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Constantine Cavafy, along with Seferis, Elytis, and Ritsos, is one of the most important modern Greek poets. Cavafy (1863-1933) differs from the other three poets in one important way and that is he lived almost all his life outside of Greece, in Alexandria, Egypt. Although of aristocratic Constantinopolitan origin, he was born in Alexandria. He spent a significant part of his childhood in London, two years of his adolescence in Constantinople, a short time in France, and nearly all of his adult life in Alexandria. Like so many other polyglot Greeks of the diasporic communities of Egypt, Cavafy knew English, French, some Italian as well as classical Greek. This is remarkable, given that he had a limited formal education. Cavafy worked, for most of his adult life, as a clerk in the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works in Alexandria in order to support himself after the family business failed. The rich history of the famed city of Alexandria, ancient and contemporary, provided the main source of inspiration for Cavafy. He often drew on rather obscure events of the Hellenic, Hellenistic, and Byzantine periods to present the dramatic conflict that participants had to face. His grasp of these themes is phenomenal, the mark of a true genius. The language of his poems, this unparalleled mixture of demotic and purist is unique to Cavafy. My favorite poems of Cavafy are the following: "Ithaca," "The God Forsakes Antony," "Walls," and "Thermopylae." Although they are rooted in Hellenic history, they are truly universal and always timely.