

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Muruvet Esra Yildirim, M.A.

THE BLUE EXILE

THE FISHERMAN OF HALICARNASSUS

Important Terms

Rufai Lodge
Bey

A Sufi order within Sunni Islam founded by Ahmed ar-Rifai
It is an honorific for men, equals to Mr. in English

People

Sedat Simavi
Ali Kemal
Zekeriya Sertel
Nebizâde Hamdi Bey
Ismet İnönü

Journalist, writer, and cartoonist
Journalist, writer, and politician
Journalist and publisher
Journalist, politician, and educator
Soldier and statesman

Synopsis

In this work, Cevat Şakir Kabaağaçlı recounts his story of confinement in Bodrum that turns him into the Fisherman of Halicarnassus. The occupation of Istanbul after the Armistice of Mudros is signed in 1918 causes him to feel estranged from the city. To cope with this feeling, he spends time in nature and becomes a dervish in a lodge. However, sensitive times do not end with the victory of the National Struggle. He is sentenced to three years of confinement in Bodrum in 1925 by the Independence Tribunal for penning a story that creates sympathy for the executed deserters during First World War when the state forces struggle to suppress the Sheikh Said Rebellion. His transfer from Ankara, where he is tried, to Bodrum, takes months due to various failures. However, as he arrives in Bodrum, he admires its nature. There, he finds the freedom he cannot find in his routine life in Istanbul and devotes his whole life to awakening the sleeping beauties of nature.

Events

Before the War

Before World War I, science defines what matter is, politics takes its final shape –people are governed either by an empire or a constitutional monarchy or democracy– and what the good and the bad is more or less determined. After explaining these, Cevat Şakir says that in a world where everything is this certain the only thing to do is to love well and drink wine. Then, he states that when Africans come across a stranger, they ask him how his people dance to get to know him, and that in pre-war Europe, people dance waltzes with the compositions of Franz Lehar and Strauss, believing that history repeats itself, so they will always dance with joy.

The entertainment industry observing both its financial gain and the law focuses on the things that people apparently decry but secretly envy. For example, since women still enter the sea with dresses and thick stockings, people buy many paintings of women pulling up their stockings by Parisian Guillaume. Striptease blossoms under these conditions. On the stage, "Violet is going to bed," but Violet turns off the lights before going to bed naked, or "Kolet catches a mischievous flea," but the flea never goes above the knee under the laws of the Austria-Hungarian Empire. According to Cevat Şakir, in Vienna, everyone removes the fig leaf from their body and covers their mouth with it, and their motto is "Do it, but don't say it." Meanwhile, the cancan becomes popular. Although it is told that this dance is *dernier cri* and *fin de siècle*, it is understood from the reliefs in Karnak Temple Complex that it was performed in Egypt long before Jesus.

Cevat Şakir states that although Africans identify people by their dances, Europeans try to identify people by their weapons, and Von Clausewitz, Von Schlieffen, and Von der Goltz define cannonball as the emperor of the new age. However, he adds that these emperors also have little ones called Gatling gun spitting a thousand bullets per minute in everyone's face. According to him, these are the

gods of the new age, not the emperor. But these gods are not like the ancient god, Apis Bull. At least, after Apis is satisfied with five to ten kilos of grass, he produces five to ten kilos of dung. But the gods of the new age, who have holy cities like Krupp and Skoda, end the era of the waltz, cancan, and striptease.

The Stick of the Allied Forces

The soldiers are killed with a bayonet in their sleep, and Istanbul is occupied. The streets are full of soldiers of the Allied Forces, and the ports are full of their battleships. It is risking death to pass through some secluded streets. If the ferries passing through the Bosphorus do not greet the launch of the Allied Forces by lowering their flags, they are in trouble. On all occasions, people and even children are reminded that they are part of a defeated nation.

One day, Cevat Şakir gets on the ferry earlier than usual to sit in an isolated place on the deck to think on his own. In the meantime, he is hit on the head with a stick. He gets up in pain to find a British soldier behind him. As the soldier asks him what he is doing there, he says that he is going to The Princes' Islands in English. The soldier, thinking that he is not Turkish, takes a respectful attitude for a moment, but when he realizes that he is Turkish, he points with the stick in his hand to a sign covered with a cloth under the tent above Cevat Şakir's seat. As the curtain hanging under the sign is wrapped around the sign to prevent it from being washed with the deck, the text "This place is reserved for the Allied Forces" is not visible. When Cevat Şakir states that he cannot see the writing, the soldier pushes him this time, and Cevat Şakir's calpack falls off. Because he knows that people are taken to the basement of Hotel Kroecker and cannot get out and are always beaten in the streets and on the trams, he doesn't say anything even though he is enraged.

Another day, while passing through the Galata Bridge, he sees the officers of Allied Forces beat a Turk with sticks. The man lying on the wet ground pulls his muddy knees to his stomach then quickly stretches them out. While he is struggling like this, people gathered around him watch him with sadness on their faces. Cevat Şakir likens the man lying on the ground to old carriage horses with a look neither begging nor challenging... A man standing next to Cevat Şakir murmurs, "You have to be a stone to stand this," and then runs away. Finally, after one of them writes something in a notebook, the officers leave.

