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HARABELERIN CICEGI / THE FLOWER OF RUINS (1922)

RESAT NURI GUNTEKIN (1889 – 1956)

Apropos

The author of the novel, while describing the formation process of the main subject in the novel, mentioned the following. One day, while walking in Galatasaray, he has his shoes shined by a young shoeshine boy. Noticing that the boy has beautiful blond hair, Guntekin guesses that he has a beautiful face and waits for him to look up and look at him. But, the author is startled when he sees the scars and pierces on the boy's face. He wants to write a novel based on the scene he has seen. However, he is discouraged when a friend named Fahriye tells him that there is a novel called *Gangue* that deals with a similar subject. This literary work of Guntekin, who still wanted to write this novel despite everything, was published serially in Zaman newspaper, directed by Minister of Internal Affairs Mr. Sukru, after it was written. The short novel *Harabelerin Cicegi* (The Flower of Ruins) was serialized in 1919 in the Zaman newspaper under the pseudonym Cemil Nimet. Years after it was serialized, in 1953, it was published as a book by Hadise Publishing House. The main plot of the novel revolves around Suleyman Kemal, the son of one of Istanbul's wealthy families, who is alienated and isolated because his face was burned in a fire in the mansion when he was a beautiful child. He turns into an unwanted and despised person because of the scorch on his face. After the day his face was burned, Suleyman Kemal seeks an environment where he can be accepted and loved. The narrative is told by an extradiegetic and an intradiegetic narrator. The novel consists of twenty-six short chapters in total and each chapter is titled. It is estimated that the real time in the narrative begins before the Constitutional Monarchy period. Beylerbeyi, Cengelkoy, Nisantasi, Galatasaray, Paris, Switzerland, Bursa, Canakkale, Mudanya, Kosedere are the open spaces where the narrative takes place.

Synopsis

Born in Istanbul as the son of one of Sultan Abdulhamid's aides, Suleyman Kemal attracts everyone's attention and admiration with his blond hair, green eyes and beautiful face. Especially by his family, he is dressed up as if he is the most precious jewel of the house and is taken as a guest to kith and kin. The attention, care and love he receives spoils Suleyman Kemal. As a result of an argument between his father, who is a pasha and uncle, he runs away from home and goes to his aunt's house, thinking that he will never see his beloved Seniha again. When he is brought back home after this incident, harsh measures are taken to prevent Suleyman Kemal from running away. Suleyman Kemal is locked in his room every night. After a fire breaks out in the mansion, Suleyman Kemal's face burns because he cannot get out of his room and he loses his former beauty. Although he regains his health, the scorch on his face becomes permanent. From that day on, Suleyman Kemal becomes an unwanted member of the family and is assigned to a boarding school. He experiences only violence and hatred from his schoolmates. The lack of love and attention causes him to become an extremely introverted and hardworking person. After finishing school, Suleyman Kemal goes to Paris for having higher education and becomes an ophthalmologist. Thanks to his inheritance from his late father, he travels around the world. When he returns to his country, he does not practice his profession. He only treats the needy people he wants to cure. Alienated and isolated by people, Suleyman Kemal decides to go to his foster nurse in Kosedere. There he is loved and cared for like never before. While returning to Istanbul after losing his foster nurse, he comes across his aunt and Seniha, who had been exiled to Tripoli because of his father. From that day on, he secretly follows them. Although his aunt learns the whereabouts of Suleyman Kemal and wants to meet him, he keeps running away from them. Seniha, who had been waiting for Suleyman Kemal and thinking about the past, falls ill in Bursa and dies. Suleyman Kemal adopts Seniha's two children and lives with them in Switzerland.

People

<i>Suleyman Kemal</i>	Protagonist of the narrative. Son of a wealthy family. An ophthalmologist.
<i>Mr. Hayrullah</i>	Extradiegetic narrator of the narrative. Works as a doctor in Bursa.

<i>Seniha</i>	Daughter of Mr. Hilmi, a surgeon. The cousin and beloved of the protagonist.
<i>Pasha Baba</i>	Suleyman Kemal's father is Abdulhamid's aide.
<i>Mr. Hilmi</i>	A surgeon. Suleyman Kemal's aunt's husband. Seniha's father.
<i>Mrs. Ayse</i>	Foster nurse of Suleyman Kemal.
<i>Bijou</i>	Hedonistic woman living in Paris. Stays in the room next to Suleyman
<i>Maryanti</i>	Greek fisherman's daughter living in Mudanya. She is blind.
<i>Nezihe</i>	Seniha's daughter.
<i>Ibrahim</i>	Seniha's son.
<i>Aunt</i>	Suleyman Kemal's aunt who lived in Cengelkoy for a long time.

Other narrative characters in the narrative are: Suleyman Kemal's mother, his schoolmates, the woman of the street in Paris, Maryanti's father, the old man and his grandson who go to Kosedere, the people of Kosedere, etc.

Elaborative Storyline

The narrator's first contact with the face-covered stranger The narrator, who had previously seen him in Constanta and Corfu, saw him eight or ten years later on an old stone bridge overlooking Cekirge plain on the secluded road descending from Cungura village to Bursa. The narrator is both saddened and excited by the mysterious person watching Cekirge plain alone from the stone bridge in a pensive and thoughtful state. The narrator, who wants to talk to the mysterious person, half of whose face is covered with a black cloth, goes to him. He wants to start a conversation by asking what time it is. But the mysterious person turns around and points with his hand to the mosque in the distance, and immediately after this movement, the call to prayer begins to be heard. A few days have passed since the incident and the narrator is obsessed with the thought that he will never see the mysterious person again.

