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STIGMA / DAMGA (1924) RESAT NURI GUNTEKIN (1889 – 1956)

Apropos

Stigma (Damga), the fourth novel written by Resat Nuri Guntekin during his early years as a writer, was published in 1924 by Ikbal Library in Istanbul and was also published by Inkilap Publishing House in the following years. The narrative, which takes place before and after the Second Constitutional Monarchy, which is considered to be the last periods of the Ottoman Empire, is adorned with realistic practices. The drama of Iffet, who influenced by a selfless love take he heard from her aunt in his childhood, experiences a similar experience in his adult years, reveals significant highlights about the social structure and dynamics of that period. The narrative proceeds mostly through the protagonist Iffet from the point of view the hero-narrator. Practices such as summarization, montage, dialogue, inner-monologue, monologue and narration are used. The narrative consists of fifty sub-sections in total, each of them is numbered. Place names such as Karamursel, Istanbul, Kisikili, Midilli, Konya, Eskisehir, Buyukada and Cengelkoy appear in the narrative.

Synopsis

“Iffet is the son of one of the pashas of the reign of Abdulhamid II. In the 1908 Constitutional Monarchy, he goes to Lesbos with his exiled father and returns to Istanbul two years later when his father dies there. At the age of twenty, he begins his law studies. Vedia, the wife of Mr. Cemil Kerim, whose children Iffet teaches in Bebek, loves Iffet and Iffet is also in love with Vedia. They meet on nights when Mr. Cemil is not at the mansion. When he is caught one night, he says that he came to steal in order not to reveal the secret between him and Vedia, he is put on trial and sentenced to six months in prison. When he gets out of prison, he becomes unemployed because of the stigma of being thief and his guilt is thrown in his face on various occasions. When he starts working for his eternal friend Celal's wagon company, he becomes financially prosperous. The court case of his father's mansion in Cengelkoy is over. With the money he got, Iffet buys a house in a quiet place. One day he meets Vedia, who tells him that she has separated from her husband. When Iffet reminds her that they can get married now, Vedia argues that marrying someone stigmatized will lead to ugly rumors and she rejects the proposal. The novel concludes with Iffet's conclusion, “I have sacrificed my life to a delusion!”. He endured so much all those sacrifices in vain”. (Habervakti 2021).

People

<i>Iffet</i>	The protagonist is a romantic lover and a revolutionary with a passion for justice.
<i>Vedia</i>	Mr. Cemil Kerim's second wife and Iffet's forbidden love.
<i>Celal</i>	Partisan of the Young Turks and revolutionary character. Iffet's most sincere friend.
<i>Muzaffer</i>	Iffet's older brother. He was an aidant of the Sultan (tr. hünkâr yaveri), but after the revolution, he becomes the son-in-law of a rich family.
<i>Hatice</i>	Iffet's aunt who lives in Damlacik Farm.
<i>Kamiyab</i>	She was the nanny of Iffet.
<i>Mr. Mahmut</i>	Muzaffer's teacher and a friend of the family.
<i>Little Omer</i>	One of Iffet's childhood friends.
<i>Mr. Vecdi</i>	A high school teacher who was denounced by the sleuths.
<i>Cemil Kerim</i>	A parliamentarian and a wealthy businessman.
<i>Halis Pasha</i>	Iffet's pasha is a pasha who grew up in the Porte.
<i>Namiye</i>	A woman who steals because of her poverty.
<i>Karabet</i>	Armenian joinery apprentice is a thief who is Iffet's prison buddy.
<i>Aristidi</i>	Greek cloth merchant engaged in smuggling.
<i>Old Man</i>	Prisoner who threatens his deceased neighbor's wife.
<i>Vasif</i>	Registry clerk convicted for beating one of his superiors.
<i>Tax Collector</i>	Narrative character who convicted for taking bribes.

Other narrative characters in the narrative are as follows: Gardener, Handan; Mr. Cemil Kerim's daughter, Kemal; Mr. Cemil Kerim's son, Nihat; Vedia's son, Rana, Hikmet, Mahipeyker Kalfa; Iffet's nanny, Mr. Sami Belig; editor-in-chief of the newspaper Hukuk-I Millet, Mr. Ali Rusuhi; editor-in-chief of the newspaper Telegraph, Sezai Efendi, Orphan Sabri; company employee in Konya, Aunt Fahriye; Iffet's wealthy widowed aunt etc.

Elaborative Storyline

Good and bad memories of Iffet's childhood Iffet, the protagonist of the narrative, remembers the festival held in their mansion in Erenkoy in August as his earliest memory of his childhood. He describes the details of the mansion at length and tells the happy moments about the people he remembers. Having grown up almost completely without his mother, Iffet's rare memories belong to those days. He also thinks that he has made up these memories in his own mind because of his longing for his mother. During one of the festival days, Iffet's father became a grand vizier and his late sister got married. When Iffet tries to picture his childhood years in his mind, he imagines a very lively and colorful home, but when he visits the mansion years later, he sees that the magic he felt has disappeared. The structure has been abandoned and has almost turned into a ruin due to neglect. Iffet, who remembers the mansion in Aksaray better, has spent his entire childhood living a life of imprisonment in it. His father, one of the closest men of the Sultan, did not want his children to study in the newly opened schools, so he hired a private teacher to take care of them. Iffet's most striking memory about the mansion in Aksaray is the congregational prayers, recitation of the Quran and hymns performed during Ramadan nights. Having lost two older sisters and a brother, Iffet remembers also the day his late brother got married.

