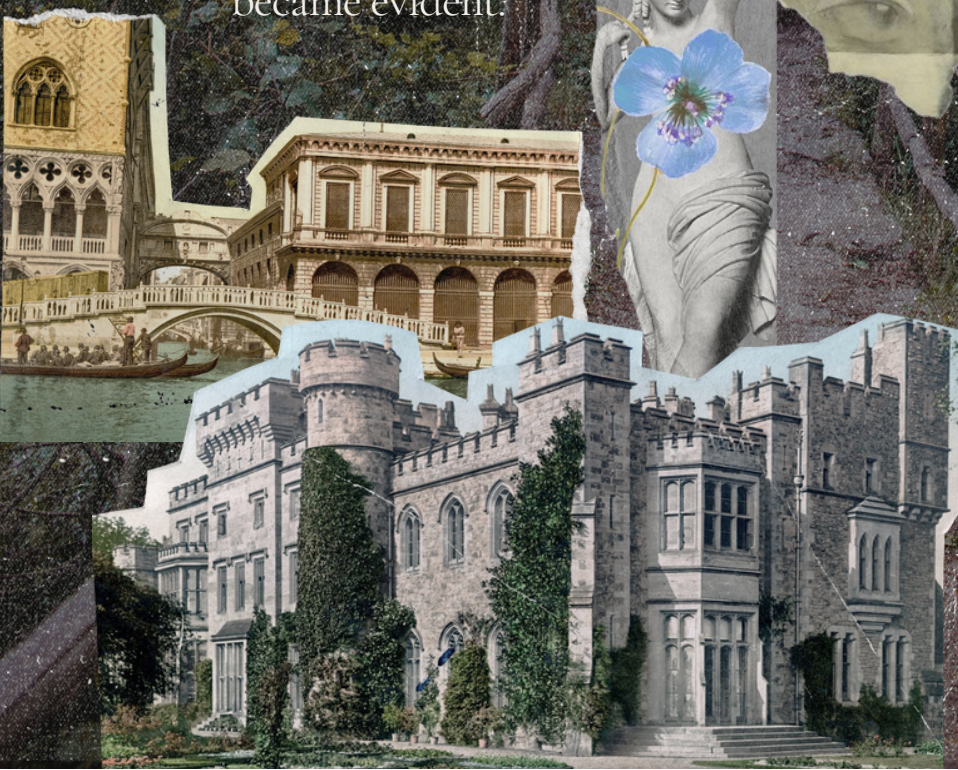
Beginning in the  
★ *Northern Aegean*,  
a gracious 1,500-mile  
journey unfolds,

beckoning travelers to explore ancient  
sites bearing imprints of the Greek,  
Roman, and Ottoman periods.

Journeying further,  
'the Turkish Tuscany'  
Şirince reveals itself.

As you wound our way  
through the night, the  
path illuminated only  
by the car's headlights  
and the soft glow of the  
moon, the area's  
undeniable charm  
became evident.

Rows of vineyards  
and quaint hilltop  
villages painted the  
landscape. Despite  
the summer tourist  
buzz, you can feel  
the village retains  
its tranquil  
essence, where the  
harmony of nature  
is occasionally  
punctuated by the  
sounds of its  
inhabitants.





Let the cool corrugated metal of our pickup provided  
a comforting contrast to the warmth of the night as  
we lay looking at the stars, contemplating our  
destination.

# Nesin Villages.





# Welcome to the *The* *Village*

\*This paper was crafted at the station with love.

The Station: The Nesin Villages Association is a hybrid community driven by both past and present participants of the Nesin Villages.

As students, coordinators, volunteers, and instructors, we organize programs, create modules, and design collective experiences for various groups and concepts.

We prepared this paper to share the unique story of our village, a narrative we all hold dear and through which we hope to invite new friends to our community.

Within this document, you'll discover insights into our daily lives in the village, understand what it's like to be a "villager," learn about the work we undertake here, and delve into the origins and intriguing stories behind our colony situated on the hillsides of Ephesus's mountains.

For more information, please contact us, and find useful links about the place at the end of this paper.



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**Nesin Villages** is a small village of about 13,5 acres, approximately 7,5 of which consist of olive groves. It is owned by the Nesin Foundation and is located 1 km away from the village of Şirince, tied to the Izmir.

Village is an educational and research institute devoted to mathematics art and phylosophy; At its core a place that was created so that young people could have a place to study and think about maths, art, philosophy and related areas – a safe place, a free place, a beautiful place.

The Village is a testament to sustainable living, houses constructed from rock, straw, and clay exude a humble yet inviting aura. Represents a possibly unique experiment in building a learning community in one of the most unexpected places on earth.



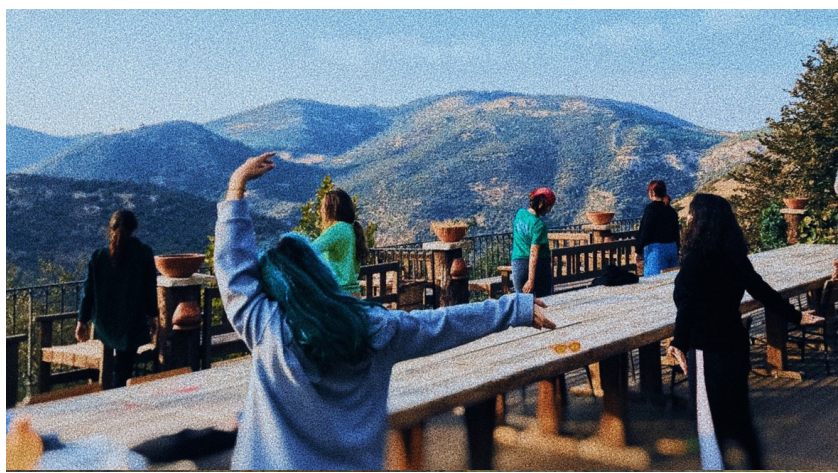
A non-governmental organization that has “colonized” a hillside and has dedicated itself exclusively to the nonprofit teaching and practice of mathematics and art.

The Village offers a democratizing platform by forming unlikely groups comprising different socioeconomic classes, ethnicities, political views, and religious beliefs.

People from every corner of our country and beyond, from different disciplines and backgrounds, come together to think, work, and express collectively. This provides a unique and invaluable opportunity to know one another and allows new dialogues to emerge.

Emerging as a beacon of education and culture, Nesin Villages has distinguished itself by offering short yet immersive courses to gifted students. Here, learners, spanning from high school to doctorates, immerse themselves in the realms of mathematics, art, and philosophy. Some are so captivated that they extend their stay for months, taking on roles as researchers or artists in residence.

The students are immersed in those different disciplines for the few weeks they are there, learning from the professors who teach, as well as from discussions among themselves.





**The village embodies the ethos of a creative common.**

A place where hierarchy fades and a culture of collaboration and collective ownership prevails. This communal ethos permeates every facet of the village's operations. Almost everything is done cooperatively, from learning to daily chores.

The villagers—us—share responsibilities, be it food preparation, gardening, or housekeeping, fostering a unique bond among its members.

