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ACROSS ONE LIFETIME

REFIK HALID KARAY

Important Terms

<i>Hundredandfiftyers</i>	A list of 150 high-ranking personages of the Ottoman Empire who were exiled from the Republic of Turkey.
The Independence Tribunals	Special courts that are established in 1920 to prosecute mischief-makers during the War of Independence.
The Committee of Union and Progress party.	A secret revolutionary organization and political party (CUP)
Yeni Mecmua	A magazine published by Ziya Gokalp and supported by the CUP.
Bey	An honorific for men equals to Mr. in English.

Synopsis

In this work, Refik Halid Karay recounts his memories of the autocratic, the second constitutional, and republican eras without following a chronological order. He describes different processes starting from his school years to the announcement of the Second Constitutional Monarchy with his political and daily experiences. After the proclamation of the Constitutional Monarchy, he first becomes a civil servant and then is exiled to Sinop in 1913. His exile continues in various cities of Anatolia in the following five years. He visits Istanbul in 1918 with the permission of Cemal Pasha, the deputy minister of internal affairs, and does not return to Anatolia owing to Ziya Gokalp's intermediary. However, as the national strugglers in Anatolia show up in Istanbul, he flees to Beirut and lives in Lebanon and Syria until the amnesty granted by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1938.

This text puts the events in chronological order to make them easier to follow.

People

Mahmut Sevket Pasha	Soldier and statesman
Ziya Gokalp	Writer, sociologist, politician and poet
Hakki Behic	Politician
Niyazi Bey	Soldier
Yakup Kadri	Writer and diplomat
Ali Kemal	Writer, journalist, politician
Riza Nur	Politician, physician and writer
Sabih Sevket	One of the managers of Istanbul Tram Company, a lawyer
Salih Pasha the Groom	Son of Tunisian Hayrettin Pasha and Sultan Abdulmecid's son-in-law
Cemal Pasha	Soldier, statesman, one of the three leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress
Talat Pasha	Soldier, statesman, one of the three leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress
Riza Tevfik Bolukbasi	Poet, philosopher, politician
Mufid Ratib	Playwright, translator
Cavit Bey	Statesman
Semih Mumtaz	Author

Events

School Days

Refik Halid attends various schools before Galatasaray High School. In those schools, students sit in front of their hodjas and read the Qur'an. Sometimes, hodjas punish students by hitting their palms with a stick because bastinado is prohibited.

Every fifteenth of Ramadan, Abdulhamid visits the Topkapi Palace. Although it is winter, Refik Halid and his friends are prepared to shout "Long live my Sultan!" as Abdulhamid passes by the school in his return. They wait in the cold for a while. But, Abdulhamid returns to his palace by the sea.

Music lessons are also given at the school to teach the March of Abdulhamid. Considering the role of La Marseillaise in the French Revolution, other anthems are banned because they incite national feelings.

Three Undesirable Jobs

His family scares Refik Halid into being a horse driver, a signaler, or a man responsible for the curtains in theatre whenever he misbehaves. While watching the people riding a rental horse to some districts where cars cannot reach, he is disgusted with the shabby man who leads the horse with a stick. The signaler, too, is an embarrassing person for Refik Halid. He is the person who runs in front of the horse-drawn tram to disperse the crowd and prevent the accident. And the man who raises the curtains in a theatre is interested in theatre but incompetent. Every time Refik Halid misbehaves, he is afraid of being one of them but continues to misbehave. In the end, he becomes an exile.

Seeing Abdulhamid

Since Refik Halid's father is a *bala*, the highest civilian rank after the vizier, he goes to Dolmabahce Palace with his father on a feast day when he a teenager. He finds it interesting that almost everyone has a beard similar to Abdulhamid's, and later, he learns that everyone has their beard dyed just like Abdulhamid.

Since Ramadan is just over, all the rooms in the palace are filled with smoke. Then suddenly, everyone starts moving in one direction, passing through the corridors. Finally, they enter a loud and huge hall where the band plays the March of Abdulhamid. With the support of his father and a friend of his, Refik Halid climbs up a marble column to see the sultan. While Abdulhamid sits on a plain throne in a dignified and patient manner, his attendants approach with respect, bow to both the sultan and the eaves of the throne, and walk backwards. He relates the ceremony to some royal meetings in Europe, which he encounters in newspapers and magazines. But since there are no women here, he resembles it to a military meeting.

Some Firsts

When he is a teenager, his father takes him to the Summer Palace in Tarabya, where foreigners spend time mostly. In the evening, while walking around in the garden, he sees a one-story building named WC. He gets curious and goes inside. He sees rows of European-style toilets, but the chain hanging from above is what catches his attention. He can't help but pull one of the chains. But then, fearing that the water will continue to flow without stopping, he runs out. He looks around seeking help but is relieved when he realizes that the sound is slowly fading.

A bathtub is something rented by those with kidney pain. For this reason, people feel as if a coffin will come out of the house where the bathtub enters. After the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy, a hammam is opened for foreigners staying in hostels without bathrooms on Bursa Street. Refik Halid enters the bathtub for the first time here.

Swimming with men and women is possible for the first time during the Armistice Period with the connivance of the occupation police. Refik Halid enters the sea for the first time in the Princes' Islands on a mixed-gender beach. The swimsuits of both genders are long enough to cover the breasts and the kneecaps.

For the first time, after the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy, he gets into a car from Galatasaray High School to go to Karakoy. He listens to the radio for the first time in Lebanon. He has his first refrigerator in Aleppo, and it is still the same refrigerator he uses while he pens his memoirs.

A Murder

When he is a student at Galatasaray High School, he comes to the Galata Bridge to take a ferry. There, he hears two gunshots. He picks out someone in Albanian attire, then examines the harmed person as people try to lift him up. Looking at the man's patent leather shoes, clean clothes, and black socks with yellow baguettes, he assumes he is a wealthy person. His father also wears these Saveur branded French socks.

After a while, he learns that the person killed is Cavit Bey, the son of Grand Vizier Halil Rifat Pasha. Sultan Abdulhamid is known for commuting death sentences to life imprisonment, but the murderer of the grand vizier's son does not even receive a life sentence. The murderer, Mustafa of Mat, is sent to his hometown with some pocket money.

The Grand Vizier wants to retire from office since Abdulhamid considers resignation an attack on his right to dismiss. But Abdulhamid does not allow him. He keeps Halil Rifat Pasha as the grand vizier until his death, as he believes that Halil Rifat Pasha brings him good fortune.

Beyoglu and Its Beyond

When Refik Halid is a high school student, he goes to the theater in Beyoglu and watches *La Poupée*. He likes it so much that he spends the whole week in joy. Then he watches a lot of operettas. The actresses affect him. However, while wealthy men take the leading women out to dinner, Refik Halid and his peers invite the girls in the choir. They are generally not rejected because they are nice in every way.

Everyone in Beyoglu knows their limits. Even at night, women can easily walk here. However, the wife of a bank director is raped while wandering in Maslak, a secluded place at that time. During the First World War, a German commander's wife and daughter are attacked too. In the former case, Sultan Abdulhamid grants the director a medal, promotes him to a higher rank, and gives gifts to his wife. The case is closed so.

Refik Halid points out that no murder is committed in these events. But, while he is writing his memoirs, two tourists sleeping in their tents in Sakarya are raped and then killed. Thus, he emphasizes that even the bandits had the correct way of doing things in the past.