Iffet's first friendships Head of female servants Kamiyab takes care of Iffet, who grew up without a mother. When a fire breaks out in the mansion, Kamiyab saves Iffet. Being a very busy person, Halis Pasha finds it difficult to spare time for his children. Muzaffer and Iffet are mostly taken care of by Kamiyab and Mahmut Efendi. Iffet, who is forbidden to leave the mansion, watches the children playing outside from his nanny's window. Iffet, who does not find the pretense and habits of the children of wealthy families sincere, thinks that the real friendships are formed between children who play on the street, climb trees and fight with each other. Therefore, Iffet is eager to play in the street and be friends with the children playing in the street. Iffet and Kamiyab start to visit Mahipeyker, the old nanny who lives in Kiztasi, and from that day on, Iffet becomes friends with street children for the first time. Mahipeyker's son Murat becomes his best friend. As a result of the whining of Iffet, who is jealous of the children going to school and wants to attend classes like them, the nannies start to take him to school twice a week. Pissy Tahir and Little Omer, who are ridiculed by the other students, become Iffet's closest friends. The teacher, who learns that Iffet is the child of a pasha, treats him differently from the other students. Iffet wants to join the students in the amen parade and succeeds thanks to the pressure he puts on his nannies. When they return to school, the teacher gives the students pocket money, but Iffet, the child of a pasha, is deprived of it. One day, seeing the teacher punishing the students with a rod, Iffet wants to undergo the same treatment with his friends. Upon Iffet's insistence, the teacher puts him on bastinado and starts to beat his feet slowly. The class teacher tells Iffet that he is a promising student.

Iffet's cheerful childhood and the tale that left a profound impact on him Little Omer and Iffet make a habit of exchanging their meals. While Iffet gives him his meatballs, he gives Iffet his olives. Realizing this situation, the teacher scolds Little Omer and forbids him to take Iffet's meatballs ever again. When they return to the mansion, Iffet falls ill and Halis Pasha comes to his son after a long time and show him compassion. Iffet tells Halis Pasha that he wants to play with his friends again and go to school. Halis Pasha gets angry at what Iffet says. Realizing that he has blurted out things that should not have been said, Iffet falls silent. Halis Pasha reprimands Kamiyab and tells her not take Iffet to school again. In the following years, Muzaffer continues his lessons with Mahmut Hodja and takes French lessons from Israil Efendi. When summer comes, Iffet goes to farm of his father's sister in Karamursel, where he spends the happiest and most unforgettable times of the year. Because when he is on his aunt's farm, he does everything he cannot do at his father's house. He climbs trees, rushes in the fields and plays and fights with children. Impressed by a windmill he saw near the farm, Iffet listens to his aunt's tale about the windmill. Ayse is asked to be married Gaffar Agha, the owner of the mill, after her lover, Ismail, went to Yemen. Although Ayse initially resists the pressure, she decides to marry Gaffar Agha, believing that Ismail will not return from Yemen. Years later, Ismail returns to the village and sees that Ayse has married Gaffar Agha. One night, Ismail visits the woman

he loves at the mill and has an affair with her. When they see Gaffar Agha knocking at the door of the mill, Ismail jumps from the mill into the reeds to save Ayse's honor and he loses his life there. Deeply influenced by this tale, Iffet realizes that true love means making sacrifices and takes this as his motto.

Iffet starts high school and one of the teachers is denounced At the age of seventeen, Muzaffer becomes the aidant of the Sultan. Halis Pasha decides to send Iffet to high school. Iffet, who starts to receive education at high school, is treated separately from the children from commoner. Iffet, who does not like to spend time with children from the noble class like himself, meets Brother Celal. Influenced by Celal, who praises to the Constitutional Monarchy and has a revolutionary worldview, Iffet begins to realize and make sense of the things that bother him about his family. Although it was decided that he would be enrolled as an aidant of the Sultan in his senior year, Iffet wanted to study law. He dreams of living a modest life and becoming a civil servant in a provincial civil service. Mr. Vecdi, one of the progressivist teachers of the high school, is arrested. Iffet thinks that he can plead with Halis Pasha and save Mr. Vecdi from prison or exile. However, Celal tells him that Mr. Vecdi has been denounced by sleuths because there are rumors that he is a supporter of the constitutionalism. Mr. Vecdi is arrested and taken away, and it becomes a matter of curiosity as to who denounced him. Students as well as teachers are demoralized. During the geography class, the prefect enters the classroom and says that the principal has called Iffet. Iffet goes to the principal's office led by the prefect.