Meeting the mysterious person The narrator, who had gone with court officer and the commissar to make inquiries on the deceased after an incident in a nearby village, sees the mysterious person trying to shelter from the rain at the bottom of a fountain while driving back to the city. The narrator tells the driver to stop by the fountain and offers the mysterious person a ride home. Although he wants to find an excuse and get away from where he is, the mysterious person has to get into the car because of the rain. When the mysterious person gets into the car, it is seen that half of his face is burnt. During the journey, the police officers start talking about the murder. The victim's face is badly shattered. One of the officers says that it is better for the victim to be dead than to live with a disfigured face. Immediately afterwards, the narrator steps on the officer's foot and points to the mysterious person. The mysterious person nods his head up and down, confirming the officer. Because half of his face is also scorched. The mysterious person wants to get off when they approach Sarayonu. After he gets out of the vehicle, the officers start talking about what they have heard and know about him. It is said that the mysterious person's face was burned in his youth, that he was actually an ophthalmologist, that he did not continue his profession because he was a wealthy man and that he lives in one of the mansions on the Cekirge road.

Mysterious person spies out a patient's house The narrator, who suffers from a recurrence of a nervous disorder especially in the months of winter, wakes up every morning feeling as if his head is extremely heavy. The narrator likens this condition to an illness experienced by a friend named Necdet whom he knew from his student years. Necdet, who seems to see the woman he loves when he has a nervous breakdown, denies this condition when he recovers. The narrator notices that a man walks around the street where his house is located at night and watches the surrounding. The narrator lies in wait as this situation recurs every night, and when the man reappears at night and approaches the house, the narrator quickly leaves the house. At first, he thinks about going back, but it is seen that the person who decides to continue on the road is the mysterious person with a scorched face. The narrator realizes that the mysterious person is spying on a patient's house. The person being watched is a woman who is seriously ill and is thought not to have long to live.

The mysterious person gets information about the patient from the narrator and the patient dies The narrator, who goes on a vacation for six months at the end of winter, recovers from his illness by staying in Istanbul for four months and with his daughter in Trabzon for two months. When he returns home, he learns that his patient has fallen ill. The condition of his patient, whom he thought would live for at least a few more months, has become worsened. Thereupon, the mysterious person

starts to appear more often at night. The mysterious person starts to ask the narrator about the patient's condition in a timid and bored voice. One morning the narrator visits his patient again. During the visit, the narrator is intrigued by a photograph he sees. The eyes of a blond boy in the photograph look very familiar. When he leaves the patient's house, he realizes that the mysterious person is watching the house without hesitation. After a while, it is learned that the sick woman passed away quietly and peacefully after sending her children to a relative. The narrator finds it difficult to understand how the patient could pass away so calmly and quietly. It is believed that she had sent the children to one of her relatives because she knew that she would die. The mysterious person now asks the narrator without hesitation whether the patient is dead. He wants to know how she died. From that day on, a friendship begins between the two and they see each other regularly.

The mysterious person's history and his relationship with the patient After a sincere friendship begins to be established between the two over time, the narrator tells the mysterious person that he likens the eyes of the child in the photograph he saw at the deceased sick woman's house to his eyes. Even though the mysterious person avoids telling about his past on the pretext that it is not an important or interesting subject, the narrator insists. The mysterious person then begins to tell the narrator about his past in his mansion near the bridge across the Buyuk Kaplica. Suleyman Kemal's father is a pasha who was one of Sultan Abdulhamid's aides. He was born and raised in a mansion in Nisantasi. Although he has two other siblings, he is the favorite child of his parents because of his beauty. His mother takes Suleyman Kemal to every invitation to show off his beauty and brag about it. Due to the attention and affection he receives, Suleyman Kemal becomes a spoiled child who constantly demands attention. Suleyman Kemal loves to play with his aunt's daughter who lives in Cengelkoy, draws pictures of ferries that he cut from the newspaper together with her. One day Suleyman Kemal wants to draw Seniha's picture. Seniha poses like a celebrity whose picture she has seen. But Suleyman Kemal fails to draw Seniha beautifully. So Suleyman Kemal promises Seniha that he will get an education and draw a beautiful picture of her.

Separation of Suleyman Kemal and Seniha His brother-in-law, a surgeon, speaks to everyone in a very sincere manner, regardless of their status or class. Suleyman Kemal's father is disturbed by Mr. Hilmi's indifference. One day there is an argument between the two. Mr. Hilmi takes his wife and daughter and says goodbye to everyone in a sincere manner. But the Pasha Baba treats Seniha coldly and pushes her away when she wants to climb on his lap. Suleyman Kemal, who witnesses this event, freezes. He tries to comfort Seniha, who starts to cry, and tells her that they will meet again soon. Because the two recently got engaged, considering that they would not be able to meet in the future, in line with the traditions of the period. As Seniha grew up, he thought that she would not be shown to him. Suleyman Kemal tells Seniha that they will never be separated, that they will meet again soon and that he will go against his father if necessary. Because it is thought that Suleyman Kemal will soon become aidant (tr. hünkâr yaveri) of the Sultan.