The Books Paving the Way for Exile

Refik Halid begins to read all the books he can get as his French improves. One day, he takes a book about the revolution in Tsarist Russia, *the Memoirs of Father Gapon*, which he took from his brother-in-law's library to school. That week, when the students return from the classroom, they find their locked drawers rummaged through. Refik Halid checks the book immediately and feels relieved seeing it in its place. Although the book's content is of the kind that can cause him to be exiled, he thinks that it does not attract attention because of the word "father" in its name.

After a while, he buys two books from the bookstore. One is Paul Doumer's *The Book of My Sons*, and the other is *Before the Victory* by Henry d' Alméras. The first celebrates the republican regime, and the second describes the dull lives of famous writers before they rose to fame. Refik Halid leaves the books in a bindery to bind them. When he drops by the workshop, he sees two people inside. The bookbinder tells him in a strange way that the books are not ready yet. Refik Halid gets scared of the men and does not go to the workshop for a month. When he finally decides to see the bookbinder, the bookbinder tells him that the two spies thought *The Book of My Sons* was full of harmless tales. But they were very curious about *Before the Victory*. When they asked who left it, he told them that a stranger left it, then they waited for that man for days, but the committee that examined the book finally found it harmless.

Refik Halid thus reproaches that under Abdulhamid's rule, he is saved from being exiled twice because of the seemingly harmless book titles but banished because of his book, *What the Hedgehog Says*, when the Constitutional Monarchy is proclaimed.

A Private Tutor

Since the family doctors know almost every secret of the family, Refik Halid's family doctor arranges a private tutor to make up for his failure in math lessons. The teacher is to stay in the mansion in Erenkoy one day a week during the summer.

Refik Halid spends two months with this new tutor. However, the tutor prefers to have conversations with him rather than studying any lessons. He is the second person to introduce the idea of freedom to Refik Halid. The first one is his uncle.

One day, after the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy, Refik Halid encounters this tutor passing through a secluded street in Nisantasi. Just as he is about to run happily toward him, the tutor raises his head with a cold look and continues walking. Refik Halid's smile freezes on his face, and he feels alienated from the man who instilled a sense of freedom into him.

A Mysterious Woman

Since Refik Halid takes an interest in Western ideas at Galatasaray High School, he attends balls. Apart from the balls organized by foreigners known as "high society," folk balls are also held at the Odeon Theatre. However, only a handful of Turkish and Muslim men are present at these folk balls.

The first ball that Refik Halid attends is a masquerade ball. As he doesn't know how to dance, he gets bored, and just as he is about to leave the ball, a masked woman approaches and asks him to follow her. Refik Halid follows the woman to the buffet. The woman tells Refik Halid that even though he doesn't know her, she knows him very well down to his room, and walks away. From that moment on, she approaches Refik Halid and whispers such things all night long. When she finally says that she will give an address in Beyoglu and be waiting for him at home the next day, Refik Halid writes the address on the sleeve of his shirt. However, when he wakes up the next day, he realizes that the address has been erased. Although he deduces an address from the letters left behind, he does not go because he has no enough money left. But he wonders who the woman is all his life.

The Issue of Shaving

At that time, family barbers are just like family doctors. All male members of a family go to the same barbershop. Some heads of families have the barber come home. Refik Halid's family barber, Aris Efendi, always brings appetizers and raki with him whenever he comes. In the evenings, he sits and drinks with the family.

But when Refik Halid starts to shave, he hears of a new shaver sold in the stores and then buys it. Aris Efendi does not like this. After a while, Refik Halid starts going to a Greek barber in Beyoglu. Because the barber cleans his face with small towels dipped in hot water after shaving and uses fragrant lotions, Refik Halid is very fond of him.

The shaver he brought with him when he is exiled to Anatolia is very useful. But as he cannot find a blade due to the war, he needs to go to the barber again. This time, the barbers cannot find a razor. Thus, depilatory creams are sent from Germany, but they are not preferred because they cause acne.

The Price of Acting like a Detective

When Refik Halid is seventeen, he follows the Sherlock Holmes series in French. Meanwhile, a telegraph comes from his aunt, saying that she cannot find her jewelry in her stuff after staying in their house. The entire mansion is searched, but the jewelry is not found. While Refik Halid works like a detective to find the jewelry, his mind is so busy that he falls in the cesspool in the courtyard. It was opened earlier that day to be emptied. Since the season is summer, everyone is somewhere else, and no one hears his voice. He struggles alone to climb up for a while. Finally, the woman who does the rough work of the house hears his voice and takes him out. He takes off his clothes and gives them to the sewer. Later, his aunt notifies them that she alarmed them unnecessarily because her diamonds are with her; she just forgot that she had taken them out of her suitcase.

Semih Mumtaz Bey

While crossing the Galata Bridge a few years before the proclamation of the Constitutional Monarchy in 1908, Refik Halid's brother points to a blond young man sitting in a magnificent carriage. The person he shows is Semih Mumtaz, the son of the mayor. Refik Halid is disturbed by the extent of the importance given to a person. Since he studies at Galatasaray High School, the hidden curriculum already positions him against the regime. On top of that, as he sees Semih Mumtaz and his attendants, he is filled with anger against the regime.

When the Constitutional Monarchy is reinstated, Semih Mumtaz's father-in-law, millionaire Izzet of Damascus flees the country. Refik Halid sees Semih Mumtaz giving a speech praising the Constitutional Monarchy from the window of *Serveti Funun*, the significant literary magazine of the time. One day, while passing through Galata with Yakup Kadri, Yakup Kadri takes him to Semih Mumtaz's office, and their friendship starts.

After a while, Semih Mumtaz divorces his wife and starts to live alone. He comes to Refik Halid's for dinner most of the evenings. In time, he joins the Tijani sect. Although his circumstances change, he always remains a gentleman and eventually dies of a cerebral hemorrhage. For Refik Halid, Semih Mumtaz remains as a figure reminding him how the mighty have fallen.

His Civil Service Life

Refik Halid is appointed as the chief clerk at the age of twenty-three. Although he is not a member of any party, he is a well-known dissident. He finds a letter on his desk threatening that they won't let him work there if he doesn't resign. He is aware that all Unionist clerks except two are against him. The next day, when he sees everyone together, he states that he received threat letters from the Unionists before but was never afraid of them, that he is a stubborn man, and if they continue like this, they have to risk their career. Then, none shows any opposition.

What Refik Halid already has in mind is to change the office. It is a dark and small place filled with smoke, dust, and the smell of wet clothes in winter. When Director Ahmet Ihsan Tokgoz returns from his trip to Europe, Refik Halid asks him to change the room. However, when the Unionists take over the government by a coup d'état, he is afraid to set foot in his new office.

An Adventure

While he works as a head clerk in Beyoglu Municipality, some evenings, he stays at his brother's house in Nisantasi. He has a key not to wake anyone late at night. One evening, he leaves his usual place of entertainment and goes home. He puts the key in its slot, but the door is opened a little harder than usual. He goes upstairs to his room in the dark but feels something strange about the house. As he enters the room, his foot hits the bed, making him think that it is his bed, but he is still undecided whether to light a lamp or not. Meanwhile, he hears a voice, then immediately lights a match and examines the room. When he sees that the room is very different from his own, he realizes that he is in the house next door, which exactly looks like his brother's house. Moreover, the daughter of the house sleeps in the bed in front of him. Imagining what will happen to the girl and him if someone sees him in that room, he grabs his coat that he just took off and quietly gets out of the house.