Iffet is suspected of being a sleuth There are two people in the principal's office who are apparently palace officials. Iffet is questioned by the aide about Mr. Vecdi's letter. Iffet, who is tried to be put under pressure with questions and threats, clearly and unequivocally states that he is not a sleuth and has no knowledge about the subject. As the tension in the room rises, the other officer talks to Iffet privately and treats him extremely well. Afterwards Iffet asks Celal by whom Mr. Vecdi was denounced. Celal, who looks at Iffet with a bored attitude, tells that he is the one who denounced Mr. Vecdi. All the students and teachers at the high school think that Iffet is a sleuth. Falling ill, Iffet returns home and suffers from a sore throat. After a while, Halis Pasha comes to the house and asks to meet Iffet and calls him while he is meeting Mahmut Efendi. Halis Pasha tells Iffet that he is aware of the interrogation and that he should not have given unkind answers to the officials. Adding that not everything can be told to everyone Halis Pasha says that he is not a sleuth either. Iffet, who could not control his tears in response to his father's words, thought that their relationship had improved, but Halis Pasha started to treat Iffet more harshly after that day.

Iffet drops out of high school and tends to unionism (Ittihadism) After the incident, Iffet, who had dropped out of the high school, begins to live an idle life. At noon on an Eid day, Halis Pasha and Muzaffer return from the palace. While Muzaffer promises a future for the family, Iffet does not know what he will do and how he will survive. Iffet says harsh words to her brother-in-law, who criticizes him and shows Muzaffer as an example, and adds that the reign will not last forever and the people will take over. After that day, Iffet realizes that the revolutionary ideas in the books he has read has started to germinate in his won mind. Iffet turns into a restless and thoughtful character day by day.

Proclamation of the Constitutional Monarchy and Halis Pasha is exiled While returning by ferry from Kamiyab's funeral in Eyupsultan, Iffet is saddened by the fact that no one came to the funeral and that she was buried as an orphan and a poor person. During the ferry ride, Iffet realizes that the man sitting across from him is Celal and does not know what to do. Sitting next to Iffet, Celal tells him that the person who denounced Mr. Vecdi turned out to be one of the jealous teachers at the school and apologizes for having suspected him. The two then promise to remain lifelong friends. Iffet, who receives news of the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy while he is ill at Damlacik Farm, sets out for Istanbul a few days later despite his illness. Suffering from chest cold, Iffet completely forgets his discomfort when he arrives in Istanbul and is overwhelmed by the sights he sees. Seeing people chanting slogans of freedom and the streets taking on a festive atmosphere, Iffets sees with his own eyes the society he had imagined. However, he anxiously awaits the fate of his family members. After a few tense days at the mansion, Mahmut Efendi informs him that Halis Pasha has been arrested and will probably be exiled to Lesbos. Shortly after receiving this news, Halis Pasha is visited at the jail. Contrary to popular belief, Halis Pasha is quite happy and calm. When it becomes certain that he will be exiled to Lesbos, Halis Pasha begins to say goodbye to his family and Iffet tells him that he will come there too and will not leave him alone.

Iffet returns to Istanbul after two and half years, returns to the university (tr. Dârülfünun) and finds a job

Father and son stay in Lesbos for about two and half years. They live in poverty in a small three-roomed house. Iffet's elder sister ran away to Egypt and Muzaffer become the son-in-law of a rich family from Buyukada. One day Halis Pasha, who had spent all his time reading divan on the windowsill, falls on his sick bed, kisses his son's hand with grateful eyes and passes away. After his father's death, Iffet returns to Istanbul. Although he does not know how he will survive in Istanbul after two and half wasted years, he does not regret the time he spent taking care of his father. Returning to Istanbul, Iffet decides to complete his education and find a job and work. He temporarily moves in with his elder brother in Buyukada, enrolls in Darulfunun and starts looking for a job. After a while, Mahmut Efendi arranges a teaching job for Iffet for the children of Mr. Cemil Kerim, a member of parliament residing in Bebek. Mr. Cemil Kerim became a parliamentarian after the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy from the sanjak where he was a governor.

Iffet teaches Mr. Cemil Kerim's children and meets Vedia When Iffet begins to teach Mr. Cemil Kerim's children, Handan and Kemal, he moves from the house in Buyukada to a boarding house in Gedikpasa. He is liked by the Armenian woman who owns the house and continues his classes at Darulfunun. The father of Vedia, the wife of Mr. Cemil Kerim, who is engaged in trade in addition to being a parliamentarian, was one of the respected merchants of Izmir. During the classes, Handan and Kemal tease Vedia and speak ill of her to Iffet. Vedia, who had gone to Izmir to take care of her sick father, does not come out of her room for a month when she returns home after her father's death. One day, Vedia greets Iffet in the room where the classes are held, introduces herself to him and asks him to give classes to Nihat. Iffet sees that Vedia has a very thin and delicate character, contrary to what Handan had told him. He is impressed by her beauty and thoughtful nature. When Vedia learns that Iffet is an exile who has lost his father and is ostracized by society, she begins to feel close to him and shares with him the things she is afraid to tell even to her husband.

