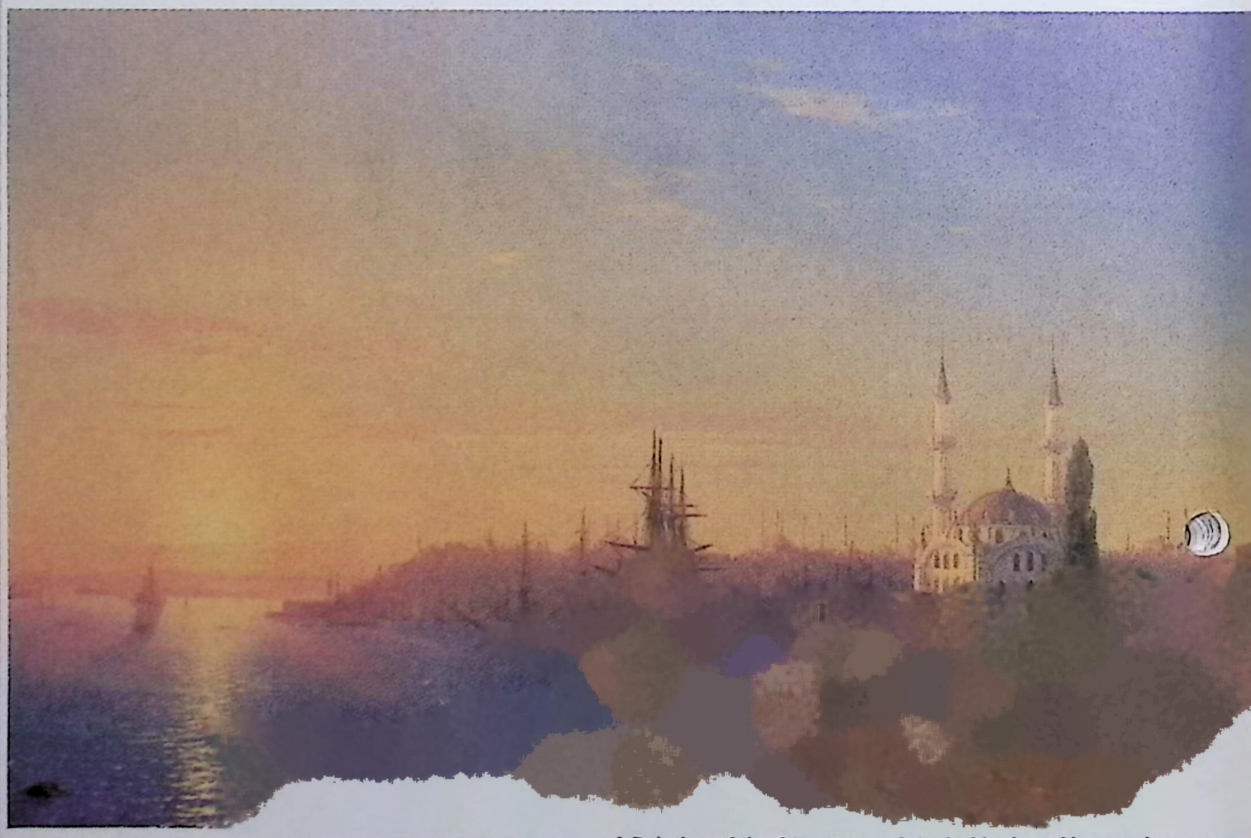
Algebra of Love

MOHAMMAD FARHAN

After Orhan Pamuk, another great storyteller from Turkey, Elif Shafak, is emerging onto the scene of contemporary world literature. She is as yet less distinguished than Pamuk, but she possesses an unmatched narrative prowess which places her in the ranks of world-class novelists. Turkey's bestselling female writer, Elif Shafak has authored 13 books, nine of which are novels. Her books have been published in more than forty countries, and she has been honoured with the distinction of Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters in 2010.



A Painting of the Ottoman era Istanbul by Ivan Aivazovsky.

Elif's latest novel, *The Forty Rules of Love*, is not a love story or romance as the title might suggest, but a charming mix of occidental cultural ethos and Sufi philosophy, free from the constraints of genres. There are two interwoven tales. In one story, the protagonist Ella Rubinstein, an anguished housewife and a troubled mother, tries to find solace in her work of proofreading as a literary agent. Her marriage is loveless and her husband a philanderer. Another misfortune befalls when her daughter goes away from her to get married with a boy Ella disliked.

There is a novel, Sweet Blasphemy by Aziz Z Zahara, inside the novel that relates the story of Maulana Rumi and Shams of Tabriz. Having read the opening pages of the novel which is given to Ella to