The Deer

While Niyazi Bey and his friends are living in the mountains against the tyranny of Abdulhamid, a deer joins them. Wherever they go, they take it with them. When the Constitutional Monarchy is reinstated, the deer comes to Istanbul with Niyazi Bey. The Unionists shut the deer in the basement of the Letafet Apartment and let people watch it in exchange for a penny.

The deer's life in captivity bothers Refik Halid. He loses all his faith in the defenders of the Constitutional Monarchy. And the article written by his journalist friend Ahmet Samim about this deer is the first criticism of the new regime.

After a while, the door is closed to the audience as it is costly to take care of the deer. Refik Halid wonders if the deer is left to die or served in Beyoglu restaurants. But he never finds out. Each time he sees a deer in his life, he remembers this poor deer in a dark basement.

Muhtar Bey

Refik Halid comes across Ahmet Samim on a ferry in the summer, a year before he is killed. Ahmet Samim takes him to a white mansion in a grove in Kurucesme. When the butler tells Ahmet Samim that the master of the house, Muhtar Bey, has just woken up, Refik Halid is surprised because it is afternoon. He chases after Ahmet Samim upstairs. Ahmet Samim enters Muhtar Bey's bedroom and tells him that he brought his favorite writer. Then, Refik Halid realizes that Muhtar Bey is an opponent too.

They spend the night there. Muhtar Bey's house is the gathering place for anti-regime youth such as Huseyin Cahit and Cavit Bey during the reign of Abdulhamid and becomes the meeting point for the new intellectuals of the new regime like Yakup Kadri. Almost every evening, people talk until late, and the guests spend the night there. However, Refik Halid would rather not spend time here because Muhtar Bey is a homosexual.

After the Murder of Ahmet Samim

Ahmet Samim is killed heading to Muhtar Bey's house with his friend Fazil Ahmet. The next day, his body is brought to Hilal Printing House. Refik Halid takes a look at his corpse and views that although he is shot in the neck, there is no damage to his face. They gather at Muhtar Bey's house at night and discuss what to do next.

The Murdered Three Journalists

Refik Halid states that he does not know Hasan Fehmi, the first of the three journalists killed with the support or approval of the government in the Constitutional Monarchy period. But, Ahmet Samim is his close friend. And Zeki Bey is an acquaintance of him.

When Hasan Fehmi is shot, the literary community known as *Fecri Âti* [Dawn of the Future] sends a letter to his newspaper *Serbesti*, even though they do not like its publications. However, this attitude changes over time, and they begin to remain silent about the subsequent political murders.

When Ahmet Samim is killed, his close friends refuse to protest. But Refik Halid wants to do something. He knows that Ahmet Samim was threatened with death and wants to prove the relationship of the murder with the government. Cypriot Şevket, Attorney Celal Sofu, and Halid Goksu support him. They persuade Huseyin Hilmi, the owner of the *Istirak* newspaper, who is known for his socialist character. Refik Halid shares Ahmet Samim's will in *Istirak* and reports that he was semi-officially informed about his own execution. He also criticizes that while foreign newspapers cover the event at length, Turkish newspapers prefer to neglect it. *Istirak* breaks sale records until the government decides to have it confiscated. Mahmut Sevket Pasha finds the government's attitude unfair and releases all those arrested on the scene.

The third murder is the murder of *Sehrah* writer Zeki Bey. Both killers are caught but released. Cemal Pasha later executes these two people in Adana for the crime of looting. One of the murderers of Hasan Fehmi and Ahmet Samim is killed during the Raid on the Sublime Porte. The other is shot by Enver Pasha in Kagithane.

Cavit Bey

Refik Halid mentions that Cavit Bey, the finance minister of the Union and Progress, has some involvement with the murder of Zeki Bey, who criticizes his policies and states that the same Cavit Bey hates him. On the days when the *Serveti Funun* magazine is published by the *Fecri Ati* [Dawn of the Future] community, Huseyin Cahit Yalcin and Cavit Bey, the owners of the *Tanin* newspaper, offer Refik Halid a job. However, Refik Halid refuses this offer because he does not want to write for a newspaper advocating the government. He considers this one of the reasons for Cavit Bey's inexhaustible grudge against him. So much so that Cavit Bey makes various accusations against his elder brother Hakkı Halid, who is the director of the mint, and leads to his dismissal. In retaliation, Refik Halid publishes articles and cartoons against him in his newspaper *Aydede*.

The Day of the 31 March Incident

Refik Halid and a few of his friends, including the first theater critic Mufid Ratib, rush to Beyazıt Square to watch what is happening. They wait behind the soldiers standing in the square. After a while, the sound of takbeer comes from somewhere, and as the sound gets closer, rebel soldiers show up, and then crossfire erupts between two military groups. He and his friends immediately flee and go to Mufid Ratib's house nearby.

Saving Life during the Incident

Refik Halid starts his career in journalism in *Serveti Funun*. When he comes to the office on the most violent days of the 31 March Incident, he finds a soldier in uniform who is the translator of the magazine. No one else is present. After all, they are supporters of the Young Turks and afraid of being killed.

They wait in fear listening to the sounds of gunfire. Since the reactionary soldiers are hostile to the soldiers trained at schools, Refik Halid advises the uniformed soldier to go home and never go out. However, just at this moment, they hear voices coming from the ground floor of the building. Refik Halid hastily opens the window to the roof of the opposite building and hides the soldier there. When the reactionary soldiers come in a little later, he tells them that there is no one but himself in the newspaper, and when they leave, he takes the soldier back inside.

Years later, when Refik Halid's son Ugur goes to his friend's grandfather's house in Bolu, the grandfather tells him how his father saved his life and treats him with great care.

Marriage during the Incident

While the 31 March Incident continues, Refik Halid attends the wedding of his friend Muhtar from Galatasaray High School with his father. Muhtar is older than him. Refik Halid runs into him one day while studying law, and Muhtar tells him that his friends are publishing a humor magazine called *Alem* and asks him to write a humorous article. Although Refik Halid thinks that he cannot, he starts to write humorous articles in this way. When Muhtar invites him to his wedding, he does not even think of asking what he does and who he marries. But after this invitation, the 31 March Incident breaks out. His father says that they have to go to the wedding no matter what because they promised. In those days, weddings consisted of religious ceremonies. Brides and grooms elect a proxy, and these proxies perform the marriage ceremony in their name in the presence of two witnesses.

Refik Halid and his father, on their way to the wedding in Besiktas, first go to a restaurant. They order wine without considering that if the rebel soldiers enter the restaurant, they ask them whether they are Muslims or not and then kill them there for drinking wine. Luckily, no soldiers come. However, on the street, a bullet hits right next to the foot of a woman walking in front of them, but no one says anything out of fear. When they arrive at the house, they drink sherbet listening to the sounds of bullets. That evening, they return home safely, but Refik Halid never sees Muhtar again.

Fecri Âti

The literary community, *Fecri Âti* [the Dawn of the Future] is established in the Hilal Printing House with a meeting under the chairmanship of Faik Âli Ozansoy. Asım Bey, one of the founders of this printing house, is a part-owner of *Serveti Funun* and a close relative of Ahmet Samim, and Ibrahim Bey, the father of theater critic Mufit Ratip is also a shareholder. After them, the same place becomes the headquarters of the opposition party *Ahrar Fırkası* [Liberty Party.]

After the group is officially founded, Ahmet Ihsan Tokgöz, publisher of *Serveti Funun*, reserves a room for them in his own printing house. However, the community does not last as long as the Serveti Funun community. According to Refik Halid, the reasons for this are that they do not have such masters as Rezaizade Ekrem and Tevfik Fikret, that some members' fame surpasses others', and the political instability in the country affects them too. They write for *Serveti Funun* for a while, then continue to write in various magazines and newspapers. Eventually, they are removed from the printing house and rent a place for themselves, but they stop gathering.