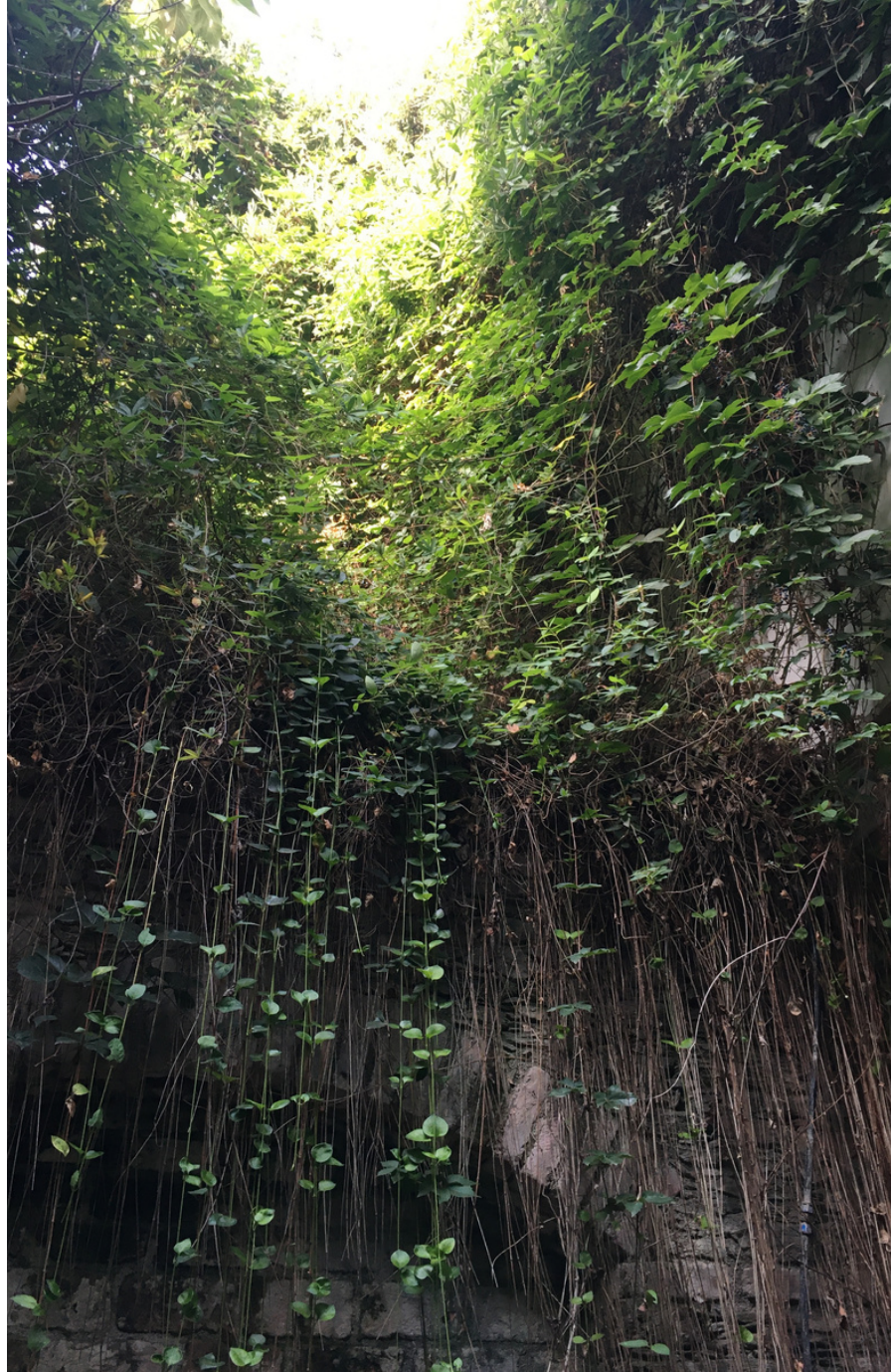




Just beyond the ancient olive groves and vibrant vines, one could glimpse slate boards covered in intellectual musings, a newly erected stone library housing mathematical classics, and passionate mathematicians and artists congregating over a stimulating problem.

Originally birthed in 2007 by Ali Nesin, a visionary mathematics professor, the village stands as a testament to the legacy of humorist writer and activist Aziz Nesin. An emblem of altruistic education.

Supported solely by generous public donations to the Nesin Foundation, this enclave spans 22,000 square meters, offering students from all walks of life an unparalleled immersive experience.





While the village pulses with activity, especially during the summer months, it remains a haven for concentration.

External distractions are kept at bay, save for the essential comforts of modern living. It's a hub that encourages intellectual pursuits, from primary education to advanced research.

The sound of crickets replaces the hum of televisions, yet modern amenities subtly weave through this idyllic setting. And whether it's spring or autumn, the village becomes an oasis for gatherings, be it academic workshops or serene getaways.







Based on the academia of ancient Greece, it is a place where mathematics or art is done at every hour, in any place, and in any position, horizontal or vertical.

A triumvirate of curiosity, the Village comprises the Maths, Arts and the Philosophy. Each is a testament to a vision—a sanctuary for young minds to freely explore the realms their minds adventures.

Our Village stands not just as an educational institution, but as an embodiment of a dream, a collective endeavor, an ongoing narrative of community, learning, and resistance.

“village belongs to us all”









NESIN VILLAGES

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*Education  
Understanding*





**Societies across world**, and the Turkey especially, **has become increasingly and overwhelmingly polarized**, particularly in the past twenty years, **where people with different ethnic, religious, cultural, political backgrounds, and social classes** hardly come together in **shared spaces**, have equal voices, and become members of the same communities.

**Educational systems strengthens this polarization even further.** The stark division between the private and state education systems keeps socioeconomic classes separate from very early ages up until university years. Additionally, the disciplines that we study- cannot afford to study keep us far apart.

The existing education system and its curricula cultivate discrimination against minorities as well as women, and independent creative from a heteronormative, patriarchal, and often nationalist perspectives.

**How can educational platforms re-invent their role, to gain relevance in our dramatically changing world?** How can our village contribute in an effective way to allowing us to imagine our collective futures based on an understanding of the past?

This is what a democratic school should be: **A collective learning platform that forms unlikely communities to be able to develop a more just, more equitable, and more sustainable future.**

S O H O W D O W E  
G E T T H E R E ?

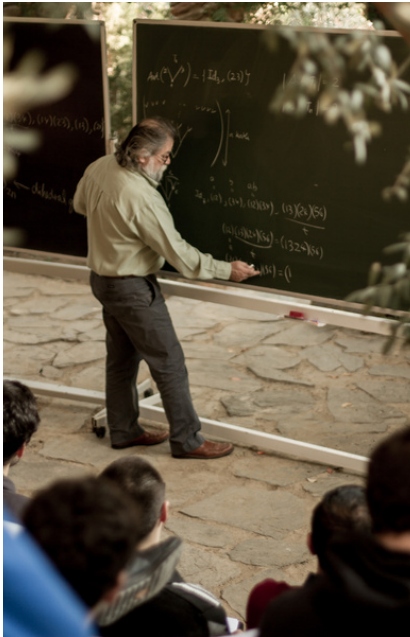


# 1/ THE VILLAGE AS A HUB

To transcend fragmentation and polarization we function as a hub, a civic laboratory. We use the village as a place for experimentation and collective analysis of our past and potential futures through artistic and cultural projects that we facilitate. This unique space that is created by our participants and workshop leaders lies outside of everyone's own close circuit and opens new channels for communication.







# 2/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Community engagement is at the core of our practices. It is critical that we transition from teaching the ever-same audience to engaging members of our entire society as co-thinkers and co-producers. It is only through this commitment to engagement, that education platforms can transcend their social bubbles and be sustainably relevant to real people and real communities in an ever-changing world. If new communities form around our activities and constitute themselves around the processes that we facilitate, then our village does and will serve to create social change. Schools are institutions, and they need to be versatile, capable, and well-prepared institutions in order to be able to communicate on eye level with the massive and powerful institutions that drive our lives and commons.





# 3/ TRANSDISCIPLINARY+ TRANSCULTURAL+ TRANSGENERATIONAL+ TRANSNATIONAL

Learning and collective action happen in zones of intersection and transitions. The problems we face are complex and they can no longer simply be subdivided into categories such as nature, art, political history, science, technology, and so on if we sincerely would like to understand these complexities. Additionally, these complexities cannot be addressed through specific mediums or from singular positions that represent particular national, ethnic or cultural groups. We reimagine and redesign our education system as radically transdisciplinary and will allow our village to become a place where unlikely communities are formed and evolve. Thus, the village immediately becomes an extremely relevant and inspiring model learning and collective action.



# 5/ COLLECTIVE LEARNING

To create social change, we must engage in co-creation that is based on collective thinking and collective learning. We must mobilize both the individual and collective memories and knowledge to co-imagine our collective futures. This lies at the core of our practices.







# 6/ DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION

Our study programs are designed together with our participants. We hear what they would like to learn, whom they would like to learn from and with, and with whom they would like to think and produce collaboratively. A true democratization can only happen when people from all backgrounds and corners of the country (and beyond) can access our programs. We make sure that our students create a true blending of all backgrounds, with a priority to disadvantaged and marginalized groups. This is one of the unique places where religious beliefs, political views, ethnic backgrounds do not separate people, in fact, do the opposite of that: we democratize our place for all colours and voices to be heard and actively partake in our programs.