Pasha Baba denounces Mr. Hilmi One night, Mr. Hilmi's house is raided by police forces and he is taken to the Ministry of Zaptieh. As a result of a denunciation against him, he is found guilty and arrested. Since the servants at the Pasha Baba's mansion love Mr. Hilmi very much, they think of a solution for his rescue. The coachman of the mansion asks Suleyman Kemal, the most favorite son of the house, to plead with the Pasha Baba about the release of Mr. Hilmi. Although foster nurse and the other employees like the coachman's idea, the chef remains silent. Suleyman Kemal wonders why the chef, who loves Mr. Hilmi more than anyone else, says nothing and asks him for his opinion. The chef says that he doesn't like the idea at all and that it would be useless to talk to the Pasha Baba, because there will be no healing from poison. At first Suleyman Kemal does not understand what the chef means, but soon he remembers that his father was called a sleuth by some people. He realizes that the head chef blames Pasha Baba for Mr. Hilmi's imprisonment.

Suleyman Kemal's falling out with his father Thereupon, Suleyman Kemal enters his room to talk to his father. Pasha Baba sits Suleyman Kemal on his lap and realizes that he has a problem. Unable to make a good introduction to the subject, Suleyman Kemal says at the beginning what he should have said at the end. He asks if he was the one who had denounced Mr. Hilmi. In response, Pasha Baba throw Suleyman Kemal off his lap and demands to know the identity of the person who is accused him of being an informant. But Suleyman Kemal, who manages to stay strong, does not give the name of the head chef and says that he is not an informant. Suleyman Kemal faints due to fear and excitement in front of Pasha Baba who reacts by raising his hands in the air as if he has been shot in the back. After lying in a sickbed for a few days, he regains consciousness and his father tries

to make amends with him as if nothing had happened. During his illness, the person who cares for Suleyman Kemal the most, is always, his foster nurse. The foster nurse from Ezine loves Suleyman Kemal more than anything and anyone else. Suleyman Kemal has never been loved by his mother or father as much as he is loved by his foster nurse. The foster nurse cares for Suleyman Kemal as if he is her own child and Suleyman Kemal is aware of her care and love. The person that Suleyman Kemal loves and trusts the most in the mansion is his foster nurse.

Suleyman Kemal runs away from home and goes to his aunt Pasha Baba takes care of Suleyman Kemal and tries to win his favor, but his attempts remain unrequited. One day, Suleyman Kemal decides to go to his aunt's house in Beylerbeyi and runs away from home. After a long walk, he arrives at his aunt's house. His aunt welcomes Suleyman Kemal with happiness and surprise. Because when she sees that Suleyman Kemal has come alone, she realizes that he has run away from home. But Suleyman Kemal spends some time with his favorite relatives. Seniha calls out to her mother and asks who has arrived. Suleyman Kemal notices that his aunt is pale and sick. Since the day Mr. Hilmi was taken to the Ministry of Zaptieh, neither Seniha nor her mother could find peace. Sharing their sadness, Suleyman Kemal tells them that he has been sick for a few days and that the cause of his illness is the same as theirs. Upon his confession, Suleyman Kemal is tearfully kissed by his aunt. Initially, he does not think it is right to come to his aunt as the son of the person who denounced his brother-in-law, but he realizes that he is not to blame for the situation. Suleyman Kemal is taken home by his aunt and left at the beginning of a street. The aunt, not wanting to be seen by her sister and the pasha, leaves Suleyman Kemal at the street junction and then leaves.

Suleyman Kemal was locked in his house and his face was burned as a result of the fire The mother and father, whose son was missing, sent a message to law enforcement and all the servants to find Suleyman Kemal. When Suleyman Kemal returns home, everyone finds peace. Although Suleyman Kemal is questioned about where he went and why, he leaves all questions unanswered. After this incident, it is decided to send the foster nurse to her relatives in Sultanselim on the pretext that she is old and can no longer take care of the child. An English governess is hired in the place of the foster nurse. From that day on, Suleyman Kemal is deprived of maternal affection. Many measures were taken to prevent Suleyman Kemal from running away from home again. Guards are posted in various places and the door of his room is locked every night. He tries to convince his parents that he will never run away again, but no one believes him. One night, a fire breaks out in the mansion and Suleyman Kemal is trapped in his room with the door locked. After a while, he manages to make himself heard by shouting through the window and faints slightly. After a while, Suleyman Kemal opens his eyes in a hospital and half of his face is burned. Even though the doctors and the household thought that he would die, Suleyman Kemal started to recover in time. As soon as she was informed about what happened to Suleyman Kemal, his foster nurse came to the mansion in Erenkoy in tears. Upon Suleyman Kemal's request, his foster nurse starts to take care of him again.

Suleyman Kemal becomes isolated from the family After a while, Pasha Baba comes to the mansion. At night, he wants to see Suleyman Kemal, who is sleeping in his bed. Pasha Baba starts talking to his wife about Suleyman Kemal. He tells her that the Sultan has bestowed a few hundred gold coins for Suleyman Kemal, whose face is scorched, but that he can no longer be the aidant of the Sultan. His mother says that there is no need to be sad, there are other children and one of them can be an aidant of the Sultan. Pasha Baba says that it would be better for someone with such a scorched face to die rather than to live. Although the mother hopes that Suleyman Kemal's face will heal in time, Pasha Baba has given up all hope in his son. At the end of the conversation, as the mother leaves the room, she realizes that Suleyman Kemal's eyes are open and he has heard the whole conversation. Suleyman Kemal, who was the most valuable possession of the house, turns into a person who is pitied by the household from that day on. The mischievous and spoiled child is replaced by a calm, mature and introverted child. Suleyman Kemal, who tries to spend more time with the servants and to please his family, does not get the response he expects, especially from his parents. As he becomes a good boy, his parents' anger towards him increases. Pasha Baba does not even want to see Suleyman Kemal's face anymore. One day Suleyman Kemal runs away from home with his dog and returns to the mansion at night. All the lights are off and there is no activity inside. There is only the foster nurse sitting in tears in front of the door. The police and servants were notified to find Suleyman Kemal. But the parents went to bed and slept as if their child had not disappeared.