The community is replaced by movements such as National Literature and Plain Turkish. And literature continues to live in Ziya Gokalp's *Yeni Mecmua* in the party headquarters of the Unionists until the end of World War I.

San Stefano

After Refik Halid's older brother Hakkı Halid receives his degree from Sorbonne, he returns to the country and starts working as a chemist in an institution. Although it is considered unusual for a single person to live apart from his family, he moves to a Christian village in San Stefano, where only four Muslim families live.

As he studies in Europe, he brings with him the habit of writing memories and records in his diary how people in San Stefano experience the cholera epidemic that breaks out during the Balkan War. Refik Halid shares some parts of this diary.

While the government is sending soldiers to the front, wounded soldiers are returning. While forty thousand soldiers are waiting to be sent to the front in San Stefano, the returnees join the crowd. The dead remain in the wagons, and the wounded die on the streets. Hakkı Halid witnesses a Christian family giving a cholera patient a cup of brandy, while a Muslim family brings the brandy in a rusty tin can. At night, he sees passengers trample the sick and dead on the pier. Commander Saffet Bey executes the beer-loving doctor of the village whom he considers the cause of prevalence.

Two Frenchmen's Help after the Raid on the Sublime Porte

While Refik Halid is wandering behind the Tokatlıyan Hotel after the raid, he encounters a Frenchman whom Yakup Kadri and his other friends know better. The Frenchman suggests he stay at his house until things settle down. Then, he takes Refik Halid to a restaurant in Beyoglu, saying that Auzière can help them with the meals. Auzière is the owner of a restaurant. He gladly accepts the offer and sends Refik Halid food with his waiter three times a day while he is hiding. When Refik Halid later wants to pay his debt, he says that he expects nothing in return because he is always obliged to help an unfree politician.

Post and Telephone

Abdulhamid does not like the phone as he is afraid that the opponents secretly communicate with each other. For the same reason, he prohibits the residents of Istanbul from correspondence with each other. It only allows postcards, unless people put them in an envelope. All of them change when the Constitutional Monarchy is reinstated. Telephones are hooked up in all governmental buildings.

Before the Raid on the Sublime Porte, the Unionists cut the phones. At the time of the attack, those who reach for the phone can't find a line. Enver Pasha has the grand vizier write his resignation at this time. The Unionists' inspiration is an old event; two postal officers send the letters of Unionist Cavit Bey sent from Paris to Cahit Bey to Serif Pasha, who is the leader of the opposition in Paris, and Serif Pasha publishes the letters in his newspaper. Then, the Unionists execute one of these postal officers in front of the post office.

Mahmut Sevket Pasha

Although Refik Halid writes humorous articles about Mahmut Sevket Pasha, he is never arrested between 23 January and 11 June 1913 as Mahmut Sevket Pasha is the grand vizier. Mahmut Sevket Pasha is a man mature enough to tolerate the writings. After his murder, Refik Halid finds himself in Sinop.

First Arrest

After the murder of Mahmut Sevket Pasha, Refik Halid is arrested. Since the arrests are made with a police officer, an imam, and a guard in those days, the imam knocks on the door and shyly tells Refik Halid that the police want to see him. Refik Halid is not surprised as he expects this. After all, a few days ago, they came to arrest his father, but his father managed to escape.

When the imam and the guard leave them, Refik Halid is left alone with the policeman. First, they go to the police station together and then are sent to the directorate. When he gets on the ferry with the policeman, no one realizes that he is under arrest. He continues to greet acquaintances. When they get off the ferry, Refik Halid suggests eating something and takes him to a restaurant called Cenyo. After the meal, he gets up to wash his hands. There is another door at the back of the restaurant.

Although Refik Halid knows that he can run away from there, he does not. Under the influence of the books he read, he is curious about prison life and returns to his seat.

Making the Bed

When he is brought to Bekiraga Squadron, he is asked where his bed is. When it is understood that it is not with him, he is recommended he request it from the house by telegram. Toward evening, the butler brings a mattress from the house in Erenkoy and feels sorry for him as he sees where he stays. For in those times, servants undress the lords of the houses, make their beds, and even turn off the lamps before they sleep. For the first time in his life, Refik Halid makes his bed in Bekiraga Squadron. This bed travels all over the place with him for five years and comes back worn out in the last year of World War I.

Salih Pasha the Groom

One day before the Raid on the Sublime Porte, one non-Unionist clerk informs Refik Halid that the Sublime Porte is raided and the government is overthrown. However, the news is not confirmed. When Refik Halid runs into Salih Pasha in Beyoglu, he fills him in about the situation. Salih Pasha tells him that the government has precautions against such attempts. However, after a while, he is executed by the Unionists for his alleged involvement in the assassination of Mahmut Sevket Pasha.

Since Refik Halid is an exile during this event, he hears of it while waiting at a high school, where he is with the brothers of Salih Pasha, Hayreddin, and Mehmet. Hayreddin is a deputy, who defeated his Unionist opponent by one vote, and Mehmet is the owner of the *Sehrah* newspaper. One day, a civilian officer shows up with a happy face and reads from a piece of paper that Salih Pasha is executed. That is how Salih Pasha's two brothers receive the news of their brother's death.

Moreover, the details of the execution are reported by others later. When Salih Pasha the Groom is taken to the execution bench, he asks one of the officials there to fix his crooked trousers, and after that, he is hanged.

Refik Halid states that Salih Pasha the Groom is the son of Hayrettin Pasha, the former Grand Vizier from Tunisia, and would be alive if he ordered his coachman to turn to the French Embassy while heading to Bekiraga Squadron, a military detention house.

Wars

The first war that Refik Halid remembers vaguely is between America and Spain. Since the Spanish fleets are wooden, it is clear from the beginning who the winner is, but Refik Halid takes the side of the Spaniards because he pities the king of Spain, a fatherless child of his age. Then the Boer War breaks out. He does not want England to win, as it is an invasive and arrogant country.

Although the Turkish-Greek War concerns him personally, he does not remember much about it. The things he remembers are a caricature of a Turkish soldier blowing over an Evzone soldier and the picture of Prince Constantine's half-full wine glass in his room at the headquarters in Thessaly, which he leaves as the Turks approach.

Everyone follows the Russo-Japanese War with great interest. Since the newspapers write that the most accurate news comes from the Vayhayhay Port, the word "Vayhayhay" is engraved in his mind, which he thinks is mispronounced. He follows the defeat of the Russians with great joy.

He states that when Italo-Turkish War, Balkan Wars, and First World War erupt, he is no longer a child, but time gives him consolation, and his anger fades. He finds the idea of *Tanin's* newspaper boycotting pasta during the Italo-Turkish War ridiculous, as pasta is already consumed only by foreigners and minorities.

In addition, he maintains that if Mustafa Kemal had been in Enver Pasha's place, many disasters wouldn't have happened and then shares an interview with Mustafa Kemal. In this interview, Mustafa Kemal Pasha complains about the Ottoman's entry into the war and declares that those who act with the Germans will be defeated.

A Unionist Friend's Help

When Grand Vizier Mahmut Sevket Pasha is assassinated before the First World War, the Committee of Union and Progress takes this as an opportunity to silence the opposition and put many people in Bekiraga Squadron and then exile them to Sinop. In order to dishonor political criminals, they mingle them with petty criminals.