# 7/ ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS & THINKING ECOLOGICAL FUTURES

Our current educational system does not truly encourage us to think about our connection to nature, how to sustain ourselves, how to think critically about our environmental issues. Our school brings voices of environmentalists, cooks, farmers, beekeepers, permaculture professionals, activists, urban developers, sustainable architects, social designers and many other professionals as part of our study programs, so that we think about our future together through larger yet specified perspectives.







# 8/ EMBODIED LEARNING

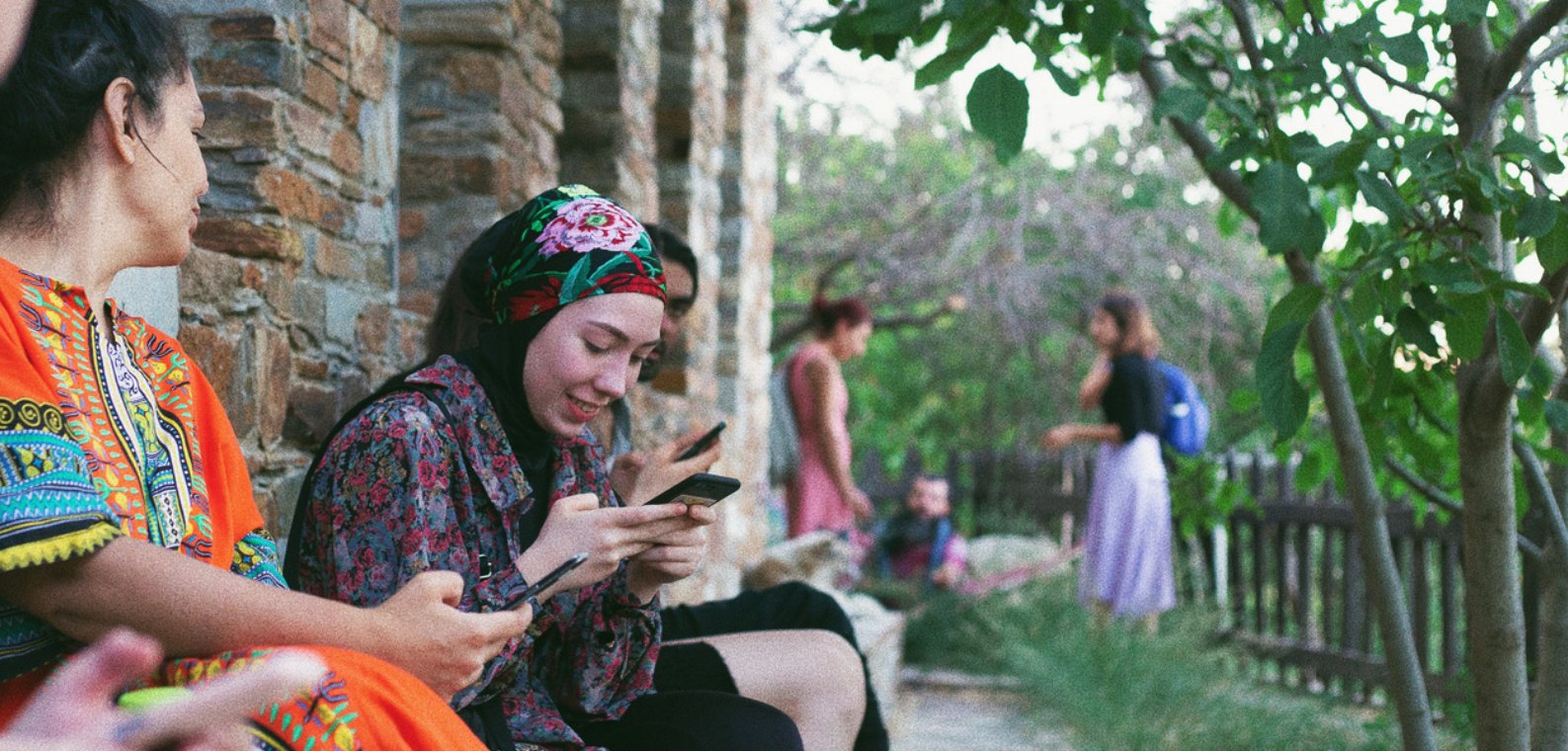
In a traditional classroom setting, the bodies are often neglected in the process of learning. Our students do not simply sit in classrooms: we engage with nature and partake in body-centered activities. We learn how to engage with our bodies. We invite performance artists, dancers, and other professionals who engage in bodily activities to lead us into embodied learning. We use the open spaces or transform our classes into to support embodied learning.





Bringing all these elements together makes our school a true alternative to the existing education system that cultivates separation between disciplines, and that, in its content and methods, encourages nationalism, classism, sexism, ageism, and other forms of discrimination.










NESIN VILLAGES

*Basic Principles  
of The Village*

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“IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO HAVE A PROPER EDUCATION IN AN ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT FREEDOM.

YOU CAN GIVE AN AVERAGE EDUCATION IN AN ENVIRONMENT WITH RESTRICTED FREEDOM, BUT NOT A PROPER ONE.”

-ALI NESIN

Many of the younger children arriving at the Village for the first time are excited to discover that the pursuit of mathematical understanding and artistic approaches is a communal activity of international scope which may continue throughout one's life.

Genders and ages are freely mixed and a certain number of older students mentor the younger ones throughout their stay.

Attendees at the summer programs take 8 hours of lecture per day, with each session lasting one or two weeks, depending on the topic.







SAFETY —  
INDEPENDENCE  
—  
RESPONSIBILITY

In 2014 Nesin had expressed his ideas to expand the Mathematics Village by constructing adjacent Philosophy and Art Villages with the words: “The whole valley should be dedicated to education, not a standard one but a ‘pirate’ one”.

This idea has been put into action, and the Nesin Villages is now a cultural magnet, and even a tourist attraction whose architectural principles have become fashionable in Turkey. Other independent schools has also been established on an adjacent site.

The governing aim of all these events are essentially the same: access to knowledge, education, and freedom based on Nesin’s principles of

safety — independence — responsibility,





# NESIN VILLAGE REGULATIONS

***The Nesin Villages (or The Village) is a place where freedom rules. Our freedoms here end only where others' freedom begin. No-one may interfere with anyone else's beliefs, lifestyle choices nor opinions.***

*The priority at the Village is study, thought and concentration. For this, a quiet and peaceful environment is necessary. concentration is a right. It's not allowed to disturb someone who is studying. Including questions like "what's up?" - except in cases of unpreventable emergencies.*

*Except on a few special occasions, there is to be no broadcasting of television programs or music at the Village at any time. This includes mealtimes.*

*The Village is firmly set against vulgarity, ugliness, dirtiness, and unbridled consumerism. For example, at the Village one does not litter - including cigarette butts - nor otherwise harm the environment, one does not put into one's plate more than one can eat, one turns off unnecessary lights, one does not curse or speak excessively loudly, etc.*

*Students at the Village will fulfil certain tasks which do not require too much time nor energy, such as dishes, cooking, watering, planting trees, or even sometimes construction work. They will perform these tasks satisfactorily and in rotation. No-one shall be assigned tasks beyond their ability or physical capacities.*

*The Village has adopted several cats, dogs, chickens etc, and many more have adopted us. These animals occasionally wander into common areas such as classrooms or the canteen. Please let us know if you have a phobia or allergies and we will do our best to control the animals (but may not always be successful).*

*Residents of the Village should understand that it was founded with very restricted means, with the help of the Turkish people, and at the cost of much sacrifice and hardship, and that it does not aim to make profit. They should act according to this understanding. Not to abuse their freedom and the trust placed in them.*

*The pine forest at the back of the Village is an important natural resource that must be protected. One should not smoke near this forest, nor litter with pieces of glass or lighters, which may cause fires.*

*- Village Mukhtar*





# Common Life Culture

We have a community-based way of thinking at the Village – almost everything is done cooperatively. As said above, our lecturers are volunteers, and the students who come to our camps help with cleaning, food prep, gardening work, laundry and dishes in rotation. This communal work helps them to feel a part of the village, but it's also a perfect way for them to bond and to gain new skills.