Iffet and Vedia get closer It is learned that Mr. Cemil Kerim's relative Mr. Rifki, who became a foreign service officer with the favor of an acquaintance while he was a citizenship education teacher, will come to dinner. Although he does not like him at all, Iffet agrees to stay for dinner upon the insistence of the children. Rifki tests the children's educational status with questions and finds them weak in French and Calculus classes. For this reason, Mr. Rifki takes it out on Iffet and even humiliates him in front of the others. Because Mr. Rifki takes pleasure in humiliating people who belong to a lower social stratum than himself. After Mr. Rifki leaves the house, Iffet goes to the garden to get some air and finds Vedia by the sea. Vedia asks Iffet when he will go to the city and when he will come back. Vedia realizes that Iffet feels degraded and that he will quit his job. Despite the bad incident, Vedia asks Iffet to stay.

Forbidden love between Iffet and Vedia From that day on, the two begin to meet and see each other, especially at nights. They meet at the boathouse by the dock. They are worried about Nihat waking up and alerting the other residents of the house, leading them to search for Vedia. If this happens, Iffet says that he will throw himself into the water and tell Vedia that he will not allow her name to be tarnished. Iffet tells Vedia the tale he had listened to when he was at Damlacik Farm. Four months later, when Iffet suffers from mild pneumonia, Vedia enters the boarding house and meets him, introducing herself as Makbule, the daughter of Iffet's aunt. Iffet loves Vedia so much that he is willing to sacrifice everything for her.

Iffet sacrifices himself for Vedia With the arrival of winter, the two find it difficult to see each other outside at night, so Vedia sees Iffet during the classes. Unable to bear being without Vedia, Iffet insists on seeing her at night. Since the weather is cold and rainy, they meet in Mr. Cemil Kerim's workroom. Because Mr. Cemil Kerim is also in the habit of spending two days a week in the city. Vedia knows that Mr. Cemil Kerim is seeing other women and has a mistress. The lovers continue to meet at night in a secret room of the house. When they begin to fear the house gardener and the servants, one night, they realize that the house is being searched. The gardener, who had seen a man entering the mansion at night, started searching the house with two men and informed the police. Iffet, who decides to sacrifice himself rather than tarnish the name of the woman she loves, waits to be caught with the valuables he took from Mr. Cemil Kerim's room.

Iffet is tried for theft and convicted After two days in the detention center, he is released on the third day of his detention, after Celal pays the bail. On the night of that day, Iffet, who stayed at Celal's house, is forced to explain that he did not actually commit a theft. Celal tells Iffet that he knows he is

not a thief, that he was naïve to sacrifice his own future for Vedia and that he will regret his decision in the future. However, Iffet says that he will not back down from his decision and is sure that he will not regret it. During the trial, Iffet accepts the accusations against him and is sentenced to six months in prison. Mahmut Efendi greets Iffet with sadness and shame as he leaves the courtroom. Entering the prison, Iffet is taken to a small guard room with the help of Celal. There are four other people staying here besides him. The Tax Collector, Father, Registry Clerk and the political prisoner get to know Iffet. The tax collector took bribes, when Father saw his deceased neighbor's widow flirting with other men, he threatened her with his pistol, The Clerk beat up one of his superiors who had mistreated him and it is not known what the political prisoner did. On Hidrellez they plan to have a small feast.

Iffet gets out of prison and starts life with his tarnished name The loneliness in prison causes Iffet to become extremely withdrawn and the silhouettes of the people around him become blurred. Time moves very slowly. In February, it is said that a visitor came from Karamursel. Although Iffet thinks that Vedia has come visit by showing courage and making a sacrifice, the person who came is his aunt Hatice. Aunt Hatice tells Iffet that things are not going well at the farm and that the grooms are in debt. Iffet, who regains his freedom after a while, goes to Ahirkapi with Vasif Efendi and the two thinks about what they will do there. They are worried about how they will continue their lives as a stigmatized person. Vasif Efendi, who attacked one of his superiors, will no longer be able to be a civil servant. Iffet gives up his dream of going back to Law and becoming a justice officer. He stays with Celal for two days and Mahmut Efendi for one day. Mahmut Efendi's modest house in Sariguzel, away from judgmental eyes, does him good. He prepares his grandson, Sadi, for his French exam. The atmosphere gets cold when a fable they have been working on during the lesson conveys the message that even a cat would not commit a theft. On the other hand, Mahmut Efendi has adopted his daughter-in-law since their son died. Iffet encounters Muzaffer in Bahcekapi and becomes his guest. Although his brother's wife and her family welcome him, they try to hide him from the neighbors and take the valuable jewelry they keep in the room they give him. Iffet thinks that he is beginning to regret the sacrifice he made for Vedia, as Celal said.

Iffet is treated as a thief Celal tells Iffet, who comes to his office in Cihangir, that his clients are mostly rich through immoral means and that his misdeeds are insignificant compared to the evil deeds of most people. Muzaffer tells him that he has to visit Fahriye, who got sick as a result of a ferry accident. Iffet, who dislikes Fahriye's sons and sons-in-law, goes her house on Saturday with hesitation because he thinks he will never see her again. Fahriye tells Iffet that she has sold the land of her shop in Uskudar and that only one hundred liras are left from the capital. Fahriye asks Iffet to deposit her money in the bank account. Realizing that Fahriye is trying to give him self-confidence and show that she trusts him, Iffet fulfills her wish. Looking for a job, Iffet is told by Celal that a Greek dress merchant named Aristidi Efendi is looking for a worker who speaks French and that he recommended him. Iffet goes to the shop in Galata and learns that he will be smuggling goods through customs and he is being treated as a thief. Continuing his job search after refusing the job offer, Iffet feels his resistance breaking and senses that evil prevails in the world.