When they arrive in Sinop by ship in the morning, everyone has to shoulder their load and jump into the boat. Political criminals take advantage of these vagrants among them. While Refik Halid is thinking about how to shoulder his load, one of the vagrants suggests carrying his load. Refik Halid accepts this offer by paying four times more than the usual fee.

When they arrive at the shipyard square, their names are recorded, and they begin to wait. Everyone is wondering what will happen next. Will they be prisoned or left within the castle in the city? While Refik Halid is writhing in this uncertainty, someone calls out to him. He seems to know the person calling but can't make it out. The man takes him out of there, informing the officials that Refik Halid is with him. Refik Halid is still confused. The man finally reveals his identity. He is his brother Niyazi's friend Nusret, an accountant in Sinop. However, the reason for his self-assuredness is that he is a Unionist, a man of the government.

Abdulmecid Efendi's Mediation

In exile, Refik Halid begins to correspond with Abdulhak Sinasi Hisar, his friend from Galatasaray High School. In a letter, Abdulhak Sinasi says that he visited Prince Abdulmecid Efendi; if he writes a letter asking for mediation, Abdulmecid Efendi will do his best to ensure his return.

Refik Halid writes a letter immediately. Then, the prince sends a letter to Grand Vizier Said Halim Pasha explaining the situation. However, this attempt is futile. Later, Sabih Sevket writes to Refik Halid that he offended Cemal Pasha by requesting mediation from Prince Abdulmecid Efendi instead of directly asking for help from the pasha himself.

A Respected Exile

When a large part of Ankara is burned out, people's water supply is cut off. Refik Halid cannot stand this misery and requests to send a telegram to Talat Pasha demanding that he be sent to Bilecik. Governor Resit Bey allows this, and when his request is accepted, he writes a motion allowing him to make his journey like a free person. Thus, Refik Halid moves to Bilecik.

When he gets there, he goes to the government building. As he enters the office of the civil chief, both people inside stand up and greet him by name. He is surprised by this approach. As he is looking for the permit given by the governor in amazement, the civil chief shows him a place to sit, then turns to the other person and orders him to find a good hostel for Refik Halid. When he realizes that Refik Halid does not remember him, he introduces himself. He is Hakkı Behic, an old colleague from the Ministry of Finance. He got involved in publishing life just like him during the first days of the Constitutional Monarchy period. The other person in the room is an old colleague too and now an accountant. Refik Halid resents that one of these two people, who started their career as him, is a civil chief, the other an accountant, and he is an exile. But he is relieved to be more famous than them.

Sofia

Before his exile, Refik Halid befriends a Greek prostitute named Sofia. Sofia is actually in love with a Jewish boy named Benbasat. Refik Halid only takes her out or buys clothes for her. In Sinop, he settles in a Greek couple's hostel. Sofia gets his address from Abdulhak Sinasi and sends a letter stating that she can move to Sinop if he wants. Refik Halid, thinking it is not right to put her among the exiles, does not invite her but hangs a photograph of her on the wall of his room. Sofia is forced to flee to Greece with her sister Katina during World War I.

Three Civil Chiefs

When he is exiled to Sinop, he finds an easygoing civil chief there. However, this civil chief is retired by the government on the grounds that he is soft on the exiles. Because he loves Sinop, he continues to stay there and spend his time with the exiles.

While waiting anxiously for the new civil chief, Mustak Bey, all exiles wonder what kind of person Mustak Bey is, but their fear does not come true. Mustak Bey treats them so well that his house turns into a meeting center. When World War I breaks out, some exiles are forgiven and move to Istanbul, while younger ones are conscripted. The stigmatized like Refik Halid continue to stay in Sinop.

then, Mustak Bey is replaced by an unsympathetic person. When Refik Halid wants to go to Istanbul on a break, the new civil chief sends a note to the police informing them that Refik Halid is the writer of a book against important people and should be treated accordingly. However, the police show this note to Refik Halid. Later, this civil chief visits Refik Halid in Istanbul when he works at *Yeni Mecmua*, thinking that a writer with affiliations with the Unionists can be of use to him.

Writing in Exile

While Refik Halid is in exile in Sinop, Cemal Pasha takes Ali Kemal back to the country and puts Riza Nur on the payroll. He even permits Ali Kemal to publish a newspaper. The *Peyam* newspaper is published so.

When Yakup Kadri writes a letter to Refik Halid asking him to write for *Peyam* once a week, in return for the amount he received before his exile, Refik Halid begins to write under a pseudonym. However, the newspaper is closed after a while on the grounds that it publishes Refik Halid's articles.

Three years later, when Omer Seyfettin asks for a story for *Türk Yurdu* magazine, he writes two stories using his initials instead of his name. Whenever he publishes a story with his name in *Yeni Mecmua*, his exile ends.

Ziya Gokalp's Help

When Grand Vizier Talat Pasha goes abroad to sign the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, Cemal Pasha, who fills in for him, gives Refik Halid a ten-day leave, and Refik Halid comes to Istanbul from Bilecik. During these ten days, he publishes a story in *Yeni Mecmua*, and then, Ziya Gokalp takes him under his protection, implying that he is ready to mediate for him.

However, at the end of ten days, he is arrested when he leaves the house in the morning. Although he tries to explain his situation to the police, no one listens. As soon as he realizes that the ward he is brought to is near the Union and Progress headquarters, known as *Kırmızı Konak* [The Red Mansion], where *Yeni Mecmua* is located, he secretly takes his card out of his pocket and gives it to the policeman to deliver it to the headquarters. Before the policeman says anything, the door is opened, his stuff is seized, recorded, and he is taken to the first floor. The four-story building is jam-packed with people, and there are no seats or beds. He doesn't know what to do when he finds out that some people have been living there for several years because they are forgotten. Eventually, he can't stand it and goes down. He tries to speak to the clerk who is talking to someone, but the clerk ignores him. Refik Halid has to go upstairs again. After a while, he can't stand it and goes down again. The clerk is alone this time; he calls him over. Then, he tells Refik Halid that his father was kind to him when he was a civil servant, and he will help him. He asks him to write a letter secretly to whoever he wants to inform about his situation and bring it to him.

As Refik Halid is getting ready to write a letter, he is summoned. He goes downstairs and finds the doorman of the Committee of the Union and Progress's headquarters. The doorman asks if he sent the card and then assures him that he will notify Ziya Gokalp about the situation. Half an hour later, the doorman comes again. This time he comes to inform that Ziya Gokalp is dealing with the situation. After he leaves, Refik Halid starts to wait in panic. When he is called "Refik Bey" this time, the expression "bey" makes him think that Ziya Gokalp worked everything out. He goes down. The clerk, expressing his respect for his father again, informs him that he is now free.

Refik Halid later learns how Ziya Gokalp got this permission. Since only Cemal Pasha can order his release, Ziya Bey wants to reach him first but can't find him at his office since the next day is Friday, a holiday. He calls Falih Rifki Bey. With the intervention of Falih Rifki Bey, Cemal Pasha is found in the house of Hikmet Bey, the father of the poet Nâzım Hikmet and the press director of the time, in Sisli. Ziya Gokalp finally meets with him and obtains his approval.

