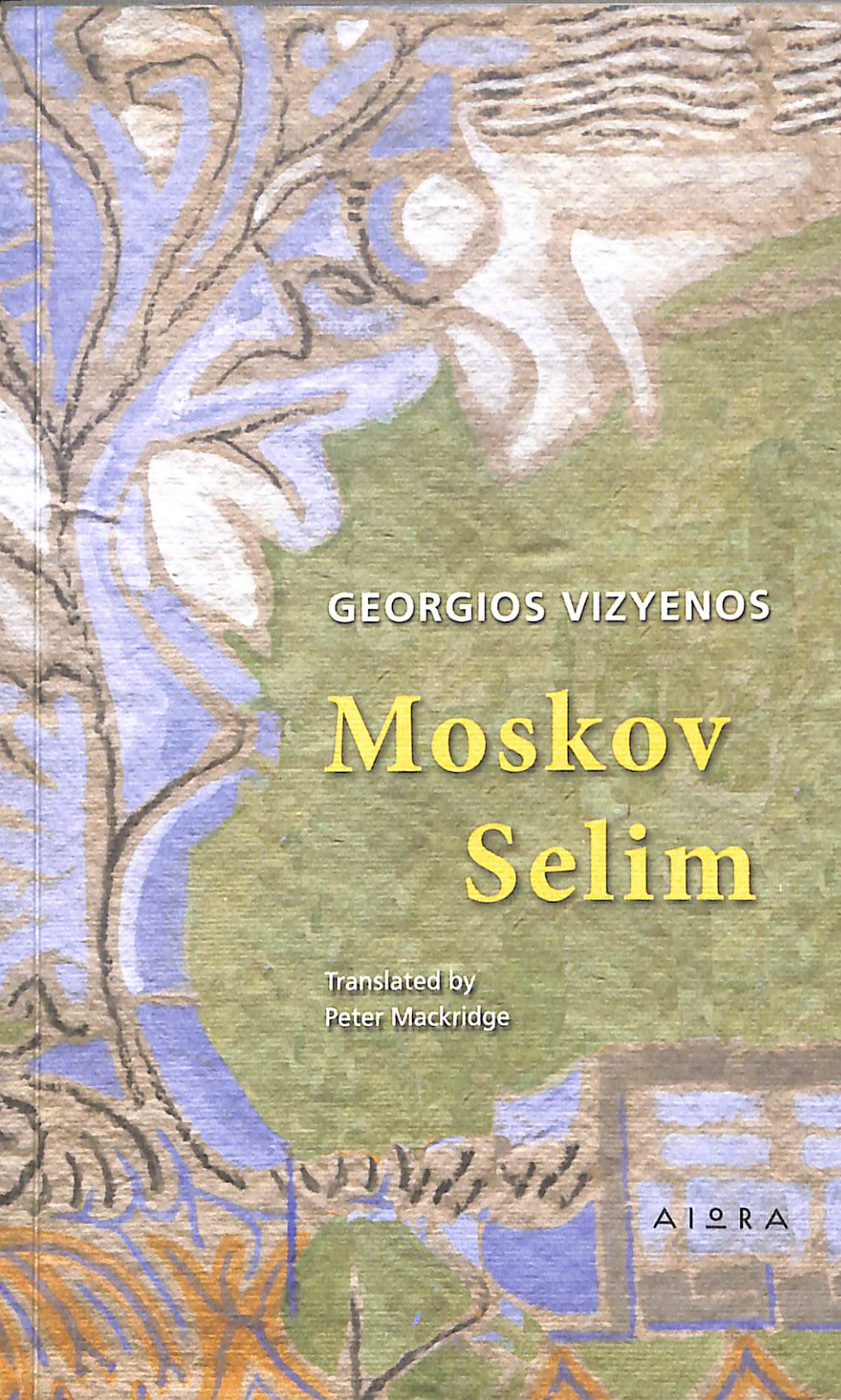


The background of the book cover is an abstract painting. It features a large, stylized tree on the left side with a brown trunk and branches, and leaves in shades of blue and white. The right side of the cover is dominated by a large, green, textured shape that resembles a landscape or a large leaf. In the bottom right corner, there is a small, stylized building with a brown roof and blue walls. The overall style is expressive and painterly.

GEORGIOS VIZYENOS

Moskov Selim

Translated by
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ΑΙΟΡΑ

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Peter Mackridge is Emeritus Professor of Modern Greek at the University of Oxford. He has published several books on modern Greek language and literature, including two co-authored grammars. His most recent translations are *Thracian Tales* by Vizyenos and a story by the 19th-century author Alexandros Papadiamandis (both 2014), and *The History of Western Philosophy in 100 Haiku* by the 21st-century poet Haris Vlavianos (2015).

Original title: *Ο Μοσκόβ Σελήμ*

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Reprinted March 2022

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ISBN: 978-618-5048-27-3

AIORA PRESS
11 Mavromichali st.
Athens 10679 - Greece
tel: +30 210 3839000
www.aiorabooks.com

Georgios Vizyenos (1849-1896) is one of Greece's best-loved writers. *Moskov Selim* is set in Thrace, a corner of Europe where Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria meet. Selim is a Muslim name, yet "Moskov" implies that he is a Russian. Vizyenos' fascinating and moving story is set during a time of constant wars between Russians and Turks whose outcome would decide the future of south-east Europe: Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria were becoming independent of the Ottoman empire, while Greece was to gain huge territories at the empire's expense. Although Istanbul would remain in Turkey, it would no longer be the seat of the Ottoman Sultan, who, as caliph, was the leader of the world's Muslims.

Vizyenos' story evokes a time when Greeks and Turks could share each other's joys and pains despite the hostile relations between their governments. Listening to the protagonist's life story, the narrator of *Moskov Selim* discovers that this Turk is a kindred spirit, despite the gulf of nationality and religion that separates them.

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