Iffet lives in fear While sitting in his room, Iffet hears some noises and people gathering in front of the grocery store and a later he sees that the police have arrived. When he receives information from Madame about what happened in front of the grocery store, he learns that there has been a robbery and the culprit has not yet been found. Since the culprit cannot be found, Iffet becomes worried, thinking that the criminals living closest to the scene of the crime will be interrogated. Frightened, he goes to Celal and returns back, unable to tell him his problem while strolling around Hürriyet Hill. Returning to the boarding house, Iffet learns from Madame that the thief has still not been found and that the police want to meet with him. Confident that what he fears has happened to him, Iffet goes to the police station. After dealing with a married couple who were fighting among themselves, the commissar meets with Iffet and tells him that he needs to go to the recruiting office for an eye exam.

Iffet is offered illegal jobs and corruption in the business world Having been unable to find a job for a long time and barely making ends meet thanks to the help of his elder brother and his aunt, Iffet goes to the bazaar to sell his father's heirloom gold watch. As he wanders among the sellers, he encounters an old friend who has just been released from prison. The friend offers him a job to sell the valuables he stole. Because Iffet is better dressed and more trustworthy in appearance. Iffet angrily rejects this offer, but when he remembers that he has to pay his rent debts to Madame, he sells the gold watch to the jeweler for a price far below its value. After a while, Celal finds a job for Iffet at the

Hukuk-i Millet newspaper. He starts working as an informant for a newspaper that opposes the government. Iffet, who is very to have a job even though he does not receive his wages regularly, tells Celal about his thoughts and feelings. Due to financial difficulties, the newspaper's editor-in-chief, Mr. Sami Belig, decides to blackmail Muzaffer Baki, the owner of a shipping company who has illicit relations with the government. Iffet refuses this job offered to him. Even though Mr. Sami Belig blackmails him through someone else, the newspaper is shut down anyway after a while and Mr. Sami Belig is appointed as the governor of one of the sanjaks in Anatolia.

Pessimism of Iffet who is alienated and overwhelmed by the corrupt world Iffet, who gets a job at the Telegraph newspaper with the reference of Sezai Efendi, the translator, clings to his job with all his heart, even though he knows the dirty deeds of his boss Mr. Ali Rusuhi and that the newspaper makes fake news. The owner of Selamet-i Milliye, a fierce rival of Telegraph, is reported to have taken bribes while he was a head of criminal court. Soon after, the rival newspaper publishes a column accusing everyone working at Telegraph. It was also mentioned that Iffet was the son of an exiled father and that he had stolen from the house where he worked as a teacher. Thereupon, Iffet resigns and struggles with poverty. He repeatedly contemplates suicide. He is afraid to go out in the daytime because of the tarnish on his name. One night he goes down to Unkapani and contemplates committing suicide by throwing himself into the water. In one of the taverns he entered, he encounters his old prison friend, Armenian Karabet. In the company of Karabet, who steal to survive apart from being a carpenter's apprentice, Yorgo and Bulgarian, Iffet finds the peace and sincerity he has not felt for a long time. He now feels that he belongs to the world of criminals.

Iffet has a regular job and is interested in Rana After a while, Iffet encounters Celal, who has gone to Konya due to financial difficulties, and learns that he is a wagon trader and has become very rich in a short time. Upon Celal's offer, Iffet goes to Konya and gets a job in wagon trading company, supervising the products going from Konya to Istanbul. While in Eskisehir, Iffet takes an orphaned child he knows with him to Istanbul, adopts him and enrolls him in a boarding school. While traveling by train from Istanbul to Izmir, Iffet sends the woman who is ill and staying with her daughter on the train due to road closure near Usak, to one of the nearby villages with Ibrahim, the dispatcher of the company. The little girl Rana tells Iffet that her older brother Hikmet, who was a soldier in Izmir, where they went with her mother, died after an operation. After the roads are opened, Iffet takes the sick woman and her young daughter back to their home in Istanbul and realizes that he has begun to have deep feelings for Rana. When Iffet sees that his feelings are reciprocated, he fears his past experiences and does not call Rana again. While in Istanbul, Iffet visits Mahmut Efendi and saves a woman accused of theft from the man who accused her of theft. Iffet, who can empathize with the woman based on the problems he has experienced in his own past, tries to save her from the quagmire she has fallen into when he learns that she is a prostitute.