A Secret Dungeon

It is known that apart from Bekiraga Squadron, there is a secret dungeon in a wooden building among the houses in Cagaloglu, but none mentions it in a newspaper or a book. According to what Refik Halid listens to those tortured here, for example, a prisoner is woken up in the middle of the night and brought before a soldier. The soldier buys him coffee, sometimes offers him cigarettes, and says he knows that he meets Prince Vahdettin. Although the prisoner says he does not, the soldier insists on this. Then they take the prisoner, tie him to a tree outside, pour cold water over his head, and leave him there. As this goes on night after night, the prisoner finally accepts every charge and is released. After that, he does not involve in anything political because he knows that if he does, he will be court-martialed.

This place is where Refik Halid is imprisoned for ten hours, but since the place is now used only as a detention center, he does not undergo any torture.

Mutebaid

Most of the literary people are not conscripted because they are in teaching positions. Refik Halid pays fifty gold coins and receives military training for three months. However, he is not drafted when World War breaks out. The government invents the term "mutebaid" meaning the person who is away, to define exiles. Refik Halid is not conscripted as he is undesirable as a "mutebaid."

One day, he and his brother, Niyazi, do not realize that they are in front of the police station until a commissioner knocks on the window and calls them over while they are talking and laughing. They do what they are asked to do. The commissioner gets angry at their laughter as the world is in a war. Although they explain that they are laughing because they are nervy, the commissioner gets angrier and asks for their military certificates. Niyazi is exempt due to disability. On the document of Refik Halid, it is written "mutebaid." When the commissioner cannot understand what this means, he suddenly changes his attitude, judging that he is an important person.

On Being a Turk in Istanbul under Allied Occupation

When Refik Halid and a few of his friends miss the ferry while he is living in Princes' Islands during the occupation, they decide to go to a pub. However, the Greek owner of the place and the waiters do not welcome them because they are Turkish. They try to sit indifferently. When the mussel seller is walking past the restaurant, they ask the waiter for a plate to buy mussels, but the owner of the place insults them on the grounds that they do not know how to behave in a restaurant because they are Turkish. Knowing that the man is under the protection of the English policemen, whom he wines and dines, they leave silently without reacting.

The Strike Preventing Meeting with Mustafa Kemal

During the occupation, an acquaintance known as Watermelon Arif tells Refik Halid that Mustafa Kemal Pasha wants to meet him at his house in Sisli at ten o'clock the next day. The next day, Refik Halid takes the train from Feneryolu to Haydarpasa and the ferry to the Galata Bridge. There, he sees that the tram workers are on strike as the right to strike is recognized by the Constitutional Monarchy. They are encouraged by Hilmi Bey's newspaper, *Istirak*. Refik Halid does not know how to get to Sisli from there. He can't even find a car and then gives up meeting Mustafa Kemal, thinking of meeting him another day.

The Desperation of Taste during World War I

Refik Halid states that Sheikalislam Hayri Efendi leaves Enver Pasha's invitation out of embarrassment when he sees the variety of food. But when Minister of Health Nâzım Pasha invites him to lunch, only lentil soup is served. What is served at his home is not different; it is either lentils or broad beans. But the patisserie of the Tokatliyan Hotel is full of all kinds of cakes and treats, as in peace days.

Refik Halid pens an article called "About Envy and Swallowing" because he has two instances of envy that he cannot forget. In the first, he is a guest at his friend Attorney Arif Bey's house. Arif Bey's two daughters come from Beyoglu with three boxes of chocolate. Packages are opened in front of Refik Halid, but they are not served, because it is before dinner time. In the second instance, his friend

Nusret Bey, who helped him in Sinop, takes him to his room in the Tokatlıyan Hotel. Many boxes of chocolates opened by his lover are waiting on the table in the room. As soon as Refik Halid sees them, he craves them, but Nusret Bey takes him downstairs for a drink.

Those Enjoying Themselves during the War

During World War I, a fire breaks out in Istanbul, leaving many people homeless. On the night of the fire, in the house of the sultan's son-in-law is an entertainment. Although Refik Halid and his entourage expect it to be ended due to the fire, that does not happen. On the contrary, it continues until morning.

As such examples of debauchery increase, Refik Halid writes articles criticizing the war profiteers. But Talat Pasha prefers to punish him and send him into exile again, instead of the war profiteers he criticizes. For Refik Halid, what Talat Pasha, who does not take the side of the people, deserves is suicide.

The Lynching of Rıza Tevfik in Komotini

When the Freedom and Entente Party is newly founded, Rıza Tevfik is sent to Komotini to make propaganda, but he is lynched in front of the gendarmerie station. The gendarmerie commander and other soldiers watch this event. Rıza Tevfik retreats to a hotel room wounded, but the party is afraid to send someone to help him. Refik Halid's brother Niyazi, who has nothing to do with politics, gets angry with this cowardice and goes to Komotini on his own. Seeing that everyone in Komotini is happy with what happened to Rıza Tevfik, he sneaks into his room and conveys the greetings of the party and then has to flee from there not to end up like him.

Envy and Slander in Beirut

When he goes to Beirut, local newspapers report the arrival of Refik Halid as a significant event. The same night, Ahmed Nami Bey, the former son-in-law of Abdulhamid, whose father is one of the former mayors of Beirut, visits him at the hotel. They become friends. This friendship continues even after Ahmed Nami Bey becomes the president of Syria after a while. Together they travel to Lebanon, northern Syria, join hunting parties, and take other trips.

However, this situation causes envy among many people, and a rumor spreads that Refik Halid introduces himself as a prince of the Ottoman Dynasty to people. Since Ahmed Nami Bey respects the Ottoman Dynasty, common people's royal claims enrage him, and the rumor aims to destroy his friendship with Refik Halid. Refik Halid learns about this from the report of an informer presented to him by Ahmed Nami Bey's clerk. The gossip does not reach its goal, but the reporter is punished. Refik Halid helps him as much as he can without letting him know that he is informed of his fake report.

Old Schoolmates

While Refik Halid is staying at the hotel in Beirut, a visitor shows up. He can't tell who the person is at first sight, but the fact that one of his eyes is fake helps him remember. He is a friend from Galatasaray High School. The next evening he stays over at him. However, he doesn't like his dark and messy house. Moreover, his friend offers warm champagne, which Refik Halid considers an example of ignorance. Thus, he does not see him again after that evening.

While passing by Homs, he remembers a young man from school: Abdulhamid. He is called Hamid because his name is the same as Sultan Abdulhamid. In the last years of the reign of Abdulhamid, a rebellion breaks out in Yemen, and Ali Rıza Pasha, who is married to the daughter of Refik Halid's uncle, is assigned to suppress it. But the pasha fails. Since Hamid is an Arab nationalist, he is happy about the failure. However, after the disintegration of the empire, Syria falls into the hands of the French. Refik Halid learns that his Arab nationalist friend is now a docile official. While working as a journalist in the same city in Aleppo, his friend works as a branch director in a state institution. They do not look up each other because Refik Halid is an exile, and his friend is ashamed to work as an officer of the French. However, Refik Halid finds his situation brighter because he does not demand a job or civil service from a foreign administration, and his own country is free again.

The District Governor's Help

During his stay near Beirut, an incident, the details of which he does not share, happens. His place of residence is a region where Christians live. Since he cannot find anyone of the same language and religion, he cannot explain himself to anyone. One day, in the afternoon, the gendarmes take him to the government building. While a gendarme is taking him to the downstairs prison, another gendarme comes running up to them and says something in Arabic. Refik Halid does not understand what he says but senses that things are going in his favor. The gendarme next to him takes him to the first floor and politely opens the door to a clean room. Refik Halid sits on the cot pointed by the gendarme.

