

# *neotolia*

Nazan Nihal & Utar Artun

NEOTOLIAN SONG



*neotolia*  
Nazan Nihal & Utar Artun



# 1. Bir Varmış Bir Yokmuş Hayat (Once Upon A Life)

featuring Bassam Saba and Tahir Aydođdu  
Lyrics by Nazan Nihal

Bir vamiř bir yokmuř hayat  
Çođu dıřında azı iinde yařarmıř  
Iřık olmanın su olduđu yerlerde  
Herkes karanlıktan korkarmıř

Bir varmıř bir yokmuř hayat  
Tadına doymaz sonundan kaılmazmıř  
Kaynađı tekmiř, farklı sanan insanmıř  
Gerek olamayacak kadar gzel bir yalanmıř

Ařk ile sultanmazsa, solarmıř ruhlar zamanla...

Bir varmıř bir yokmuř hayat  
Öze dnmek yuvayı bulmak pek bir zormuř  
Sonsuz sınavlar diyarıymıř  
Affettike yaralar teker teker kapanırmıř

## *Translation:*

Once upon a life -  
In which the majority lived outside of it, and few lived within -  
There were places where being light was considered a crime.  
Still, everyone feared the dark.

Once upon a life -  
A life so insatiable, with its end so inevitable -  
It all came from a singular source.  
(Though mere humans thought otherwise...  
For it was a lie too good to be true.)

Souls wither in time unless watered by love.

Once upon a life,  
The journey home (to the seed of our humanity) was arduous.  
It was a realm of endless tests.  
But wounds were healed, one by one,  
as people gave forgiveness to each other.

## 2. Thrill of the Chase

featuring Arto Tunboyacıyan and Dave Weckl

### 3. Deęişmek Cesaret İster

(Change Takes Courage)

featuring Bassam Saba

Lyrics by Nazan Nihal

Bir yıldız gibi kayarken semalarında

Senin hala benden haberin yok

Hep inkarlardasın,

Yokmuşum hiç olmamışım gibi davranmaktasın

Acılarım gerçek

Hayallerim gerçek

Kayıp giden gençliğim

Umutlarım gerçek

Deęişmek cesaret ister

Sevmek emek ister

Aydınlık karanlığı örter

Birkez olsun iste yeter

Bir zamanlar vardım şimdi yokum

Başka bedenlerde can bulurum

Sen o zaman da tanımazsın beni

Yüreęi kör olanın gözleri görmez ki.

*Translation:*

While I'm falling like a star in your heaven,  
You still don't notice me.  
You are always in denial -  
Acting like I am not here; that I don't even exist!

My pain is real,  
My dreams are real.  
My fading youth and  
My hopes are real.

Change takes courage;  
Love takes effort;  
And even the softest luster eclipses the darkness.  
Just ask for it, even once!

Once, I was alive in other bodies - but no longer.  
I am reincarnated anew.  
You wouldn't recognize me now, either...  
For those with blind hearts are sightless.

## *4. Neotolian Song*

featuring Yazhi Guo and Tao He

Lyrics by Nazan Nihal

Neotolian is a language invented in 2016 by Nazan Nihal for this album.

She drew inspiration from ancient Anatolian civilizations, languages, and cultures.

Sterrabey rona řaova  
Sterrabey apaulwana

Luvia kixeroseonoa  
Luvia anni eya  
İmmaramua kixeroseonoa  
Luvia anni eya

Xera Jiriniye werema  
Jiriniye kadınna  
Ay stranimeya kistemiyea  
Ah malidimai me Luvia

Sterrabey kessera  
Luvi anni izreya  
İmmaramua lusatra  
İsatari tatti annieya

Tatti anni issari  
Sarri avis jiyana  
Gewre řiyan arha  
Beze kata ziparwa



## *5. Manastır Türküsü* *(Song of the Monastery)*

A Traditional Turkish Folk Song

Manastırın ortasında var bir havuz  
Aman havuz  
Bizim yurdun kızları hepsi de yavuz  
Biz çalar oynarız

Manastırın ortasında var bir çeşme  
Aman çeşme  
Bizim yurdun kızları hepsi de seçme  
Biz çalar oynarız

Manastırın ortasında var bir pınar  
Aman pınar, canım pınar  
Bizim yurdun kızları hepsi de çınar  
Biz çalar oynarız

### *Translation:*

There is a pond in the middle of the monastery:  
Oh, what a beautiful pond!  
Such wit, the girls of our homeland have!  
We dance and play music!

There is a fountain in the middle of the monastery:  
Oh, what a beautiful fountain!  
What a catch, these eclectic girls of the land!  
We dance and play music!

There is a spring in the middle of the monastery:  
What a beautiful, dear spring!  
The girls in this land are as magnificent as sycamores!  
We dance and play music!