Suleyman Kemal is enrolled in boarding school and is bullied there Some time after this incident, Pasha Baba decides to enroll Suleyman Kemal in boarding school and with the Sultan's

blessing, he is admitted to Galatasaray High School. Because of the scorch on his face, he attracts the attention of the principal and it is discussed privately with both the child's father and school officials. After the registration process is completed, a caretaker takes Suleyman Kemal to his dormitory and classroom. As soon as he enters the classroom, Suleyman Kemal realizes that he is ridiculed, unwanted and laughed at, and he experiences great loneliness. No student wants to sit with him. Therefore, Suleyman Kemal is given a seat at the back of the class. In the dormitory, his bed is in the corner. For five years, Suleyman Kemal is beaten and humiliated, especially by the upperclassmen, and becomes the most unpopular person in the school. While a disabled boy before him is subjected to all the violence of the school, Suleyman Kemal takes his place. The disabled boy attacks Suleyman Kemal as if he is taking revenge for what has been done to him over the years. Five years at Galatasaray High School are filled with violence, depression and loneliness. Suleyman Kemal recounts his most unforgettable memory of his graduation from the school. During the carnival season, the festivities in Beyoglu spread to the school. At a masked dress competition held at school, he attracts everyone's attention with his blonde hair, green eyes and white skin. Knowing that there is no such a beautiful boy in the school, the students take off his mask, thinking that he was brought from outside. The students find Suleyman Kemal behind the mask. From that day on, the students began not to mess with Suleyman Kemal as much as they used to, and Suleyman Kemal felt the happiness of the days before his face was burned.

School ends and he breaks with his foster nurse After five years of various difficulties, Suleyman Kemal manages to graduate from Galatasaray High School. After the masked dress party, even though none of the students bothered with him as before, he was free from the place where he felt completely alone and in danger. Suleyman Kemal spends summers at the mansion in Erenkoy and feels more like a guest than a member of the family. Without informing Suleyman Kemal, his parents decide that the foster nurse should return to her village. Realizing that nothing will change if he opposes his parents' decision, Suleyman Kemal only wants to be with his foster nurse on the date she is to be sent away. The parents fulfill the wish of Suleyman Kemal, who has not asked for anything for years. Emotional moments occur between the two as the foster nurse is put on a ferry and sent off to her village. Suleyman Kemal says her that when he is old enough to stand on his own feet, he will take her in and they will live together.

Suleyman Kemal studies medicine in Paris and meets Bijou In order to suppress his pain and deficiency, Suleyman Kemal devotes himself entirely to his studies and sometimes manages to pass his classes two by two. His French chemistry teacher, who appreciates his diligence and character, uses him as assistant in his laboratory. During their conversations, Suleyman Kemal compares his face to a ruin and says that it is very difficult to love with this face. The French chemistry teacher, on the other hand, tells Suleyman Kemal that his eyes resemble flowers blooming in ruins and that he is a beautiful person at heart. A letter is written to the father of Suleyman Kemal, who is convinced that he should receive his higher education in France. With the permission of Pasha Baba, Suleyman Kemal goes to Paris and begins to study medicine. Although he is completely absorbed in his studies and wants to complete his studies as soon as possible, he is impressed by the vibrancy of the Quartier Latin and Boulevard Saint-Michel. He observes the woman, known as Bijou, staying in the next room. He sees her having fun with other men in her room and some nights she does not come at all. During her first encounter with Suleyman Kemal, Bijou is frightened by the burnt face in front of her eyes and screams and then starts laughing. Suleyman Kemal, who wants to talk to Bijou and get close to her at least once, devises a plan.

Suleyman Kemal is rejected by women Suleyman Kemal buys two tickets to an upcoming masked opera and makes sure that Bijou gets one of the tickets. Suleyman Kemal goes to the opera wearing a mask that completely hides the scorch on his face, sees Bijou and summons up the courage to talk to her. But even though he says he wants to talk to her, his knees trembles at his excitement. Bijou notices Suleyman Kemal's excitement and tries to calm him down by talking to him. Bijou is very impressed by Suleyman Kemal's blond hair and green eyes. She tries to take off his mask to see his face, but Suleyman Kemal prevents her. Impressed by Suleyman Kemal's mystery, naivety, and handsomeness, Bijou leaves the opera with him and gets into a car. During the car ride, there is rapprochement between two. But Bijou screams when Suleyman Kemal's mask falls off. Suleyman Kemal gets out of the car in a rush and heads home in tears. In the rainy and dark weather, Suleyman Kemal sees a miserable woman on the roadside and tries to help her. The woman he tries to help treats him extremely well. Suleyman Kemal realizes that something bad has happened to the woman and that she is a street walker. When he realizes that she is about to faint, he buys her food and they

fill their stomachs together. Suleyman Kemal takes the woman, who lives in Épinettes, home. Although he arranges a date with her to meet again, she does not show up and he never sees her again.