During their minimum two-week stay, all high school students will be under the responsibility of a “big brother or sister,” akin to scout leaders and almost always university students who have volunteered for the role. They make sure their group attends classes, goes to bed on time, and generally avoids hurting itself (no mean task considering it is composed of hormonal beings in close proximity to Sirince, renowned for its fruit wine!).





We have 22 permanent staff who work at the Village year-round. In the summers we have between 25 and 30 volunteers every week. Many of the Village's chores are done with the help of the students, teachers and volunteers. Our math camp lecturers are successful academics from all over Turkey and the world, and they teach here in return for room and board only - they even come to the Village by their own means.



Since the number of official staff at the Village is very low, it mostly operates on the commune model. Upon their arrival, students are split up into small groups containing a mixture of high school and university students, with a roughly equal ratio of each. For the next two weeks, these groups will complete the necessary chores to be done in the Village.

One day a group will help the cook peel potatoes, the next day it will be on rubbish duty, on the third day responsible for replenishing the various water coolers scattered around the Village, and so forth. Surprisingly enough, far from complaining about this work, many students feel that they have significantly contributed to life at the Village, thus getting a feeling of ownership and community which does not leave them even years later.









NESIN VILLAGES

# *Nesin Art Village*







Nesin Art Village (NAV) is an innovative art program that was launched in 2015 by the alternative education initiative. NAV aims to maintain an approach that focuses on criticality and independent production processes. It offers a learning environment for young people from around Turkey, through workshops and seminars to be carried out by artists, academicians, writers, and curators.





Ten years ago, after Turkey's Gezi Park protests had been suppressed through both police violence and an intense cleansing of academia and cultural institutions from alternative thought, we felt compelled to found a new environment that allows to offer a meaningful, uncensored, and critical collective learning space for young people all over the country that could foster the freedom to inquire and create meaning. As a group of cultural workers and artists, we founded Nesin Art Village as part of the Nesin Villages.

Every year, we welcome about 200 students from around the country, provide scholarships to everyone who cannot afford the two-week stay, and strive to keep our tuition affordable and our doors open. We encourage participation and self-organization from the start. Courses are taught by professionals, academics and artists from across the world who volunteer their time. The art village has created an enormous resonance throughout the nation, and it stands as a token of hope, demonstrating that change is indeed possible.

Contemporary art in Turkey seems to have a relatively established structure now, complete with its institutions, spaces, and market. However, issues of art (and) education do not seem to raise much discussion or attract alternative undertakings. On the other hand, in terms of institutional curricula – mostly skill and craft-oriented, strictly compartmentalized – contemporary art practices and related discourses are kept out of the scope of educational interest.





From day one, Nesin Art Village was conceived as a sustainable initiative, a project that constantly produces the skills and the energy that it needs to “run itself” and renew itself: Preparing a study program in, say, critical urbanism is a lot of work.

These programs at the Art Village are produced by former participants who now volunteer to continue the programming and serve as hosts and teaching assistants. We think this is a key capability and perspective that we should try to teach:

How can you build institutions that are able to sustain and renew themselves? How can you mentor the people who are able to soon make you obsolete?

Too many institutions don't manage to move past their founding generation. Too many initiatives live and die with one or two key people operating without any accountability, transparency or permanent renewal taking place. This also applies to academia itself. At Nesin Art Village, the students take active part in the programming of the educational seminars and their content.



NAV is leading by [Işın Önoğ](#) since 2015









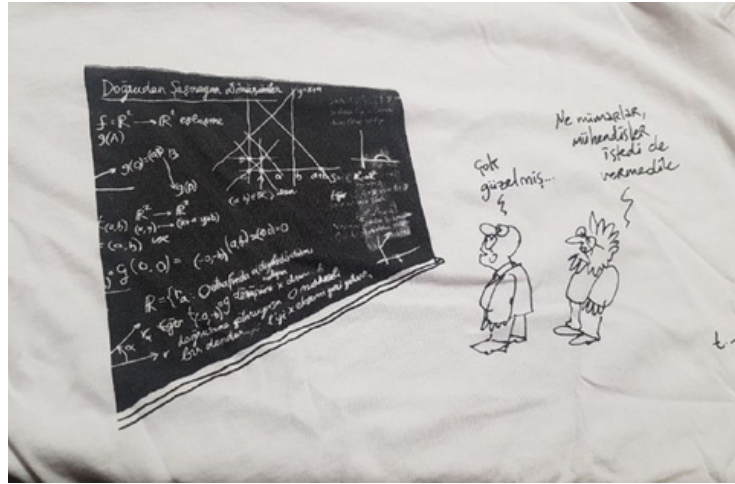
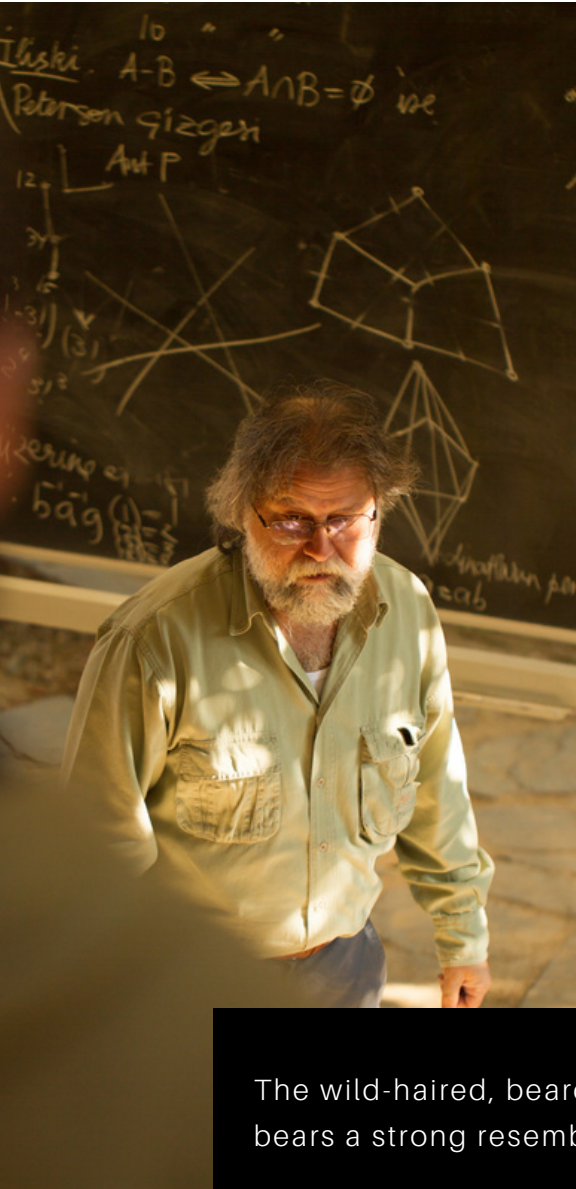
NESIN VILLAGES

*History & Origins*





The most popular T-shirt for sale at the Mathematics Village these days depicts a distracted mathematician who, after having completely filled his blackboard with a gigantic equation, simply keeps going on the wall next to it. The caption under it reads "Mathematicians without borders...."



The wild-haired, bearded, and bespectacled mathematician on the T-shirt bears a strong resemblance to the man who founded the Village, Ali Nesin. a well-known figure in Turkey, he owes part of that fame to his father, Aziz Nesin. A renowned writer and prominent leftist, Aziz was a pivotal figure in Turkish literature.

His successes in the literary world led to the establishment of the Nesin Foundation, dedicated to aiding underprivileged children by providing both shelter and education. The Mathematics Village and the Nesin Foundation are intrinsically linked, sharing a commitment to education and the free dissemination of knowledge.