Rejection of Iffet by Vedia in a complicated period Later, Namiye gets Iffet, who had done her a favor, drunk at the hotel where she is staying, then steals the money from his wallet and disappears. After this incident, Iffet is deeply saddened and begins to question himself again. Iffet learns from the telegram he received from his brother Muzaffer that they have won the inheritance case they have been waiting for a while. With the share of the inheritance, Iffet settles in a large house with a garden in Cengelkoy. When Mr. Fazil, the accountant of the company he worked for in Konya, comes to Istanbul, Iffet, who takes him around, encounters Hidayet Dede, one of his old prison friends. When Iffet cannot resist Hidayet Dede's insistence to buy him and his guest a drink, they go to a tavern. After Hidayet Dede causes a disturbance in the tavern, the police come and arrest him. While he is being arrested and taken away, Hidayet Dede shouts at Iffet as a thief. Some time after the incident, Iffet meets Vedia and Iffet's extinguished feelings are reignited. Learning that Vedia has separated from her husband, Iffet asks her to marry him. However, Vedia tells Iffet that she cannot marry a stigmatized thief and after that moment, Iffet realizes that he has "sacrificed his whole life to a delusion".

Themes

Love The protagonist of the narrative, Iffet, the son of one of the pashas of the Sublime Porte upbringing, grew up in a wealthy family, but lived a life almost completely closed to the outside world in the mansions in Istanbul. He can only live his childhood freely with his nannies and at his aunt's farm in Karamursel. Iffet, who was greatly influenced by a love story he had heard about a mill near the farm in Karamursel, learned the lesson that true love can be experienced by making sacrifices and

took this lesson as a motto for himself. In his youth, he falls in love with Vedia, the wife of Mr. Cemil Kerim, whose children he teaches, and begins to have a forbidden love affair with her. One night when the lovers were meeting secretly, the household thinks that a burglar had broken into the house and started to search the place. Not wanting to tarnish the name of the woman he loves, Iffet pretends to have committed theft by taking some items from Mr. Cemil Kerim's room. Continuing his lie during the trial, Iffet is sentenced to six months in prison. With the announcement of his conviction, Iffet becomes a person to be shamed by both his close and distant circle. Years later, when Iffet encounters the woman he loves and learns that she has divorced her husband, he proposes marriage to her. But Vedia tells Iffet that she cannot marry him because he is a stigmatized burglar. Iffet, who has not seen the slightest sacrifice from the woman he loves, realizes that he has sacrificed his whole life to the romance and delusion of his childhood. Moreover, Iffet, who cannot trust women because of the trauma he has experienced, distances himself from Rana, who shows interest in him.

Social Class The real time of the narrative in Resat Nuri Guntekin's novel *Stigma* covers the period before and after the Constitutional Monarchy. Throughout the narrative, the social structure is divided into two. In addition to the common people, who are seen as the servants of the sultan, there is an elite group, the palace people. Although the palace people, like the commoners, are servants of the sultan, they have important privileges and live in wealth. Iffet and his elder brother receive classes from private teachers and it is not tolerated that they receive education in the schools where common people children go. However, Iffet, who cannot harmonize with the children of the elite class to which he belongs, wants to be friends with the children of the commoners he sees playing on the street. When Iffet, who is of school age, is sent to the high school by his pasha father, he is favored by the teachers. Iffet's elder brother Muzaffer is raised by male servants (tr. lala) and becomes the aidant of the sultan. Since he is loyal to the sultanate and does not question, his future is bright. However, Iffet, who questions the structure and dynamics of the society he lives in, is alienated by the members of the social class he belongs to. While it is seen that the narrative characters who try to make a living with their labor have serious financial problems, the elite class lives in prosperity and wealth.

Conflict The real time of the narrative in Resat Nuri Guntekin's novel *Stigma* covers the period before and after the Constitutional Monarchy. The sultanate uses its power not to revive state institutions but to keep the people under pressure. Therefore, the educated intellectual class in the country demands the Constitutional Monarchy. The Young Turks and members of the Committee of Union and Progress carry out secret activities for the proclamation of the Constitutional Monarchy and the transfer of legislative power to the parliament by restricting the powers of the sultan. The sultanate, which opposes the demands of the supporters of freedom, wants to catch the revolutionaries through sleuths and the numbers of denunciations increases day by day. Iffet, who is introduced to revolutionary and progressive ideas through Celal, whom he meets at the high school, deviates from the consciousness of the class he belongs to and seeks justice. Because of his passion and belief in justice, he decides to study law at Darulfunun. When he is in his twenties, the Constitutional Monarchy is proclaimed, but the revolution does not meet expectations. Because the corruption in society continues as before. The members of the parliament also begin to accumulate capital by engaging in trade. This causes unfair distribution of income among the common people to increase day by day. Besides love, ideological obsessions also become one of Iffet's delusions. Because his father was exiled to Lesbos as a result of this political conflict, and this exile causes Iffet to lose his father and waste two and half years of his life. At the same time, Iffet is stigmatized as the son of an exiled pasha.