After the death of his parents, the protagonist travels and meets Maryanti when he returns his country

After finishing school and graduating successfully, Suleyman Kemal is offered a job as an assistant by one of the most famous ophthalmologists in Paris. In this way, he was once again appreciated by his parents, but Pasha Baba was furious when he learned that he had turned down the offer. Thinking that Suleyman Kemal should return to Istanbul and take responsibility for his own life, Pasha Baba stops sending him money. After staying in Switzerland for a while, Suleyman Kemal decides to return to Istanbul and learns that his Pasha Baba has passed away. His mother also died in the first years he started studying in Paris. Although he was angry with him, Suleyman Kemal cried for his father as much as he cried for his mother. Since he no longer needed to return to Istanbul and he had a large inheritance, he decided to travel. Having traveled to many parts of the world over the years and seen almost everywhere, Suleyman Kemal finally returns to Istanbul and from there moves to Mudanya. The olive trees and natural beauties on their land in Mudanya give him peace. Seeing Greek girl knitting socks in front of a small fishing hut by the sea almost every day, Suleyman Kemal decides to talk to her. It is learned that the girl, who sits and knits socks in the same place all day long without getting bored or tired, is actually blind and knits socks while her father fishes. The young girl, born and raised in Buyukada, attracts the attention of Suleyman Kemal. Suleyman Kemal wants to learn from the Greek girl the entire history of her illness and what the doctors say. He tells her that some blind people can regain their sight with the right treatment. Suleyman Kemal decides to treat the Greek girl.

Suleyman Kemal treats Maryanti and then leaves

On Sunday, father and daughter sit under the mulberry tree by the well and they talk. Maryanti's father talks about how they used to be rich but became poor and had to do fishing. When the father goes fishing, his daughter waits for him on a rock near the pier. Maryanti had been seen by other doctors before, but all hope of her recovery was lost. Suleyman Kemal, who is very competent in his field, says that with the right treatment, Maryanti's eyes can be opened. In order to continue the treatment properly, they go to Suleyman Kemal's mansion. They decide to go to Bursa and settle in a hotel room in Cekirge in order to provide all the tools and equipment that may be needed during the treatment. With the start of the treatment, hopes and expectations for Maryanti's recovery are revived. From time to time, they go for a walk in the meadow near Nilufer. In winter, staying and working mostly indoors causes everyone to feel stuck. Months pass and there is no significant improvement in Maryanti's condition. As the winter season comes to an end and May arrives, music starts to be heard from the Splendid Hotel on Fridays and Sundays. One day it is learned that Maryanti began to see visions while looking at the sun. Suleyman Kemal then realizes that Maryanti's eyes will soon be opened. Suleyman Kemal, who had gone to Istanbul for twelve days during the winter season due to a matter of inheritance, returns to Bursa and learns that Maryanti's eyes have been opened and that she is waiting for him with excitement. With opening of her eyes, Maryanti breaks out of her shell and turns into a lively and courageous character. Suleyman Kemal, not wanting to show himself to Maryanti and disappoint her, decides not to be seen by her. He stayed in a military hospital for about a month because she caught an illness.

Suleyman Kemal goes to his foster nurse's village and finds the loving environment he is looking for

Suleyman Kemal, who moves to leave the region immediately after regaining his health, overhears a conversation between a policeman and a villager while walking along the docks. Hearing that the old villager is from Kosedere, Suleyman Kemal remembered that he had heard the name of this place before. After a while, Suleyman Kemal remembers that his foster nurse is from Kosedere and returns to the docks to try to find the old villager. Suleyman Kemal, who had intended to travel to Egypt, decides to give up and go to Kosedere. His joy is multiplied when he learns from the old peasant that his foster nurse, whom he thought was already dead, is still alive. As he drives in his car, he lets in an old peasant and his grandson. The old man takes Suleyman Kemal to Kosedere. Reunited with his foster nurse, Suleyman Kemal receives the love and care he has longed for. Since Mrs. Ayse had constantly talked about Suleyman Kemal to the people of Kosedere, the peasants immediately recognized him and took him in. The peasants, who knew Suleyman Kemal's whole life and his sufferings down to the finest details, embraced him and took him in. Thus, Suleyman Kemal feels loved and appreciated for the first time in years. The foster nurse asks Suleyman Kemal why he did not marry and why he did not go after Seniha. Suleyman Kemal tells her that he did not dare to meet her after what his father did and his face got burned. After suffering from an illness, foster nurse loses her life after a while. Upon this loss, Suleyman Kemal leaves Kosedere and goes to Canakkale.

Suleyman Kemal encounters his aunt and Seniha Suleyman Kemal buys a small piece of land near the castle of Nara in Canakkale and starts to grow olives and tries to find peace. But after a while, Suleyman Kemal boards a ferry to Istanbul and meets a friend he had known during his years of study in France. His friend, who has traveled from Egypt to Istanbul for an operation, is in a very good condition. He has advanced in his profession and has become a famous doctor. During the journey, Suleyman Kemal pays attention to two children, a boy and a girl, and asks them who they are. He realizes that the girl named Nezihe, who tells about their family history and whose eyes look very familiar, is Seniha's daughter. Fleeing to his cabin in a rush, Suleyman Kemal peeks through a gap. His aunt and Seniha appear on the deck. Aunt has aged quite a lot and Seniha also looks quite tired. Seeing his beloved aunt and his childhood sweetheart after so many years, Suleyman Kemal can't hold back his tears because he can't face them and he feels ashamed of the past. Mr. Hilmi has passed away in Tripoli.

