



2007, Unesco Mevlana Year

Mevlânâ Celâleddin Mehmed Rumi (1207 - 1273 CE), known to the English-speaking world simply as Rumi, was a 13th century poet, jurist, theologian and teacher of Sufism. Rumi's importance transcends national and ethnic borders. He has had a significant influence on both Persian and Turkish literature throughout the centuries. He was also the founder of the Mevlevi order, better known as the "Whirling Dervishes", who believe in performing their worship in the form of dance and music ceremony called the sema.



A memorable quote from Pope Benedict XVI who recently paid a formal visit to Turkey. Speaking at a meeting, the Pope said, "Turkey has always served as a bridge between East and West, between Asia and Europe, and as a crossroads of cultures and religions." Next day, Pope flew to Izmir and conducted a ceremony at the Virgin Mary Church in Selcuk town. Last day, Pope Benedict XVI visited Istanbul's Haghia Sophia and the Blue Mosque.

Pope: "I Left A Part of My Heart In Istanbul!"