## *6. Rondo Afro Turea* featuring Joey Blake

*7. Gül Kuruttum  
(I Dried Roses)*

featuring Naseem Alatrash  
A Traditional Turkish Folk Song

Gül Kuruttum Gül Kuruttum  
Yâri Sinemde Uyuttum  
Yâr Söyledi Ben Unuttum

Ah Akabinde Düştü Gönül  
Yârdan Ayrılması Müşköl

Gül Ezerler Gül Ezerler  
Gülü Tabağa Dizerler  
Güzeli Candan Severler

Ah Akabinde Düştü Gönül  
Yârdan Ayrılması Müşköl

*Translation:*

I dried roses, I dried roses...

I let my love sleep on my chest.  
My lover whispered to me.  
I'd forgotten that moment...

Ah, then my heart fell!  
It is hard to be parted from my love.

Roses are crushed, roses are crushed -  
Roses are strewn on plates.  
How dearly is the heart's beauty loved.

Ah, then my heart fell...  
I can't bear to be parted from my love.

## *8. Pendulum*

featuring Layth Sidiq

Lyrics by Nazan Nihal & Dawn Elder

Ups and downs will last forever.  
There will be love - and sometimes hate.  
Obsessions cling; feelings are flying  
Eternally...

Eternally...

No one said life would be easy,  
And no one said it would be that hard.  
All I can do is wake up each day  
Breathing each moment like it was the end.  
Your smile:  
Always in my mind.

Eternally...

Ups and downs will last forever.  
Right or wrong; standing together.

## *9. Lydianie*

ft. Bruno Råberg, Jussi Reijonen, & Giuseppe Paradiso  
An Ancient Lydian Poem

est mruvaad saristroól sfarvad aótrkol  
vāηταάς νίθη arel kataredkms iskoós  
αιήís qidad savń vratul arótānsrés kasnod

kóbltalács atrgoil tafaał fabalkol  
avkaή ētamī uvedmas vared tal sfatos  
kotaś θat qedktrad θfísad ísaałal umīod

Saristroól Srkastuś Katovalis súloś  
datrośis qalmlad qis labtā nal atrokl  
śfardak Artimuł dān θaqrlal aótrkol

fakít est inal adałl aksaakml iskod  
vānrakt esīaή ifrol qis fakorfid katofn  
buk mruvaal fak-mlataή víśśis vaarś nid kantrod.



## 10. Değmen Benim Gamlı Yaslı Gönlüme (Don't Touch My Sorrowful, Mournful Heart)

featuring David "Fuze" Fiuczynski  
A Traditional Turkish Folk Song

Değmen benim gamlı yaslı gönlüme  
Ben bir selvi boylu yardan  
Ayrıldım, ayrıldım, ayrıldım of

Evvel bağban idim dostun bağında  
Felek vurdu ayva nardan  
Ayrıldım, ayrıldım, ayrıldım of

Garip kaldım şimdi gurbet ellerde  
Ben gönlümü çalan yardan  
Ayrıldım, ayrıldım, ayrıldım of

Çok ağladım Leyla gibi çöllerde  
Şirin gibi nazlı yardan  
Ayrıldım, ayrıldım, ayrıldım of

### *Translation:*

Don't touch my sorrowful mournful heart!  
I've parted from my tall lover...  
We've been separated, separated, separated, oh!

I used to be a gardener in my friend's vineyard...  
But destiny got me, and I left behind  
those quinces and pomegranates.  
We've been separated, separated, separated, oh!

I am lonely now, in a foreign land.  
I am severed from the lover who stole my heart.  
We've been separated, separated, separated, oh!

I cried a river in deserts like Layla, and  
I have lost a lover as delicate as Şirin.  
We've been separated, separated, separated, oh!