Death of the aunt and Seniha, Suleyman adopts Seniha's children After being guest of her daughter and grandchildren for three days, the aunt settles in a small house in Kiztasi and it is understood that the mansion in Cengelkoy has been sold. Suleyman Kemal also settled in a house in Gedikpasa. Suleyman Kemal, who goes to Seniha's house and spends long periods of time in front of the house to see her, cannot control his tears every time he sees her. He kisses Seniha's shadow reflected on the ground as she reaches out of the window. However, Suleyman Kemal is caught by law enforcement officers in front of the door and taken to the police station. The brother of the lame soldier who takes Suleyman Kemal to the police station also had his face burned in the battle. Convinced that Suleyman Kemal is a well-meaning and innocent man, the soldier lets him go before he reaches the police station. Suleyman Kemal, who had bought the mansion in Cengelkoy from the Jewish family for a price much higher than its value and decided to gift it to his aunt, is found out where he lives. Aunt visits Suleyman Kemal and the two catch up. Aunt says that she will come with Seniha the next day and when she arrives, she cannot find Suleyman Kemal at home. By leaving home, Suleyman Kemal runs away from Seniha again. After his aunt dies, Seniha lives alone with her two children and waits for Suleyman Kemal. As she gets old, she cannot bear the loneliness and goes to live with her relatives in Bursa. Suleyman Kemal follows Seniha step by step. Seniha succumbs to illness and her last doctor was Mr. Hayrullah. Recently, Suleyman Kemal tried to get information about Seniha by intercepting Mr. Hayrullah. Mr. Hayrullah receives news about Suleyman Kemal months later after he disappears. He learns from a doctor friend that he lives in Switzerland and has two children. Mr. Hayrullah realizes that the mentioned children are Seniha's children, Ibrahim and Nezihe. These two children become two flowers blooming in Suleyman Kemal's negative world.

Character Analysis

Suleyman Kemal (Open/Social/Emotional)

Born in a mansion in Istanbul, the protagonist's father is a pasha, one of Sultan Abdulhamid's aidants. Born into the purple, Suleyman Kemal's blond hair, green eyes and flawless beauty attract everyone's attention. Suleyman Kemal, who becomes one of the most precious ornaments of the family, becomes a spoiled, daring, lively and active child as a result of the attention, care and love he receives. The people who love him most sincerely, rather than his parents, are his foster nurse Mrs. Ayse and his aunt's daughter Seniha. While Suleyman Kemal's father, the Pasha, expects him to become the sultan's aidant, he wants to be a painter. When Suleyman Kemal learns that his father is one of the sultan's sleuths, he begins to lose respect and love for his parents. After his face was burned, he was alienated and isolated by her parents, and he completely broke away from the family. After completing his studies at the Galatasaray, he receives higher education in Paris and becomes an ophthalmologist. With the inheritance from his deceased father, he becomes rich enough to never need to work again. After his face is burned, Suleyman Kemal is treated completely different than before and is treated like a freak. Since he is unwanted and even loathed because of his appearance, he withdraws into himself and isolates himself from society. "Although he lives a life of loneliness and escape syndrome, he knows how to preserve his love for people. Suleyman Kemal is an idealistic hero who accepts his own unhappiness and aims to help other unhappy people" (Kanter 2008, 45).

Unhappy After his face was burned, he was ostracized by his family and was never happy at the boarding school where he was enrolled: "My life at school was unbearably sad in the first days. Then, as with everything else, of course, the poison eased. Let me just say that during those five years of torment I spent in school, I could not find a single day of happiness" (Guntekin 1979, 47).

Restless From a beautiful child who is the talk of the town, he turns into a disgusted person because of the scorch on his face, and from that day on he cannot find peace: "He feels more miserable than a disabled, more abandoned than a stray dog" (Guntekin 1979, 56).

Longing At a masked party in Galatasaray, he attracts everyone's attention with the beauty of his hair and eyes. He longs for his childhood days when he was famous for the beauty of his face: "In those few minutes I was on stage, my heart felt the light and warmth of a sun that had been forgotten for years. I remember with bitterness and sweetness the lost old days of my childhood... In fact, in a delusion, I ran away from there, crying in the of the amazement and appreciation that I had awakened in other people's hearts for a few minutes" (Guntekin 1979, 51).

Happy As an adult, he travels to his long-lost foster nurse's village and is accepted by the locals as member of their family: "As long as I stayed in this small village, I found the warmth of a hearth and home. As I passed through the crooked streets and heard them whispering that "Grandma's Suleyman" through the window, I felt a strange pleasure, and for the first time I was not ashamed of my ugly face" (Guntekin 1979, 90).

Spoiled Due to being a very beautiful child, everyone, especially his parents, is attracted to him, and this situation causes him to become spoiled: "I had two other siblings. But my parents loved me more than them. I was like a living ornament of our mansion. (...) I was used to being petted and stroked like a kitten from the youngest age" (Guntekin 1979, 24).