Otherness Iffet, the protagonist of Resat Nuri Guntekin's novel *Stigma*, is the son of one of the pashas of Sublime Porte and has spent almost his entire childhood imprisoned in mansions and pavilions. Only when he goes to visit Mahipeyker and his father's sister, he has the freedom to behave as he wishes. Iffet, who was mostly raised in a closed environment, learns about life from tales and narratives he listens to. Therefore, he develops a highly sensitive, delicate and romantic consciousness. Iffet, who is very loyal to his beliefs, values and ideals, is stigmatized as a thief as a result of the sacrifice he made for the woman he loved. Because of his name has been tarnished, Iffet is alienated by his inner circle and society. After he is convicted and imprisoned for six months, his close circle looks at Iffet with pitying eyes and lose their trust in him, albeit relatively. Aunt Hatice and Mahmut Efendi are saddened by Iffet's plight. His elder brother Muzaffer is also upset but suspects that Iffet might be a burglar. Iffet, who finds jobs in some newspapers thanks to Celal, is offered illicit jobs. He is treated like a notorious criminal at every job interview or at every job he starts. For this reason, Iffet experiences great problems both in his private and professional life and becomes more

and more withdrawn every day. Finally, he is excluded by the woman for whom he ruined his whole life. In the end, Iffet deeply regrets the sacrifice he has made.

Character Analysis

Iffet (Open/Social/Conscientious/Emotional)

Iffet, the protagonist of the narrative, is the son of a pasha who was raised in the Sublime Porte. He grew up without a mother because he lost his mother when he was very young. Iffet is raised by Kamiyab. He grew up in the mansions and the pavilions of Istanbul from a young age. As a member of a family affiliated with the palace elite, he is not allowed to communicate or interact with commoners. Therefore, he spent most of his childhood confined to the mansion. Only when he visits Mahipeyker and his aunt Hatice, he is able to live his childhood freely and mingle with the commoner children. In the years he starts high school, he is favored by the teachers because of being a son of a pasha. It is thought that he denounced a teacher who was accused of being a revolutionary. He is introduced to revolutionary and libertarian ideas through Celal, one of his closest friends at high school, and from the day he meets them, he becomes a supporter of the Constitutional Monarchy. After the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy, he does not want to leave his father, who is exiled to Lesbos, alone and spends two and half years with him there. After returning to Istanbul, Iffet continues to study law at Darulfunun, and begins to teach Mr. Cemil Kerim's children. Iffet falls in love with Mr. Cemil Kerim's wife Vedia and begins to have a forbidden love affair with her. Under the influence of the tale of the mill he had heard from his aunt, he sacrifices himself for Vedia, allowing his own name to be tarnished rather than Vedia being stigmatized as a woman who cheated on her husband. But living with the stigma of being a thief is very difficult for Iffet. Having never seen any sacrifice from the woman he loves, Iffet accepts that he has sacrificed his life to a delusion.

Curious "We had a room on the top floor of the mansion, above the garden. (...) The windows of our room overlooked the harem garden and a corner of the mosque courtyard across the way. In the evenings, I would climb on chairs, wall saddles and window frames to get a better view of the children playing in this courtyard" (Guntekin 2018, 8).

Worried "It looked like it was going to rain. There was a hazy fog all around. I felt a strange stillness in Vedia. Her breathing was labored, she sighed heavily every now and then, and his nervous fingers tightened around my wrists. The heaviness of the night seemed to have affected me too. As the silence continued, the few words I tried to say were almost tiring me out" (Guntekin 2018, 54).

Critical "It was a bad time in Istanbul. Many brave, busybody, decent men were starving. Especially a young man like me, who is unprotected, cowardly, and moreover stigmatized" (Guntekin 2018, 83).

Happy "The word Karamursel had a magical effect on me. When I heard it, it was as if summer winds filled with the scent of dried crops were blowing on my face" (Guntekin 2018, 17).

Emotional "I was reluctant, humble and simple child. I wanted nothing but to love my friends. I could never take a shine to these well-behaved, gentle, little gentlemen who did not play, did not laugh and called each other "sir" (Guntekin 2018, 20).

Other "My brother had come to the prison three times and brought me various things. He felt embarrassed for not calling me for a few days, and he was looking for reasons to put his blame on my shoulders" (Guntekin 2018, 89-90).

Honest "I got used to my job and my new friends very quickly. Working was a need for me. The more tired my body got, the more comfortable my heart felt. One day, Celal and I had this conversation" (Guntekin 2018, 113).

Desperate "I had thought of throwing myself into the sea while going down the slope. But now this death seemed cold and terrible to me" (Guntekin 2018, 126).

Celal (Open/Social/Conscientious/Rational)

Celal, one of the norm characters of the narrative, has a great influence on Iffet's life with his thoughts, actions and the role he plays. He guides Iffet when he is in a difficult situation or in a deadlock. Celal gives the desired messages in the narrative and acts as a spokesman of the author. Celal meets Iffet in high school. He believes that Iffet denounced the teacher who was arrested after being denounced. But when he finds out that he is innocent, he apologizes to Iffet and says that he will be his friend for life. Celal introduces Iffet to revolutionary and libertarian thinkers and ideas. Thanks to Celal, Iffet acquires a progressive worldview. Later on, Celal realizes that Iffet made a great sacrifice for Vedia risked tarnishing his own name. Celal accuses Iffet of being too naïve and not knowing enough about the world. Celal warns Iffet that he should not make a decision that he will regret and waste his life. Later, Celal helps Iffet, who is released from prison, find a place to stay and a job. He holds his hand in every aspect of his life. Celal, who studied law at Darulfunun and became a lawyer, warns Iffet that he should be very careful in his private and business life and not to trust anyone with the experiences he has gained from life and work. Later, Celal, entered the wagon trade and founded a company, becomes rich. He gives a job in his company to Iffet, who has been unemployed for a long time and on the verge of committing suicide, and tries to protect and take care of him.