After a while, the gendarme comes again and tells him that they have to go upstairs. They go up together. At the district governor's office, he is surprised as the district governor stands up. While waiting in anticipation in which language he will speak, the district governor begins to speak Turkish. Refik Halid's astonishment increases even more. The district governor recounts that he once saw him on the ferry with great writers, Necmeddin Sadık, Yakup Kadri, and Falih Rifki, while he was listening to them from afar, Refik Halid noticed and invited him to join them. And he always remembers this event. After the recount, he offers sherbet and states that he is not guilty and there is just a misunderstanding.

Faking His Own Death

While Refik Halid lives in Syria and Lebanon, newspapers in Turkey continue to deal with him. One day in 1924, when a friend shows the news in the newspaper *Cumhuriyet* reporting that he is seriously ill, he gets angry and writes an outraged reply to the newspaper. But then he changes his mind and sends a fake telegram on the name of an old acquaintance who had taken refuge in Aleppo, declaring that Refik Halid died of meningitis. This time, all the newspapers in Turkey publish articles about him sharing their sorrow. Then he sends another telegram under the name of a doctor friend of him that he is still alive.

The Milk

There are only shutters on the windows where Refik Halid and Sabih Sevket stay in the town of Juniye, near Beirut. Every evening after they buy milk and boil it, they keep it on the table in the dining room, so they close these shutters tightly to prevent animals and insects from entering.

One morning they realize that half of the milk is gone and think of a cat doing this but can't figure out where it can come from. The next day, they find the milk even less, even though they cover everything tightly. When this situation continues for a while, they start not to buy milk. However, this time, the birds nesting in the wall cavities scream until the morning. They don't want to think that the birds drink the milk because it is impossible for them to drink it without leaving a drop on the table.

Refik Halid wakes up to the sound of birds one morning and goes out to the terrace. As he puts his hands on the railing, he sees it waving and walking. When he tries to hold it again, he realizes that what he thinks is the railing is a large and thick snake. The snake is lost in the grass, and he realizes that it is the snake that drinks their milk, and when they do not get milk, the snake attacks the baby birds. After that day, they find their milk as they left it.

Independence Tribunals

One evening in 1925, while Refik Halid is in the newspaper *Dogru Yol* in Aleppo, a cleanly dressed, intellectual-looking man shows up. He is Ertugrul Sakir. He had to flee from Turkey and settle in Palestine, but he wants to return to the country because he doesn't want to live here and there anymore. While waiting for the departure time of his train, he stops by the newspaper to meet Refik Halid. Refik Halid, reminding him that the Independence Tribunals are still operating, advise him not to return. However, the man states that his decision is final because he may not be able to find the money to buy a ticket again. After a while, Refik Halid learns from the Istanbul newspapers that the man is first arrested and then hanged.

Among those hanged that day is his friend Tevfik Bey, with whom he took refuge in the British Embassy when the national strugglers entered Istanbul. That day, he had dinner with Tevfik Bey in a restaurant across from the embassy, and when Tevfik Bey said that he would not return to the embassy, Refik Halid insisted but could not make him give up on his decision.

An Old Acquaintance

When Refik Halid goes to Beyoglu to have fun with his friends, he always has an acquaintance at their table. One night they order a bottle of expensive champagne. But at the end of the night, no one gets enough money to pay the bill. This acquaintance speaks to the manager, promising that their debt will be paid the next day. The next day, Refik Halid pawns his father's watch. Since he is later exiled, he cannot take it back.

One evening, as he is wandering around in Aleppo, he sees this acquaintance and runs toward him in excitement. But his acquaintance ignores him by avoiding his eyes. A few years later, Refik Halid runs into him in Damascus. He is in a miserable state as the government stripped him of his citizenship for some reason. This time, however, he clings to Refik Halid's hands and apologizes to him, explaining that he was in Aleppo on a job with his manager and ignored him because he feared of being reported. Refik Halid does not feel anything for this state of him. He will never meet him again anywhere.

Having Fun in Exile

While he is staying in Aleppo, one of his colleagues in the newspaper says one evening that a Turkish agha from Amik wants to organize a party to offer him a treat. Refik Halid politely declines the offer, remembering that the host always sits in a corner and watches everyone in such entertainment. However, when his friend states that the agha has no intention of participating in the fun, he just wants him to have fun, he changes his mind and accepts the offer. His friend turns to the clerk of the agha following them and tells him where to go, and asks Refik Halid to give the names of whoever he wants to invite.

Eight people, accompanied by five or six women from all nationalities, go to a neighborhood in Aleppo where people have fun until the morning. They sit at tables and drink beer. At one point, the porters bring in two crates of Löwenbräu beer. The agha sends a word wanting them to spend more for his honor and have more fun. Upon this, they break the boxes and start pouring the beer. Meanwhile, two more cases of beer arrive. This time, they break the beers and start pouring them on each other. When Refik Halid feels his shoes getting wet, he realizes that the floor is filled with beer. He does not remember how the night ended but never sees the agha throughout his life. He only receives his greetings.

Syrian Citizenship

Since the Ankara government is disturbed by Refik Halid's writings in Aleppo, they demand he be deported from all lands under the French mandate. The French administration dismisses this demand the first time. However, one day, while Refik Halid is in the newspaper, a plainclothes policeman informs him that he will be deported if he does not become a Syrian citizen within a few hours. As per the Lausanne Agreement, refugees become Syrian citizens and civil servants, but Refik Halid insists on staying with Turkish citizenship. Thinking that he cannot complete all the procedures until the evening, he responds that he cannot do what is requested. But the policeman asks for his old identity card and says he will take care of it himself. Three hours later, he shows up with a new identity. His new name is Refik Halid Karakayiszade.

Refik Halid, to express the difference of the new government, states that the Unionists would hire an assassin instead of resorting to bureaucratic maneuvers and adds that he is not interested in politics at the request of his second wife.

Doctor Faracallah

While Refik Halid is at an entertainment venue in Aleppo, the waiter brings a card signed by Doctor Faracallah. It reads that if he comes to his table, he will have him meet with an old friend. Although Refik Halid does not like this attitude very much, he goes to the doctor's table and sees Musfik Selami, an old acquaintance. Musfik Selami says that he is there on duty as he works at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and invites him to his hotel. There, he warns him not to write articles against the government.

A few nights later, Doctor Faracallah invites Refik Halid to an entertainment venue, and when he arrives, he shows Musfik Selami dancing ecstatically among some women. Refik Halid shyly walks away.

Refik Halid later learns that the French protected him based on Doctor Faracallah's report when Turkey requested his deportation from the French mandate countries. Doctor Faracallah is an agent loved by everyone, and his report about Refik Halid says that although Refik Halid is offered many things, he does not accept anything because he is a strong-willed writer.

An Invitation to Ankara

On July 12, 1934, an official from the consulate informs Refik Halid that Celal Bey, the consul of Turkey in Aleppo, will visit him. Refik Halid and his wife start to wait. When the consul finally arrives, he conveys that Ataturk wants him to cross the border from Kilis, surrender to the first police station, and then reside in Ankara. Refik Halid, envisioning all kinds of bad scenarios coming to his mind, conveys his thanks to Ataturk and states that he does not want to return to Turkey without an official amnesty. A general amnesty is declared four years later.

There is no Change

While staying at his brother's mansion in Yesilkoy in August 1938, one morning, a civil officer informs him that he is expected at the Police Headquarters at 10 am. After learning from his neighbor that the new location of the directorate is the same as the old one, Refik Halid reaches there on time. However, since the police officers who see him whisper among themselves and keep him waiting, he tries to leave, saying in a reproachful manner that the person who wants to see him can invite him again at a more convenient time. Then, realizing that these words imply that Refik Halid has a backup, a supervisor steps in, and Refik Halid finally finds himself in the office of the deputy chief of police.