# Aziz Nesin

1915 - 1995

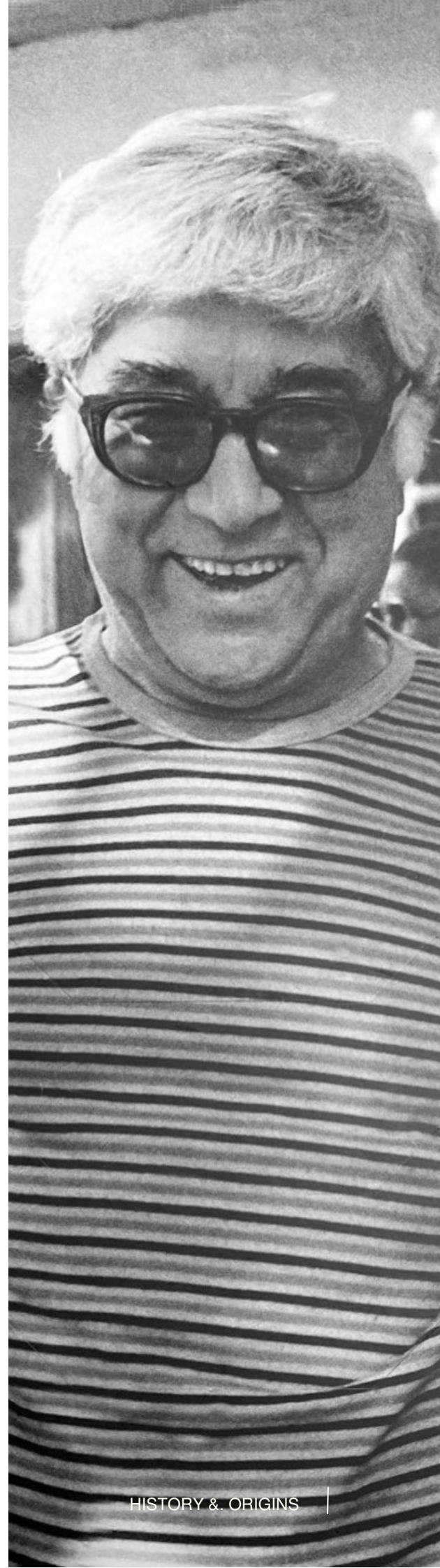
Aziz Nesin was a prolific Turkish writer, humorist, and the author of over 100 books.

Nesin was celebrated as a relentless satirist whose plays and short stories were woven with incisive remarks about Turkish democracy, bureaucracy, and an array of societal concerns such as willful ignorance, intellectual hubris, and, in his later works, religious fanaticism. He consistently voiced against oppression, satirized bureaucracy, and exposed economic disparities with narratives that merged local color and universal truths.

His audacious atheistic stance during the conservative-leaning early 1990s became a significant point of controversy in Turkey. He even translated Salman Rushdie's contentious novel, *The Satanic Verses*. Islamic organizations in Turkey targeted Nesin for his views. On July 2nd, 1993, during an cultural festival, an Islamist mob burned the Madimak Hotel, killing 37, in what's now called the Sivas massacre, escalating tensions over censorship and rights in Turkey.

Throughout his life, Aziz Nesin earned awards from nations including Turkey and the USSR. His works reached audiences in over thirty languages, living solely on book royalties. More than a writer, he was a staunch political activist, leading intellectuals against the post-1980 military regime in Turkey and presiding over the Turkish Writers' Union.

In 1972, Aziz Nesin established the Nesin Foundation and generously donated all his copyrights, encompassing every work, book, play, film, radio, or television appearance, to this foundation.







# Nesin Foundation

Founded in 1973, the Nesin Foundation is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with a mission: to ensure disadvantaged children, despite their limited educational opportunities, evolve into productive, self-confident individuals with altruistic values. They are taught to contribute more than they consume, continually self-improve, and approach the world critically.

Located in Çatalca, Istanbul, the foundation's primary facility welcomes around forty preschool or early elementary students. They reside at their discretion, departing only when they feel adequately equipped educationally and maturely to independently venture into society. A farm, spanning 36,000 square meters, is another prized establishment of the foundation not far from the main site. The Nesin Yayınevi (Nesin Publishing House) operates under the foundation's banner.

Many of these children, after growing up, maintain their ties, fostering a community that upholds Aziz Nesin's educational values, especially when Turkey's educational trajectory seems to deviate from them. The foundation acts as a sanctuary for children from economically challenged backgrounds, ensuring care and guidance until they can independently face the world. While Aziz Nesin's book sales predominantly fund the foundation, donations remain invaluable and are always welcome.





# Ali Nesin

Ali Nesin was born in Istanbul in 1957 and is a Turkish citizen. He completed his junior high school education at St. Joseph High School in Istanbul, later pursuing high school studies in Switzerland. He then studied mathematics at Paris VII in France. By 1981, he relocated to the USA, where he worked as a research assistant at Yale University, finishing his PhD in 1985.

His early academic career mirrored that of many gifted mathematicians harboring scientific ambitions. He occupied roles at major American universities, namely Berkeley, Notre Dame, and Irvine. From 1991 to 1996, he was an Associate Professor at the University of California at Irvine. It was during this time that his research gravitated towards algebra, with a particular emphasis on the interplay between mathematical logic, model theory, and group theory. Since 1996, he has held the position of Professor and Chair of the Mathematics Department at Bilgi University in Istanbul.

In his prolific academic career, Ali has penned 37 research articles in prominent mathematical journals. Together with Alexandre Borovik, he co-authored the highly-cited monograph, "Groups of Finite Morley Rank."





## 1995

Aziz Nesin devoted his last years to combating religious fundamentalism. He died on July 6th, 1995 due to a heart attack, after a book signing event in Çeşme, İzmir. After his death, his body was buried at an unknown location in land belonging to the Nesin Foundation, without any ceremony, as requested in his will.

Aziz Nesin's spirit lives on, an enduring flame in the hearts of generations new and old. His fearless convictions, unmatched humor, and thought-provoking ideas serve as a testament to the indomitable human spirit. In times of uncertainty, Nesin's legacy acts as a guiding light, illuminating the path for those brave enough to challenge conventions and dream of a brighter world.





## **A Pivot Back to Home: Ali Nesin's Return to Turkey**

The passing of his father marked a defining moment in Ali Nesin's life. Rather than advancing his flourishing academic career in the US, he felt a pull towards home.

His primary motivation was to ensure the Nesin Foundation's continued work. Yet, it was also an opportunity: Ali envisioned a Turkey where mathematics was deeply appreciated, not just as a subject but as a crucial force driving the nation's economic, social, and cultural ascent.

Upon his return, the newly-founded Bilgi University in Istanbul welcomed him to helm their Mathematics Department. With global aspirations, he championed advanced courses aiming to nurture graduates fit for the world's leading universities. Recognizing a gap in foundational understanding among students, he started additional sessions at his residence and later at the Foundation during weekends.

However, the challenges of managing these workshops, both financially and logistically, soon became apparent. Through these challenges, Ali recognized a deeper need—a transformative educational paradigm for Turkey.

A paradigm where foundational sciences underpinned innovation, progress, and societal upliftment. It was with this conviction that the concept of the unique "village project" began to crystallize in his mind.



Video

# *How we spend our summers in The Village ?*



*Nesin Villages, July 2021* 🌿

[Youtube](#)





NESIN VILLAGES

*How The Village Was Built,*

*A Village as a  
Revolutionary Act*

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In 2007, Ali Nesin bought a 2.5-acre plot of land one kilometer from Şirince. He had bought the land in a nice but remote area adjacent to the small village of Şirince. The idea was grand: build a village nestled organically in the deserted landscape. A place to transform the site into an inspiring environment aligned with the spirit of a new way of conveying mathematical understanding to Turkish youth.



Together with Sevan Nişanyan, a self-educated architect and also a prominent Turkish linguist, they undertook the construction of the village. Sevan was instrumental in making the Village the place it is today. His architectural knowledge, good taste, and boundless energy have been invaluable. The initial plans, drawn up by Sevan and Ali, were quite modest to begin with, although they have mushroomed over time.

That first summer of 2007, around one hundred students visited. Most slept in tents. Alongside their studies, these students and lecturers also cooked and cleaned for the whole group, planted trees, and helped construction workers carry materials and build walls. The structures were, and still are, built out of stone slabs, straw, and clay. The first lecture hall, the Robert Langlands Lecture Hall, was built around an old tree that still juts out of its roof. Other features included huge wooden beams from old train tracks and the climbing vines, which now provide shade.