"Are You a White Man?"

A British officer rents the first floor of Cevat Şakir's mother's building in Taksim for six liras per month. Because the water company cuts off the water, the officer has the water carried in buckets from outside. So when the cost of water is deducted from the rent, his mother is in debt. A year later, when his mother asks him to report the situation to the Claims Commission, Cevat Şakir does what she asks. A policeman accompanies him at the entrance to prevent him from doing anything wrong. When he enters the room of the commission, he sees that the commission consists of an English corporal. He explains the situation, but as he stops talking, the corporal exclaims, "Do you think you are a white man?" Cevat Şakir replies, "I am as white as you!" Then the corporal takes a whistle from his pocket and blows it. This time, whistles start coming from different parts of the building. When Cevat Şakir turns around, he sees ten soldiers stand behind him, and with no other option than to leave, he gets out saying, "I have nothing to say; you are right."

Becoming a Dervish

His life is devoid of joy in Istanbul because of the occupation, but he cannot leave it. So, he becomes a dervish in a Rufai Lodge to change his emotional world. His sheik is a former education inspector who speaks French, Arabic, Persian, and ancient Greek. Dervishes wear dervish costumes in the lodge for rituals. However, Cevat Şakir wears his jibba and turban at home because he does not want to carry the clothes from Uskudar to Fatih and finds it pointless to go out in a different outfit to show the Allied Forces that he appreciates a Western lifestyle. Then he goes out and prays in various mosques of the city. He especially likes to perform the noon prayer in Blue Mosque as he is very impressed by the light in it. When he looks at the birds while passing by a deserted place in Fatih, he sings songs. One day, passing by the same place, he hears a woman singing, and her voice inspires him beauty despite the ugliness, goodness despite evil, and unity despite multiplicity.

One day, while walking in a dervish cloth, a sheik and his two followers of another dervish lodge greet him by placing their right hands on their hearts although they do not know him. Cevat Şakir enjoys this greeting very much. He arrives at the pier, crosses the sea by ferry, and enters the mosque in Beşiktaş to perform the afternoon prayer. As is the custom, when the first congregation's pray is finished, the second congregation, who is late, asks someone among them to lead, and as the crowd sees him they ask him to be their imam. Although he gets nervous, he does not turn them down. However, when he prostrates, he forgets to count how many cycles he completed. But when he finally finishes the prayer, no one in the congregation says, "May God grant us mercy," so he concludes that he led people correctly.

Misery

Istanbul under occupation is engraved in Cevat Şakir's mind as a dark, gloomy, and miserable city. One day, while the soldiers are carrying a container full of soup, the soup drips off the container near a marble tomb by the sea. A boy walking behind them crouches to lick it. Cevat Şakir looks at his face and does not forget him for the rest of his life.

Genesis

Cevat Şakir walks beyond the borders of the city whenever he gets the chance. Unlike Istanbul under occupation, the sky, soil, trees, wind, and rain are not unknown. He names all of them "genesis." While spending time in nature, he thinks that humans believing that man has defeated nature are also a part of "genesis." The books he most enjoys reading these days are utopias and travel books. In them, he searches for a nonexisting place, which he calls "The Unknown Land" and "The Talismanic Island." One day, he sees a shepherd on the hill in Çamlıca, and while he is looking at Marmara Region with him, the shepherd asks why the places are not as they seem from there. Then Cevat Şakir assumes that the shepherd also knows "The Unknown Land" and "The Talismanic Island." Because neither Istanbul is "The Unknown Land" nor The Prince Islands are "The Talismanic Island."

Music

Another thing that helps Cevat Şakir get away from the occupied city is music. He does not like it in the Ottoman style but finds folk songs exciting from time to time. For example, in a tavern, he likes listening to the birds along with Turkish music. Listening to a man singing a Turkish song passing through the streets of old wooden houses touches him. However, he says that if you remove these songs from their surroundings, they lose their poignancy.

Friendship

Cevat Şakir has The Unknown Lands and Talismanic Islands in human form. He likens friends to sleep that people surrender themselves. Accordingly, he opposes the idea that it is necessary to choose friends by reason. When you like someone, he says, it is not possible to put a limit on love. That is why one should not judge a friend's good and bad traits.

Tricking Censorship

As people flee to Anatolia to join the armed struggle, Cevat Şakir writes articles, draws pictures and cartoons for daily newspapers. His cartoons are published first in the *Diken* newspaper owned by Sedat Simavi. When Ali Kemal writes an article praising the Allied Forces and Sultan Vahdettin with the title "In My Study Room," he decides to draw a cartoon to protest him. He makes a cartoon of him in a toilet seat with the caption "From His Study Room." Sedat Simavi is afraid of the effect of this caricature but tells Cevat Şakir that he can do whatever he wants as long as he takes responsibility.