Mature The pain of being ostracized by his close circle after his face is burned matures him: "I was no longer spoiled, I had become a gentle, kind child. (...) I was so careful not to be mocked that the servants and maids paid homage to my grief and looked at me not with amused but with pitying eyes. I will never be able to forget that my parents were less generous to me in affection than the maids and servants" (Guntekin 1979, 42).

Authentic Although plans were made for his future because he was born into a wealthy family, he wanted to build his own future on his own: "My nannies used to tell me that I would become a pasha at a very young age. (...) As they hovered over me, I avoid them like the plague. At that time, my biggest interest was to draw by placing it on the window" (Guntekin 1979, 25).

Other Since his face is burnt as a result of the fire in the house, he is marginalized and devalued beyond losing his former importance and value: "One day my mother had guests. I saw from my mother's face that she was upset about something, that she was saying something secretly to the servants. That morning, when she saw me, she turned her head in an angry gesture. I slowly approached her. -Mother, I said, from now on, when guests come, I will eat in my room with my foster nurse, okay?" (Guntekin 1979, 41).

Mr. Hayrullah (Open/Social/Rational)

Mr. Hayrullah, who acts as a witness narrator in the narrative, is also an extradiegetic narrator. Although he is Suleyman Kemal's colleague, his specialty is not ophthalmology. He lives in Bursa and works as a doctor there. He manages to gain the protagonist's trust with his sincerity and becomes close friends with him. In this way, Mr. Hayrullah gets a chance to learn Suleyman Kemal's whole life and traumas from his own words. It is understood that the narrator, who is a municipal doctor in Bursa, is around 50-55 years old. His daughter lives in Trabzon and is married. He says that his son, who is studying in Switzerland, is quite flirtatious and fond of entertainment. Mr. Hayrullah, who observes the protagonist from the outside in the narrative, conveys his impressions about him to the reader with his own subjective interpretations. Thus, it is possible to obtain deeper information about the main character. No information is given about the extradiegetic narrator's physical characteristics, and there is also little information about their private life and inner world. The fact that he feels sorry for Suleyman Kemal's situation and tries to empathize with him shows that he is a conscientious, sensitive, emotional, feeling, understanding, kind and thoughtful character.

Reproachful When he first meets Suleyman Kemal, he complains about his personal life in order to further the conversation: "I talked about my daughter in Trabzon, my son-in-law, my two grandchildren who started school this year. I complained about the philandering of my son, who was studying in Switzerland, and his lies he told to get more money from me" (Guntekin 1979, 20).

Observer As an extradiegetic narrator, Mr. Hayrullah occasionally provides important information about the protagonist's life: "When he heard my footsteps, I realized that he was trembling slightly, but he did not turn around. With a black neckerchief, he covered his face a little more, which was always half hidden. His cloths, as usual, was black from head to toe" (Guntekin 1979, 9).

Sensitive He was moved by Suleyman Kemal's sadness and thoughtfulness and felt sorry for him: "Every time I saw this man, I felt a curiosity mixed with pity and fear. A terrible scorch had ravaged his face, and only his eyes and forehead had survived the disaster" (Guntekin 1979, 11).

Susceptible The character who can empathize with others does not want Suleyman Kemal to be upset and wants to prevent behaviors and statements that might upset him: "It's a hit... What would happen if he lived with that disheveled face!" he said. I stepped on his foot violently, but it was too late" (Guntekin 1979, 11).

Doubtful At first, he is worried about the man he doesn't know wandering near his house at night and wonders who he is: "I realized better the next night that the shadow I had seen was not a "feeling in a dream". This was a man who stood there for hours, walking around like a sentry. Who could that be? What does he want at this hour, in the dark of night? What was he expecting?..." (Guntekin 1979, 21).

Understanding He is very understanding towards Suleyman Kemal. He listens to him and shares his pain. He tries to understand him: "However, nothing if not, he was a human being... It is impossible for a human being not to need another human to whom he can confide his troubles. So why shouldn't I be the man he chooses to open his heart?" (Guntekin 1979, 21).

Polite He treats Suleyman Kemal very kindly: "The homeowner was silent after saying these words in a tired manner... Morning was almost approaching. I thanked him very much for the reliance he showed me" (Guntekin 1979, 103).

Friendly He listens carefully Suleyman Kemal's life story and shows closeness to him. He becomes friend with the protagonist, who had never had a sincere relationship with anyone before: "Outside, the wind had stopped. We barely made it to my house trudging through snow that reached up to our kneecaps partly. We parted with the hope to meet again soon" (Guntekin 1979, 103).

Seniha (Open/Social/Emotional)

She is the daughter of Mr. Hilmi, a surgeon. She lives with her family in a mansion in Cengelkoy. She is Suleyman Kemal's cousin and his only love. Mr. Hilmi is exiled to distant corner of the world (Tripoli) after he is denounced by Suleyman Kemal's father. After this exile decision, Seniha and Suleyman Kemal cannot see each other for years. The lovers, who had spent their childhood together, loved each other very much and even got engaged to each other, fall apart. After the betrayal of his father, Suleyman Kemal did not dare to see his aunt and Seniha again. The scorch on his face is another reason for the distance between them. Although Suleyman Kemal seems to forget Seniha over the years, his feeling of love for her never diminishes. Seniha got married in Tripoli and had two children. When she would return to Istanbul with her mother and children, she lived with the dream of one day being reunited with Suleyman Kemal. "When Seniha is depicted in her last days, her nobility is especially emphasized. Even on her deathbed, she combs the hair of her two daughters, sends them to her acquaintances and waits for death with a dignified demeanor" (Kanter 2008, 47).