*Photos from construction of the village: Students and workers and volunteers build the village together*



However, bureaucratic challenges were many. The authorities refused an official building permit because the land had no officially registered “street”. Ali tried very hard to register the already existing path as an official street but without success. Even though the Mathematics Village is outside the protected area of Şirince, authorization for construction was never granted owing to antipathy toward the Nesin name.

Still, Ali was persistent. He gave up the idea of getting official permission and simply began the construction. There were accusations: he was accused of founding an illegal educational institution and of “teaching without permission,” contrary to the freedom of teaching sciences guaranteed by the Turkish constitution. But, the Village is not a school in the traditional sense. Young people come for a week or two. There are no examinations, grades, or diplomas. It's a place for understanding, thinking, and reflection without distractions.

The challenges did not stop there. The Village was raided by Gendarmes and sealed. But the case was dropped, and Ali avoided prison. The Village was reopened and has since flourished.





The resistance to the village perhaps was also fueled by the antipathy to the Nesin name. If you ask the Turkish establishment, both Nesins, the father and the son, have been perpetual troublemakers.

Aziz Nesin repeatedly and pointedly spoke up about free speech and its violation, led the Turkish Writers Union at a critical time, and was the target of many death threats, most recently from radical Islamist organizations. Ali Nesin was charged with inciting rebellion in the army during his compulsory military training.

And so when the latter joined forces with Nişanyan, another known “troublemaker,” the fruit of their efforts would of course be suspect. In 2014, Sevan Nişanyan faced imprisonment on politically motivated charges, only to escape in 2017 and find refuge in Greece.

Ali, on the other hand, remained steadfast in his dedication to the cause of education, steering clear of any ideological stance.

The local and international community, students, and lecturers; played a crucial role in supporting Ali's vision; Allowed the Village to thrive and expand.





Yet, challenges persist. Every so often, there are reports in the Turkish newspapers about the Village's alleged unauthorized constructions. The Jandarma even arrested construction workers at times. As the fascist political aggression keeps increasing around Turkey, Nesin Foundation and The Village, come across more brutal acts, unfortunately. Lands try to burn down several times for example.



But with growing community support and international recognition, there's hope that these challenges will diminish.



As Ali Nesin said in his speech, "Anatolia is transforming... And the Village is a part of this change." Sevan added, "There are many beautiful dreams and so much to do! I dream of more such institutions near Şirince."



The Village stands as a testament to a dream- a first step; From the tragedy of commons; towards a revolutionary way of learning and living. A whole new way of being.

Some see education as a subversive, or possibly, a revolutionary act; now, on the mountains of the Turkish Aegean, we see that mathematics & art can be subversive or revolutionary.

"There is [a] vast amount of room for all sorts of unorthodox and creative ideas in the world.

Here is to that hope!"





## D E V E L O P M E N T

The Village has transformed into a significant scientific and artistic centre. It hosts a multitude of conferences, workshops, and seminars organized by various groups. In addition to these external events, we also orchestrate our own, establishing the Village as both an academic and artistic retreat.

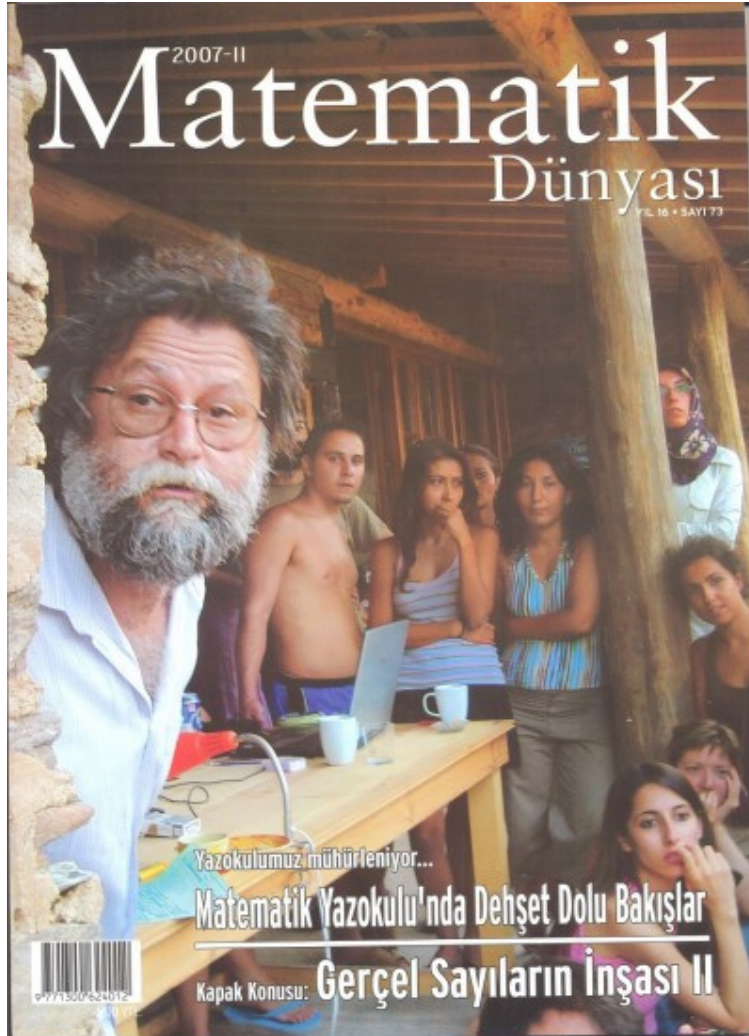
Much like the Maths Village, the Art and Philosophy Villages endeavor to present an alternative to the prevailing education system. They provide participants with a conducive environment to delve deep into subjects, grasp intricate concepts, and foster creativity.

Welcoming young individuals from all over Turkey, these villages champion a comprehensive understanding and production of art and philosophy.



## LEELAVATI PRIZE

In 2018, Ali Nesin received the esteemed Leelavati Prize. This accolade celebrated his exemplary contributions and relentless efforts in elevating the public's appreciation of mathematics in Turkey. A significant part of this recognition was attributed to his visionary creation of the "Mathematics Village", a tranquil haven for education, research, and mathematical exploration for a diverse audience.





## T O D A Y

The total land area spans approximately 37.5 acres, nestled amidst nature. Not a single significant tree was felled during its construction. From its inception to now, the Village and its adjacent areas have seen the planting of over 5,000 trees and large plants.

Currently, we boast 17 dormitories that can accommodate 170 students and 55 houses with a combined bed capacity of 106 for our dedicated instructors and staff. Our educational infrastructure includes 4 indoor classrooms, a library enriched with roughly 7,000 books spanning mathematics, art, and philosophy, and a conference hall seating 200. We also house 3 Art Workshops, each accommodating around 40 individuals.

For relaxation, we have separate Turkish baths for men and women, 20 communal bathrooms, and 32 toilets. It's noteworthy that our dormitories come equipped with their own bathrooms and toilets.

Our three dining halls can serve 110, 80, and 80 guests respectively during the colder months. Additionally, we have two amphitheatres with seating capacities of 250 and 50, and 3 open-air classrooms.