The deputy chief of police asks him with a somewhat arrogant attitude whether he is going to write an article called "Poor Istanbul." Refik Halid explains that he is not planning to write such an article and that what he heard is a lie. The deputy chief of police closes the issue without further emphasis. While leaving the room, Refik Halid requests that the passport procedures be handled for his return to Syria and asks not to cause any problems. He will go to Aleppo, but to get his stuff.

The One-Party Period

Refik Halid says that the terms democracy, social justice, development, or reform have no place in politics during the one-party era. And if the ministers see some disturbing news about something, they prevent the journalists from making any news about it again.

From Mustafa Kemal to Riza Tevfik

Riza Tevfik shares a note he found while going through his letters with Refik Halid. The note is from Mustafa Kemal. He wrote it when he was a first lieutenant. In this note, Mustafa Kemal sincerely expresses his interest in Riza Tevfik's works.

About Mustafa Kemal Ataturk

While in the Marine Club, Sukru Kaya, the former interior minister, comes up to him and tells that one day, when Refik Halid is in exile, he enters Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's room and sees him reading Refik Halid's book, but Ataturk hides the book from him. Refik Halid argues with him, claiming that Ataturk is not someone to hide a book he reads.

Kemal Salih Sel, a friend of his, also tells Refik Halid that while he is driving around Adapazari with Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in the first years of the National Struggle, Ataturk had the newspapers from Istanbul read, and after listening to what Refik Halid wrote, he commented, "He writes against us but writes well."

Circassian Hasan's Memoirs

Refik Halid states that it is easy to become a giant while alive, but that it is almost impossible to remain a giant in history and that he does not know anyone who could remain a giant except Mustafa Kemal Ataturk throughout his life. To exemplify this, he references the memoirs of his acquaintance known as Circassian Hasan.

During First World War, Circassian Hasan visits Cemal Pasha in Aleppo and finds him in his room talking to another pasha. Cemal Pasha asks the other pasha about the number of fugitives and orders him to hang half of them. Circassian Hasan feels the other pasha's uneasiness, but the pasha leaves without saying anything. After that, Cemal Pasha turns to Circassian Hasan, laughs, and says, "Well, welcome!" Refik Halid states that there is no need to write the continuation. Circassian Hasan also conveys what Falih Rifki told him about Talât Pasha. According to that Talât Pasha is so ignorant that he always needs to get his spelling corrected by Falih Rifki.

A Correction

In Hikmet Bayur's memoirs, Mehmet Ali Bey makes an appointment with Mustafa Kemal for lunch at Cercle d'Orient. The next day, while Avni Pasha and three other people are together there, Mehmet Ali Bey shows Refik Halid to Mustafa Kemal and suggests inviting him to their table. But Mustafa Kemal prefers no other guest at their table. Refik Halid states that this is wrong and that he lived with Avni Pasha in Lebanon for years, that if such a thing happened, the pasha would tell him something, but he did not.

About the General Amnesty

While with President Celal Bayar at the dinner given at the Malta Mansion for the Media Festival in 1955, Celal Bey tells Refik Halid how much effort he made for a general amnesty for the Hundredandfiftyers. He gathers information about those living in Europe, and on his return, he conveys his observations to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. After that, Ataturk authorizes the amnesty.

Dr. Riza Nur

While Refik Halid is exiled to Sinop, Riza Nur and Ali Kemal, who are among the first members of the Freedom and Accord Party, are protected by Cemal Pasha. Cemal Pasha later shares in his memoirs their letters asking for salary and civil service jobs. However, later, Riza Nur supports the National Struggle and becomes the minister of education. Then he clashes with Ataturk and settles in Paris.

During his stay in Paris, Larousse asks him to write articles related to Turkey, and according to Refik Halid, Riza Nur makes his biggest mistake here. He writes 33 lines for Mustafa Kemal and 27 lines for himself. Most of what he writes is incorrect. He was a major and professor of surgery, but he was dismissed from the medical faculty and demoted. But he writes in the encyclopedia that he is a professor at Istanbul University. After the proclamation of the Constitutional Monarchy, he becomes a deputy in the first parliament, then joins the opposition and is imprisoned. However, he represents himself as an indispensable figure in the announcement of the Constitutional Monarchy. In addition to his many more untrue statements, he also declares that he has 52 historical and literary books. Refik Halid shows how Riza Nur is harshly criticized by sharing the articles written by Vala Nureddin in the newspaper *Aksam* and Naci Sadullah in *Tan*. They reveal that there is no single line in the encyclopedia about important literary names with whom Riza Nur conflicts.

While writing his memoirs, Refik Halid comes across an article signed by Dr. Cavit Orhan Tutengil. The article includes the conditions Riza Nur communicates in his letter to Sir George Hill, dated June 4, 1935, for the four manuscripts that he donates to the British Museum and significant examinations on one of these works, the "Revival of Turkey and the Party Programme." The program in question consists of measures targeting Mustafa Kemal with racist, misogynist, and reactionary plans covering all areas of life.

Themes

Privilege Despite being an exile, Refik Halid continues to live without losing prestige and fame, unlike other exiles. A party is organized for him in Aleppo, and during his years in Beirut, he is in the close circle of Abdulhamid's former son-in-law, Ahmed Nami Bey, the Syrian president. He often receives the support of people with different political views. For example, in Sinop, his brother's friend, the Unionist Nusret Bey, supports him; in Ankara, Governor Resit Bey protects his honor; when he comes to Istanbul on leave from exile, Ziya Gokalp backs him up for his literary identity. He also attracts the attention of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk with his sharp pen, and after the republic is proclaimed, he receives special treatment from Ataturk.

Transformation

Refik Halid experiences the transformations in the last period of the empire. His studentship at Galatasaray High School positions him as an opponent of the regime. One of the most obvious examples of this is the moment when he sees Semih Mumtaz, the son of the mayor of Istanbul. He gets angry at the attention shown to a single person, ignoring other people. Similarly, unlike his Turkish and Muslim community, he attends balls to experience the life he reads in French books. A mysterious Muslim woman he meets at his first ball reveals that this transformation is not only experienced by men. In addition, he does not fail to catch the technological dimension of the transformation by telling how European-style toilets, bathrooms, shaver, mixed beaches, and radio gradually find a place in people's lives.

Loyalty

When his friend Ahmet Samim is assassinated, Refik Halid risks everything to show the state's involvement with his death. Together with a few of his friends, he convinces Hilmi Bey, the owner of the socialist-leaning *Istirak* newspaper, to share with the public the semi-official death threat, which is sent to Ahmet Samim before his death.

Inconsistency

When the Unionists are in power, Refik Halid runs into his old private tutor, whom he points out as one of the two persons to introduce him to the idea of freedom, but his tutor ignores him. The Unionists come to power with the promise of freedom but imprison a deer they claim to love in the basement of an apartment building. Talât Pasha prefers to punish critical journalists like Refik Halid instead of the war profiteers. In the face of the inconsistency of these people, who promise a better and more free life, Refik Halid feels alienated.

Critical Thinking

Refik Halid spends most of his life as an opponent. When he returns to the Republic of Turkey, he thinks that not much has changed. He appreciates the efforts of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk for the independence of the country, but he does not hesitate to convey that the attitudes of the civil servants and the politicians of the one-party period have the same oppressive attitude that he saw in the former statesmen.

Bibliography

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