## 1. *Bir Varmış Bir Yokmuş Hayat*

*(Once Upon A Life)*

featuring Bassam Saba and Tahir Aydođdu

Lyrics: Nazan Nihal

Music: Nazan Nihal & Utar Artun

Vocals: Nazan Nihal

Qanun: Tahir Aydođdu

Ney: Bassam Saba

Grand Piano: Utar Artun

Fretless Electric Guitar: Jussi Reijonen

Upright Bass: Bruno Råberg

Percussion: Giuseppe Paradiso

## 2. *Thrill of the Chase*

featuring Arto Tunçboyacıyan and Dave Weckl

Music: Nazan Nihal

Arrangement: Utar Artun

Vocals & Percussion: Arto Tunçboyacıyan

Oud: Jussi Reijonen

Grand Piano: Utar Artun

Upright Bass: Bruno Råberg

Drum Set: Dave Weckl

## 3. *Deđismek Cesaret İster*

*(Change Takes Courage)*

featuring Bassam Saba

Lyrics: Nazan Nihal

Music: Nazan Nihal & Utar Artun

Vocals: Nazan Nihal

Ney: Bassam Saba

Electric Guitar: Jussi Reijonen

Grand Piano: Utar Artun

Upright Bass: Bruno Råberg

Drum Set: Giuseppe Paradiso

Choir Director: Semih Bayraktarlar

Children's Choir: Zehrenar Şenova,

Eylül Hasemođlu, & Emily Aktaş

## 4. *Neotolian Song*

featuring Yazhi Guo and Tao He

Lyrics: Nazan Nihal

Music: Nazan Nihal & Utar Artun

Vocals: Nazan Nihal

Dizi: Yazhi Guo

Erhu: Tao He

Cello: Naseem Alatrash

Grand Piano: Utar Artun

Classical Guitar: Jussi Reijonen

Upright Bass: Bruno Råberg

Drum Set: Giuseppe Paradiso

## 5. *Manastır Türküsü*

*(Song of the Monastery)*

Traditional Turkish Folk Song

Arrangement: Nazan Nihal & Utar Artun

Vocals: Nazan Nihal

Grand Piano: Utar Artun

## 6. *Rondo Afro Turca*

featuring Joey Blake

Music: Utar Artun

Vocals: Joey Blake, Nazan Nihal

Oud: Jussi Reijonen

Grand Piano: Utar Artun

Upright Bass: Bruno Råberg

Drum Set: Giuseppe Paradiso

## 7. *Gül Kuruttum*

*(I Dried Roses)*

featuring Naseem Alatrash

Traditional Turkish Folk Song

Arrangement: Nazan Nihal & Utar Artun

Vocals: Nazan Nihal

Cello: Naseem Alatrash

Grand Piano: Utar Artun

## 8. *Pendulum*

featuring Layth Sidiq

Lyrics: Nazan Nihal & Dawn Elder

Music: Nazan Nihal, Utar Artun, & Dawn Elder

Vocals: Nazan Nihal

Violin: Layth Sidiq

Grand Piano: Utar Artun

Electric Guitar: Jussi Reijonen

Upright Bass: Bruno Råberg

Drum Set & Percussion: Giuseppe Paradiso

## 9. *Lydianic*

ft. Bruno Råberg, Jussi Reijonen, & Giuseppe Paradiso

Ancient Lydian Poem

Music: Utar Artun

Vocals: Nazan Nihal

Grand Piano: Utar Artun

Fretless Electric Guitar: Jussi Reijonen

Upright Bass: Bruno Råberg

Percussion: Giuseppe Paradiso

## 10. *Değmen Benim Gamk Yastık Gönlüme*

*(Don't Touch My Sorrowful, Mournful Heart)*

featuring David "Fuze" Fiuczynski

Traditional Turkish Folk Song

Arrangement: Nazan Nihal & Utar Artun

Vocals: Nazan Nihal

Violin: Layth Sidiq

Cello: Naseem Alatrash

Grand Piano: Utar Artun

Fretless Electric Guitar: David "Fuze" Fiuczynski

Electric Guitar: Jussi Reijonen

Electric Bass Guitar: Galen G. Willett

Drum Set: Giuseppe Paradiso

Recorded at:

Perfection Recording Studio

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

April 8th through 11th, 2016

Audio Engineer: Milad Zendehtnam

Additional Engineering: Mauricio Enrique Bernal

[www.perfectionstudio.org](http://www.perfectionstudio.org)

Additional Recording on Tracks #1 & #3 at:

Artun Productions

Ankara, Turkey

April 29th & 30th, 2016

Audio Engineer: Mete Artun

Mixed & Mastered by:

Mete Artun (Artun Productions)

Video Production on Tracks 2, 6, & 10 by:

DeSant Productions

[www.desantproductions.com](http://www.desantproductions.com)

Chris DeSanty: Director, Videographer, & Editor

Maximilian Wagenblass: Videographer

Emily Graham-Handley: Videographer

Adam Mikaelian: Videographer

Dave D'aranjo: Titles

Additional recording & filming by:

Dave Weckl Production Services

[www.daveweckl.com](http://www.daveweckl.com)

Artwork by: Sema Çulam

"Papatyalar", 2015

"Papatyalar", 2013

[www.semaculam.com](http://www.semaculam.com)

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Nazan Nihal, Utar Artun,

Dave D'aranjo, and Luc Reuvers

on the Interrobang Records™ Label

[www.interrobangrecords.com](http://www.interrobangrecords.com)

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# THANK YOU

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## About the Artwork:

This album employs two beautiful paintings by the internationally renowned Turkish artist Sema Çulam (born 1957 in İzmir). Created in 2013 and 2015, both pieces are titled “Papatyalar” - or, in English, “Daisies”. Çulam often will create multiple works around a central naturalistic detail: evoking flowers, produce, agriculture, and the simple beauty of rural life. Raised in Istanbul, Çulam also cites the rich civilizations of the region as a primary influence in her artwork. Though her early career focused on figurative abstract painting, she has - for nearly twenty years now - embraced and built upon techniques from the Naïve Art movement. Çulam’s pieces in this style are like the meticulous illustrations of a storybook: filled with quaintness, charm, and rich golden sunlight. Her depictions of lush gardens, rolling hills, and common folk working the land evoke a sense of tranquility and ideals of purity and kinship. Multiple exhibitions of Çulam’s work have been mounted in Turkey, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Brazil, the United States, and beyond. Sema Çulam is also a member of the International Association of Art (IAA/AIAP; an official partner of UNESCO) and has won multiple international awards for her work.



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