Reputable "There was a hard-working, meticulous Brother Celal in the class, who was never good with courteous boys. Although he treated me coldly in the first days, later even he started to like me" (Guntekin 2018, 24).

Progressivist "Celal and I became very close friends. He had a fiery, reckless revolutionary spirit. Without thinking that I am the child of a courtier, he tells me about freedom, constitutionalism, the injustices of the sultan and the misdeeds of the sleuths" (Guntekin 2018, 24).

Realist "There was a difference between my friend and me. He expected things to be resolved with blood and fire. With my unrealistic optimism, I hoped for tolerance and sacrifice from both sides. Probably because there are many people from my own family and loved ones on the side that I want to be crushed" (Guntekin 2018, 24-25).

Mocking Celal, who believes that Mr. Vecdi was denounced by Iffet, answers his question about who denounced Mr. Vecdi in a sarcastic manner: "Who will do it... I did it... Who else will do it but me? he said" (Guntekin 2018, 31).

Friendly "When we parted, promising each other that we would remain friends and companions until death, all the poison had drained out of me. I no longer felt lonely" (Guntekin 2018, 38).

Reliable "I spent two days and two nights in the detention house. Towards the evening of the third day, Celal succeeded in getting me released on bail" (Guntekin 2018, 67).

Wise "Because you are convinced that I know your secret, that I understand your sacrifice... There will come a day when neither my understanding of you nor even her love will be enough to console you... Let's find a way to fix this... You are not one of those people who can live in rebellion against society" (Guntekin 2018, 70).

Pessimist "(...) All these people I have mentioned and many more are very respected, well-known, dignified and influential people. Trail, disgrace, conviction are small things for them. They do not even feel a temporary sadness..." (Guntekin 2018, 92).

Vedia (Open/Social/Unconscientious/Rational)

"Vedia, who appears as the desired and target object, is the real-life reflection of Ayse from the mill tale Iffet listened to in his childhood. In fact, the moment when Iffet meets Vedia is given in the atmosphere of a fairy tale. (...) Mrs. Vedia, who is likened to a faint and silent shadow, is the second wife of Deputy Mr. Cemil Kerim. This woman, who enters Iffet's spiritual world as a heroine isolated from life, is connected to life with her "fresh richly colored eyes between yellow and green". Beneath Vedia's quiet appearance, her sad and haughty countenance, there is a soul that wants to enjoy life. Vedia's personal and spiritual characteristics are not mentioned much in the novel. Because she is the target object that will help Iffet realize the concept of "selfless love. She is a plain and simple character, not with her inner characteristics such as what she feels in the depths of her soul and her understanding of love, but with her physical characteristics" (Kanter 2021, 127-128). She has a son

named Nihat. She is the daughter of a wealthy merchant from Izmir. Despite knowing that she is cheated on by Mr. Cemil Kerim, she continues to stay married to him and engages in a forbidden love affair with Iffet. Years later, when she separates from her husband, she rejects Iffet's marriage proposal because he is a convict stigmatized as a thief.

Captivating "I was imagining Mrs. Vedia as a large-bodied woman with a domineering manner and proud woman with her meaningless beauty consisting of flesh and color. However, with her frail, thin body, her colorless face that looked completely pale on her plain black clothes, her hair tied tightly, stretching the skin of her temples, she looked like an old girl" (Guntekin 2018, 41).

Elegant "However, with her frail, thin body, her colorless face that looked completely pale on her plain black clothes, her hair tied tightly, stretching the skin of her temples, she looked like an old girl" (Guntekin 2018, 41).

Upset "She never left her room, never met anyone. Even though it had been a month since she returned to Istanbul, I had not even seen her in the garden once" (Guntekin 2018, 48).

Distressed "I didn't see her meeting anyone openly and without circumstance, laughing willingly, or showing a strong interest in anything. This young woman had a sad, proud and closed soul" (Guntekin 2018, 49).

Honest She directs her thoughts and questions she wants to ask to Iffet without hesitation: "I was surprised to hear such words from a seemingly calm, simple woman" (Guntekin 2018, 52).

Exuberant "Mrs. Vedia was not the simple, calm and respectable woman I had known up to that time. Her slender body was trembling in the thick coat she was wrapped in, her eyes were burning with passion" (Guntekin 2018, 56).

Unreliable "Mr. Cemil Kerim had a saying that he always repeated: "Give a dog a bad name and hang him." Getting married would leave both of us in a strange position, but if we're prepared to take risk so much, at least there could be a great love excuse..." (Guntekin 2018, 189).

Beloved "I thought I had forgotten Vedia. I even seemed to like Rana on top of that. But I realized that for me, there is no other woman on the face of the earth except Vedia" (Guntekin 2018, 186).

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