Friendly During his childhood, the protagonist sees Seniha as his best friend and is very happy to spend time with her: "Seniha was my best friend. As soon as she arrived, we would run away to my foster nurse's room, stick pictures of ferries cut out from newspapers on the window panes and draw pictures of them for hours" (Guntekin 1979, 26).

Resentful Seniha, a young girl, is resentful. Not liking the picture drawn of her, Seniha reproaches Suleyman Kemal: "-Am I like this, is my mouth and nose so ugly? she started crying. I kissed her on the cheeks. I tried to console her as much as I could" (Guntekin 1979, 26).

Sad As a result of the argument between Mr. Hilmi and Pasha, the two children who love each other part ways: "She was just crying. I stroked his chin and continued: -Are you afraid that my

father won't agree? Don't be afraid, for your sake, I also gave up on being the sultan's aidant" (Guntekin 1979, 29-30).

Beloved Suleyman Kemal loves Seniha throughout his life and remains loyal to her: "Apparently, since love has no age, lovers are always alike, no matter how old they are" (Guntekin 1979, 35).

Precious Seniha is very important to Suleyman Kemal, even though years have passed and he has never seen her: "With a strange discovery of my heart, my foster nurse started to tell me about Seniha. I was no longer talking about her. But just as the names engraved on the trunks of fresh trees become deep and great wounds in their dry bosom with time, Seniha's memory was the same for me" (Guntekin 1979, 53).

Lonely After losing her husband and father in Tripoli, she lost her mother in Istanbul and was left alone with her two children: "After a while, I learned that she wanted to go to Bursa, where her deceased husband had a relative. Apparently, loneliness was too much for the poor woman. I went there after them. I was so tired and weary of wandering aimlessly in life that such a small ambition to pursue was enough for me" (Guntekin 1979, 97).

Weary The life she lived made her tired and matured her greatly: "Seniha had a weary look... The thin, drawn and much-suffered, beautiful face I saw in this half of her was my whole past, my whole life, my whole dream" (Guntekin 1979, 97).

Enduring She had to endure many pains throughout her life: "What would Seniha do all alone in the world? How would she raise her children? At that time, I wanted to learn more about her life. She was having a very hard time to live" (Guntekin 1979, 102).

Themes

Otherness In the novel titled *The Flower of Ruins*, the main theme, that is explored through the tragic events experienced by the protagonist Suleyman Kemal, is otherness. Suleyman Kemal, the son of a pasha who serves as a sultan's aide, grows up in mansions. With his blond hair, green eyes and beautiful face, he attracts everyone's attention and admiration. However, after a fire breaks out in the mansion and his face is burned, Suleyman Kemal loses all his privileges and his life is turned upside down in many ways. He becomes an unwanted person by his family and ostracized by society. The parents, who do not want an ugly child with a scorched face in their home, enroll Suleyman Kemal in a boarding school. Because it is now impossible for him to become the aidant of the sultan. Suleyman Kemal, who is subjected to bullying especially by the upper classes at Galatasaray High School and was never happy for a moment, became completely introverted and isolated himself from society as much as possible. Even though Suleyman Kemal is a feared and loathed character, he wants to help others and be useful to humanity. The traumas he experienced in his childhood haunt him. Even though he finds happiness in some environments and with some people he met in his later years, the ghosts of the past haunt him. Therefore, he always runs away from people to avoid disappointment.

Love Suleyman Kemal, the protagonist of the narrative, is alienated and isolated after his face is scorched as a result of the fire in the mansion. Due to the traumatic events he experienced, he started to run away from people and isolate himself from society over time. Suleyman Kemal is a character who knows how to love and wants to be loved by others. After his face is scorched, Suleyman Kemal is ostracized by both his family and his close circle and seeks love wherever he goes. After losing his mother and his father, he finds love for the first time in his foster nurse's village. Both his foster nurse and the peasants show interest and care to him. During the time he spends here, Suleyman Kemal become quite happy. At the same time, the attention he receives from a Greek girl named Maryanti makes him happy. However, Suleyman Kemal, who does not want to be disappointed by the blind girl's reaction when he cures her eyes, leaves the place. His foster nurse, his aunt and Seniha have always loved Suleyman Kemal. But Suleyman Kemal, who does not want to be pitied for his deficiency and to be shown compassion just because of it, moves away from them too. When Seniha, his one and only love, dies, he adopts her children.

Grief "Escape is the isolation of oneself from one's environment and people due to external and internal factors. This isolation is an attitude taken against the escaped object and subjects. The

individual who is oppressed under the pressure of the subject or object finds the remedy in escaping. Suleyman Kemal prefers to live alone in response to the reaction his burnt face provokes in the environment. (...) Suleyman Kemal, who was a boy with a beautiful face but after his face is burned, is first rejected by his family and then by the society, is consciously isolated by the society. The protagonist, who first tries to perceive this isolation in his own small world, exhibits a more anxious personality and finds the solution by not going out in public. Especially the protagonist, who feels that the love of his family has suddenly removed from him, is doomed to loneliness with a constant desire to escape” (Kanter 2008, 53-54). The fact that he is alienated and isolated by people due to the deficiency in his appearance causes him to suffer emotionally.

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