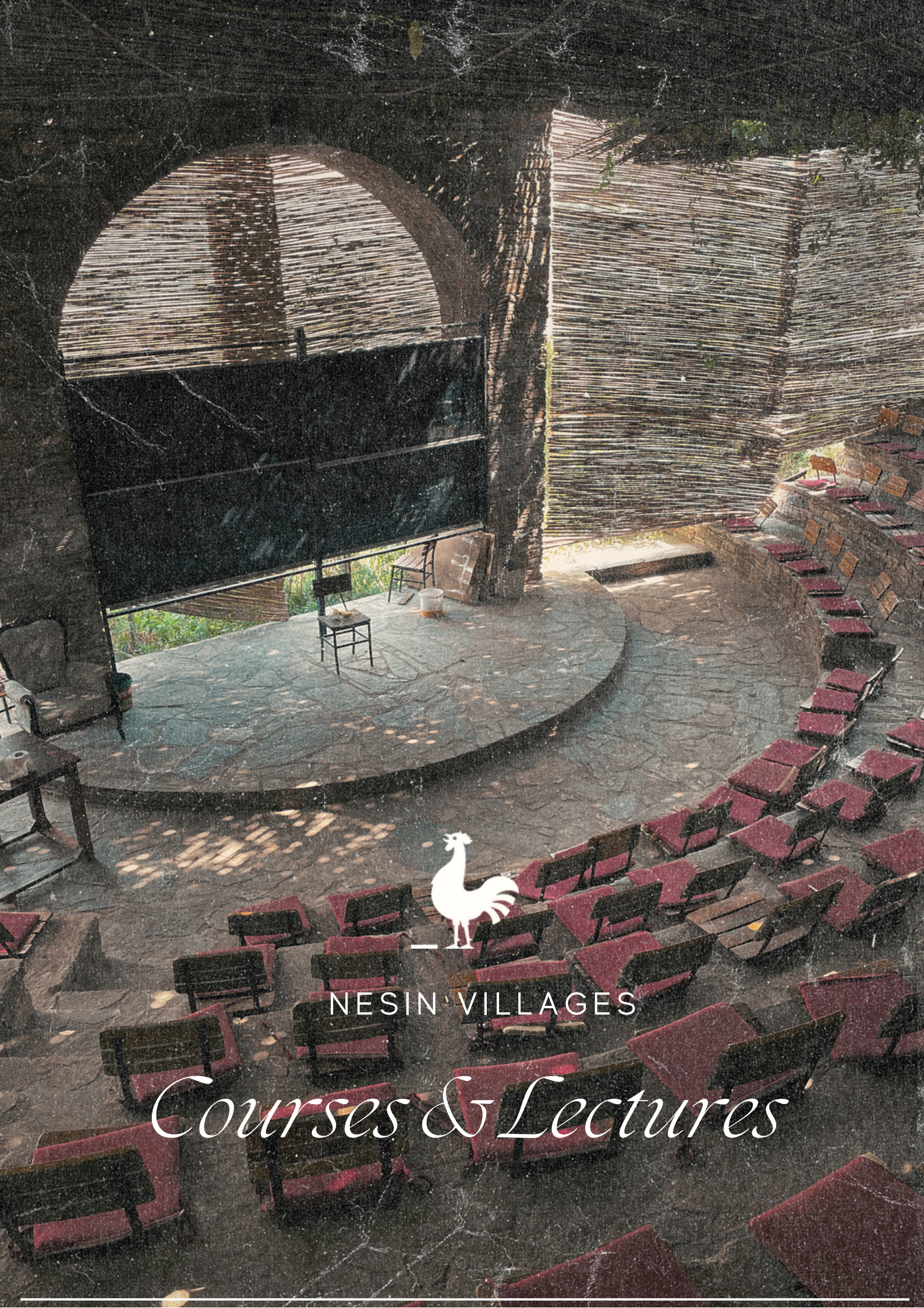
We have designated many outdoor spaces as "work sets" and another as "sleep plate." Our shaded outdoor dining area offers a refreshing ambiance for meals. All our structures are resiliently built from stone.

During the warmer summer months, students have the option to reside in tents. As of 2022, our village capacity expanded to host 400 students weekly. The Village is dotted with tranquil corners perfect for solo study, as well as more expansive areas for larger group interactions.









— NESIN VILLAGES

*Courses & Lectures*



# COURSES & LECTURES

## 2020/2023



### WITTGENSTEIN SUMMER CAMP

Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein is a pivotal 20th-century thinker known for groundbreaking ideas that changed philosophical paradigms. His early work, like the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, and later thoughts are seen as separate milestones. His challenging writing style reflects his intense quest for truth, and his life mirrors his philosophy. Wittgenstein's influence spans various fields, including arts and music, with many creatives inspired by him. This camp aims to deeply explore Wittgenstein's significance, focusing on his philosophy and its contextual relevance during his era.

### AESIM SCHOOL ON MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATIONS OF TRUSTWORTHY AND EXPLAINABLE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial Intelligence, or especially Machine Learning, algorithms are becoming increasingly crucial in our life. They make high-stakes decisions for us, but their outcomes are often hard for humans to understand due to the intricate structure of these mathematical models. This opacity led to the emerging field of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), which focuses on explaining these models' decisions post-training or creating interpretable (simplified) models through optimization algorithms. Moreover, these explanations should be supported by algorithms that maintain the privacy of the individuals whose data are used in training. The mathematical theory behind them is nascent. This course aims to introduce these findings and their practical applications. \*Needs foundation in multivariable calculus, linear algebra, probability, and basic machine learning concepts.

### CRITICAL APPROACHES TO MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

We are passing through a period where anti-immigrant sentiments are rapidly rising and becoming a significant topic in party politics. However, these policies or policy proposals are far from promoting peaceful coexistence or offering innovative and democratic solutions for social integration. As migration is a multifaceted societal issue, we believe that it's essential to have open discussions on the topic. Cover areas like thesis writing in social sciences and migration, the academic publication process, peer-review mechanisms, and interactive studies on migration and art.

### TOGETHER AT THE THRESHOLD - ARTISTS AND CURATORS

Engage in an intensive program that delves deep into both artistic and curatorial facets. Participate in theory-driven, practical workshops aimed at enhancing communication, understanding current art programs, bolstering portfolios, and strategizing for open calls and educational opportunities. The goal is to foster a collaborative environment where artists and curators collaborate, ensuring sustainable relationships and shared insights. Additional guidance will be available for optimizing applications to artist residencies and related programs.



## FROM PLATO TO DARWIN: PURPOSES OF NATURE CAMP

Is it possible to speak of purposes in nature? Does understanding a natural phenomenon mean grasping what purpose it serves or what function it performs, as teleological approaches claim? Or are the purposive processes we observe in the natural world merely illusions resulting from the limitations of our cognitive abilities? Can we distinguish between cosmological and biological purposes? Does the theory of evolution have room for teleology? Can teleology forgo the concept of a regulating, rewarding, or punishing God? Where does teleology end, and where does randomness begin? The primary aim of this summer school is to discuss questions related to teleology in nature within a historical context.

## POSSIBLE AND IMPOSSIBLE PROJECTS WORKSHOP

Gathering in the inspiring reality of the Village, far from our own realities, we aim to dream, contemplate, expand our horizons, and explore new possibilities while trying to detach from the physical reality parameters. By focusing on speculative dreaming, free from the constraints of the physical world, projecting these dreams with various production methods, and trying to depict and share our dreams without any methodological or technical limits. As the program's name suggests, we aim to design both possible and impossible projects, discover new possibilities, and broaden our perspective accordingly.

## THE LIFE OF THE EARTH: RESUSCITATION WORKSHOP WITH SOIL MATERIAL

Explore the dynamic potential of soil through hands-on and theoretical approaches. Starting with a tactile village soil walk, this workshop dives into animation, using the stop-motion technique to capture soil's responsiveness to elements like rain, wind, and vegetation. Participants will craft animations depicting micro-narratives with nature as the protagonist. The workshop will also shed light on soil's significance in 20th-century art movements and provide foundational knowledge in stop-motion techniques.



## ARCHITECTURE CAMP: IN SEARCH OF THE OBJECT AND THE 'THING'

Within the framework of the program determined in the unique context of Nesin Villages, we come together to establish interdisciplinary relations and partnerships; The aim is to open a space for interdisciplinary thinking and questioning on spatial practices and to create a common education and discussion platform in the Villages. We intend to open the "spatial discourses" of different disciplines for discussion and to share our stories by speaking, moving, drawing, and shaping. This program is intended for Architecture and Design faculties, but also welcomes anyone with a curiosity about "space".

## ART AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Program focuses on exploring social justice in the current political climate in Turkey through art creation and theory. The workshop emphasizes topics of social injustice, gender, differences, political violence, human impact on societies, environment and climate, inequalities, and critical thinking in art. It includes seminars and discussions and encourages collective thinking and co-creation through artistic workshops. The aim is to critically analyze political violence and explore social justice through artistic inquiry.





