

"Gialina Giannena"
by Michael Ganas

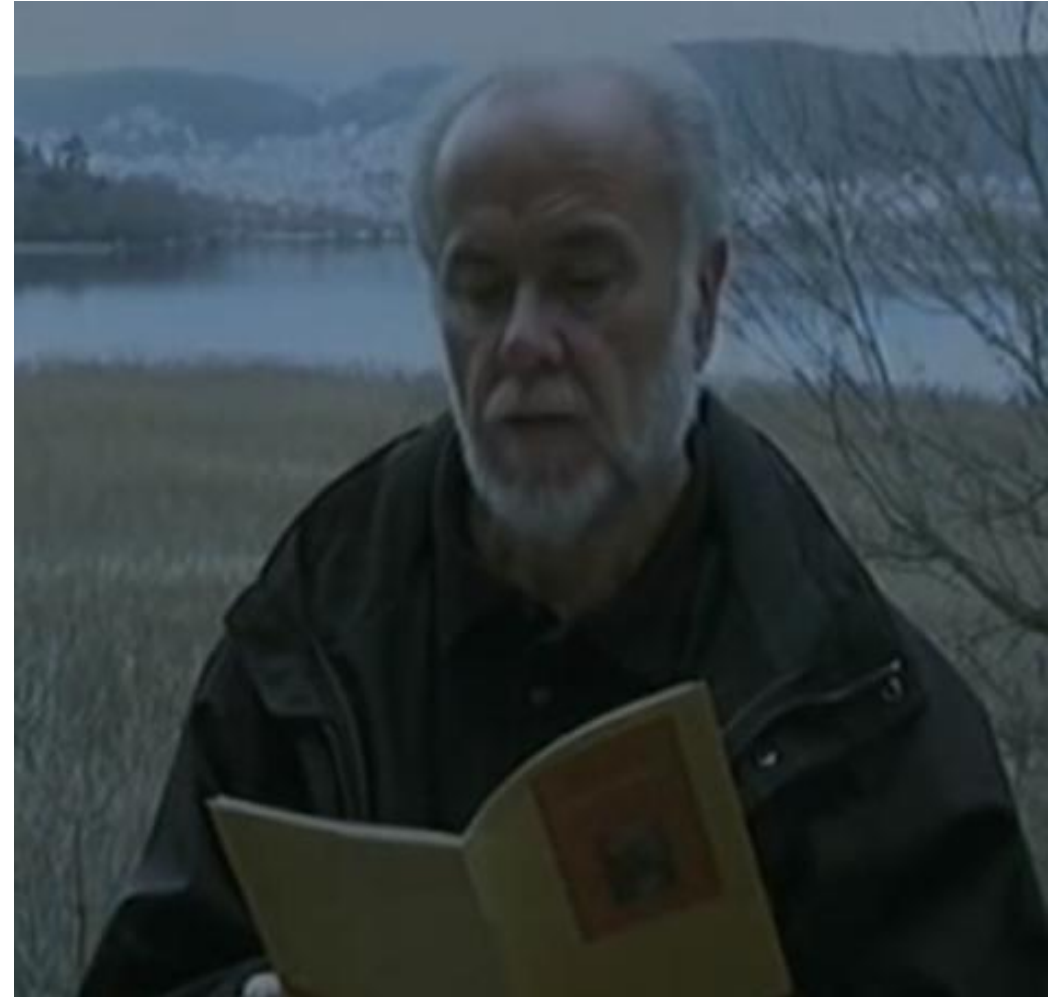
A presentation by
Marina Kefseridi and
Christos
Papanikolaou

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Translated version of the poem

*The place was surrounded by many mountains
and brought forth its living creatures,
good people and bad, weasels,
foxes, a lake as far as
the eye can see and castles underfoot.*

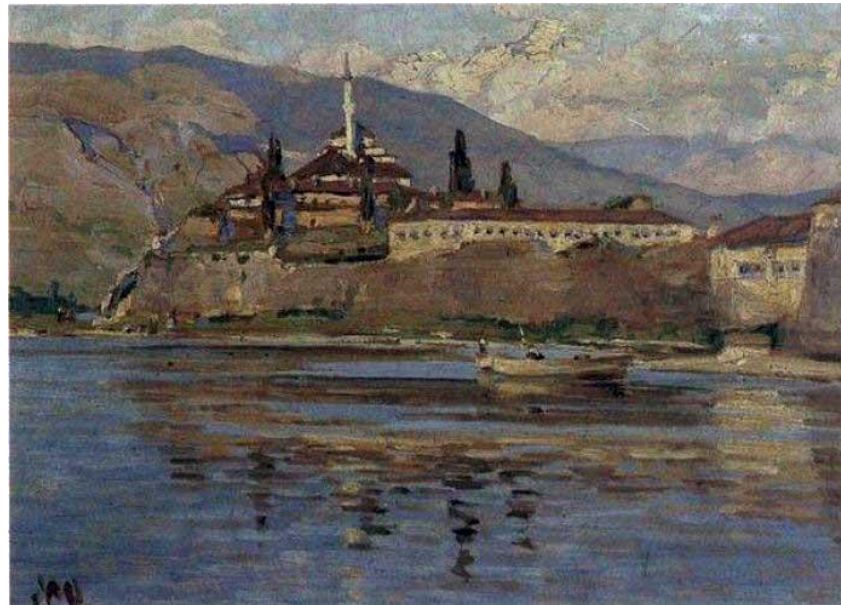
*It must be Ioannina, I whispered,
in the snow and in the wild weather,
glassy and silver.
And as the day progressed,
like a steamer in clear waters,
I also saw minarets and heard
the copper bleating.*



Γυάλινα Γιάννενα

Χάραζε ο τόπος με βουνά πολλά
κι ανάτελλε τα ζωντανά του,
καλούς ανθρώπους και κακούς, νυφίτσες,
αλεπούδες, μια λίμνη ως κόρην
οφθαλμού και κάστρα πατημένα.

Θα 'ναι τα Γιάννενα, ψιθύρισα,
στο χιόνι και στον άγριο καιρό
γυάλινα και μαλαματένια.
Κι όσο πήγαινε η μέρα,
σαν το βαπόρι σε καλά νερά,
είδα και μιναρέδες κι άκουσα
τα μπακίρια να βελάζουν.



Analysis of the poem

“Gialina Giannena” is a poem about the place of Ioannina, the capital city of the Prefecture of Ioannina, where Konitsa, our small town is located.

The poem is in Greek but it is also translated in English.

The word “Giannena” is a colloquial term for the name of the city of Ioannina.

The word “Gialina” means “in glass” or “glassy” and it relates to the foggy and rainy weather of the city.

The narrator recalls the experiences of his childhood in Ioannina, Epirus. Mentally traveling to Ioannina, he describes the high mountains, the people, the animals, the lake, the castles, the minarets, and reflects on the history and culture of the place.

Facts about Michael Ganas

- Michalis Ganas is a Greek poet and lyricist.
- He was born in Thesprotia, near Ioannina in 1944 and lived the first years of his life in Eastern European countries. He studied at the Law School of the University of Athens. He worked as a bookseller, an editor on television and radio programmes and as a copywriter.



- You can listen to the poem narrated by the poet and on the second link you can listen to the poem with a musical background.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yu04Ng40lC8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niZwStdPPos>



- Thank you for your attention.