### ŞIRINCE HEGEL SUMMER CAMP

Hegel is among the most distinctive and influential figures in the history of thought. His philosophy is often associated with the concept of "dialectic" and has implications beyond the philosophical world. We will delve into Hegel's systematic thought, examining works ranging from the Science of Logic to Philosophy of History, Phenomenology of Spirit, Aesthetics, and Philosophy of Right. Anyone interested in Hegel, working on Hegel, or planning to, whether at high schooler, or postgraduates, can apply.

### CONCEPTUAL DEPTH CAMP IN ANALYSIS AND ALGEBRA

Focuses to build deeper understanding of the axiomatic structure of mathematics, especially basic analysis and algebra; limit and continuity in depth. It's tailored for those curious about the applications of these subjects in mathematics, engineering, science, and humanities. The aim is to develop a clearer perspective and delving into the fundamental concepts of model theory, we aim to reach a level where we can apply them in algebraic situations.

### BECOMING US: AN EXPLORATION OF THE BODY AND MOVEMENT IN GROUP LIFE

This workshop investigates the human social condition using artistic methods that highlight the mind-body relationship. It delves into the power of free expression in forming individual identities and fostering group cohesion. It emphasizes the importance of understanding and connecting with our bodies, which carry our histories, ancestral habits, and the conditions of our origins. The workshop introduces practices rooted in East Asian traditions, contemporary dance, theatre, and Gaga movement techniques. Through readings and discussions, participants explore themes of power, leadership, empathy, belonging, and identity.

### CONCEPTUAL ART, POETRY AND SPACE WORKSHOP

This workshop explores poetry from an interdisciplinary perspective, considering its relevance beyond literature. It discusses the poetic elements in visual arts and tackles issues related to structures, forms, borders, styles, narratives, meanings, and representations. The course is open to high school and university students, young artists, and poets with an interest in texts and conceptual art. Participants should have a basic understanding of English, as most readings and videos are in that language.

### \*ANTHROPOLOGY CAMP

These lessons will primarily involve discussions and conversations. The objectives are to define the concept of culture; understand human diversity from an intercultural perspective; explore the links between environment and cultural elements. Aim is to understand cultural differences through the principle of relativity; examine various cultural components, such as production, economy, politics, language, religion, family, social order, and gender; Also challenge the anthropology's role in solving contemporary challenges.



## LINGUISTICS SUMMER CAMP

Language ability has always been a prominent distinguishing feature for humans. As globalization spread, similarities between distant languages were discovered, leading to the establishment of comparative linguistics. Linguistics expanded greatly over time, posing questions from various perspectives. Participants with a background in linguistics will also benefit.

## CLASSICAL IONIA ARCHAEOLOGY CAMP

Camp's focus on the classical period of Ionia. We will start with lessons on the political and cultural history of the region from the archaic period to the Roman Empire. Later lessons will delve deeper into Ionian archaeology. We've also planned trips to archaeological sites and museums, to experience the region's archaeology firsthand.

## PHILOSOPHY OF FREEDOM SUMMER CAMP

Freedom, intrinsically linked to humanity, has perennially been a central theme in philosophical debates. Given contemporary misunderstandings about freedom, there's an amplified demand for philosophical discourse on the subject. The camp's seminars will elucidate aspects of freedom, both theoretically and practically.

## WEEK OF THEORETICAL PHYSICS

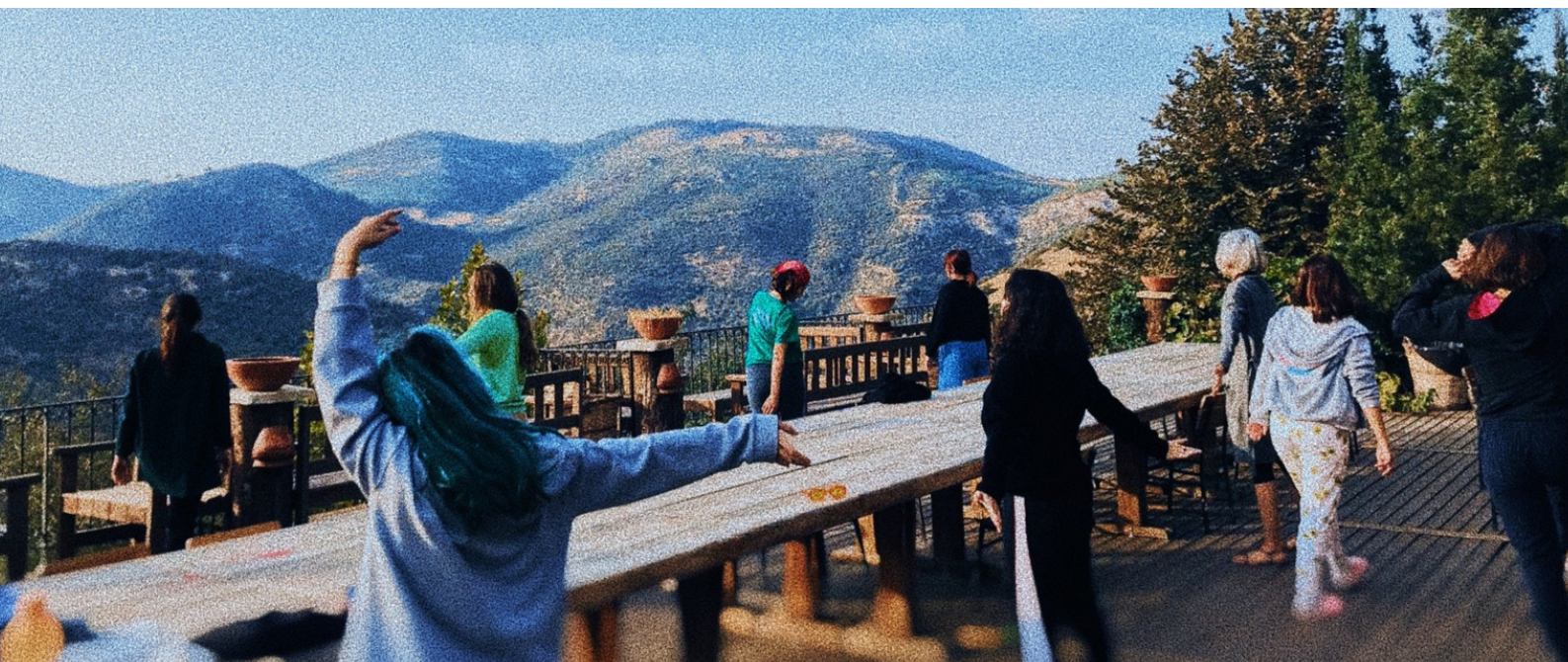
To cover analytical and modern geometric formulations of classical mechanics, understand classical field theory (especially electromagnetic theory) as gauge theories, and learn the foundations of quantum mechanics. Topics include Lagrange mechanics, Hamilton mechanics, field theory, geometry, gauge fields, and quantum mechanics.



## COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE NATURE-HUMAN RELATIONSHIP, CREATING PHILOSOPHY FROM ART AND VIDEO FILM PRODUCTION

Workshop revolves around examining the human-nature relationship, exploring thought from an artistic angle, and collectively producing video art with participants. It's a platform to experience the liberating aspect of art, delve into critical thinking, and understand the multifaceted relationship between humans and nature. Themes like attention, value, dimensionality politics, and environmental philosophy will guide our discussions.







A hand holding a small green plant against a background of a tree trunk and dense foliage.

# the station

NESIN VILLAGES  
ASSOCIATION





# the station

NESIN VILLAGES  
ASSOCIATION

*hello!*

The Station is a hybrid community driven by the past and former participants of the Nesin Villages.



As students, coordinators, volunteers, and instructors; we are organizing programs, creating modules, and designing collective experiences with different groups and concepts.

Based on our long-standing relationship, we can say that the Nesin Villages, beyond the unique educational opportunities it offers in the fields of mathematics, art, and philosophy, has become a turning point in our lives with the common life culture it has brought to us.

For this reason, we want to keep this special relationship with Nesin Villages alive in every situation, even when we are out of the village boundaries.





# the station

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**Nesin Publishing House**  
[nesinyayinevi.com](http://nesinyayinevi.com)