Cevat Şakir draws a cartoon with an erasable pen. After the board puts the stamp of approval on this cartoon, he deletes it and makes the cartoon in his mind. As the cartoon is published, the officers of the Allied Forces come to the editorial office to control the permission of the censorship board. Cevat Şakir shows it confidently. At that moment, two Englishmen start talking to each other about whether or not to arrest him. One of them says they need to arrest him, but the other argues that there is nothing against the Allied Forces in the cartoon and that a Turk is teasing another Turk. The other objects to him because the person caricatured in this way is their ally. The other, whom Cevat Şakir thinks is superior, commands that it is appropriate to inform Ali Kemal with their excuses that such an event will not happen again, and they leave. After that day, it is ordered that all the pictures to be

published should be drawn with indelible ink and submitted to the board in two copies, one of which is to be archived by the censor board.

Young Porters

At the request of his family, who is tired of going up and down the stairs in the three-story house, he rents the first floor of a house in Uskudar, which is right across The Maiden's Tower. In the evenings, after work, to cross the sea, he takes the car ferry, which is usually empty as there are few cars. When he gets off the ferry, the young porters in Uskudar greet him. One day, among these children, he encounters the boy whom he saw licking the soup on the ground before. He trusts them so much that when he goes shopping, he sends his purchases home with one of them. Although his family tells him not to trust these children, he likes to trust them. That is why these children are fond of him. When they see him get off the ferry, they compete with each other to carry his load. So, Cevat Şakir advises them to work in turn. After that, when he gets off the ferry, he asks, "Whose turn is it?" Sometimes, instead of having a child carry his load, he asks a child to go shopping and take the purchases home. He only buys the fish himself. For him, if everyone were like these children, there would be no need for police, courthouse, or prison in the world.

A Stone

After the recapture of Izmir, he joins a happy crowd heading toward a grocery store owned by a Greek who hangs a picture of Venizelos in the store. People do not touch the store; they want to stone the picture. As he stands next to the painting in the middle of the crowd, a stone hits his neck. He turns around and cries, "Let there be love," which is used to express "May the pain you give me turn into love" in the dervish lodge.

His First Trip to Ankara

When the American Yulen Company sends its representatives to Istanbul to install water and electricity in Ankara, Cevat Şakir works with them as a translator. The company communicates its suggestions to Ankara, Ankara changes some articles, the changed parts are reported to the United States, and the United States gives feedback. Since the whole file is sent in each telegram, Cevat Şakir proposes to communicate only the changed parts instead of the whole file each time, but his proposal is not accepted.

When the company director comes to Istanbul, a sleeping car is added to the train, and seven or eight Americans and three Turks go to Ankara. While the Americans stay at the embassy, they stay in the sleeping car. As the parts cannot reach an agreement, they return to Istanbul. This trip is Cevat Şakir's first trip to Ankara, but the city does not feel like a capital yet. It is still the city of Enguru of Ankara Province.

Police Officers

When Zekeriya Sertel resigns from his position as the Directorate General of Press and Information and settles in Istanbul, he becomes the editor-in-chief of the newspaper published by Yunus Nadi and starts the magazines *Resimli Ay* [*the Illustrated Monthly*] and *Resimli Hafta* [*the Illustrated Weekly*]. One day, when Sedat Simavi tells Cevat Şakir that Zekeriya Sertel wants to print covers with pictures, he begins to prepare covers for him. He also writes articles and draws cartoons for different magazines, but his friends mostly criticize his writings, saying, "People don't understand these!"

On the eve of Eid al-Fitr, he buys candy for children and returns home, planning to spend his time making illumination designs in his room after dinner. But the door is knocked before he takes off his coat. He is surprised that the police are looking for him. First, he assumes that something happened regarding his family's properties in the region captured by the Greeks after the Balkan Wars. But, as he looks out the window and sees four police standing around the house, he concludes that four officers do not come for a petty crime. Then he goes to the station, pondering what his major crime is.

At the Station

At the police station, after being told that his crime will be reported to him by the Independence Tribunal in Ankara, he is put in a small room. Until the morning, he goes through his whole life trying to

find crimes causing him to be tried by the Independence Tribunal. In the morning, in a confused state, he goes to Haydarpaşa Station on foot with four police officers.

The Executed Deserters

While he waits for the train, Zekeriya Sertel is brought to the terminal by police officers. As soon as Cevat Şakir sees him, he relaxes a bit and learns from him that they are under arrest because of a story he wrote. They go to a restaurant together and have breakfast, then find a compartment in the sleeping car. As they look at the sights along the way, Cevat Şakir says they will not see any of them again, but Zekeriya Sertel objects to him, saying that there is no problem in his story, it is just bad timing, and they will be sent back after being criticized in the court.

When they reach the police station in Ankara, they are locked in a cave-like cell, but many people, including deputies, visit Zekeriya Sertel. Cevat Şakir learns from their conversation that they are to be tried by the Independence Tribunal because Zekeriya Sertel wrote an article that Ankara did not like, and his story is considered dangerous since it is a sensitive period because of the Kurdish revolt.

The story published in the magazine *Resimli Hafta [the Illustrated Weekly]* is about deserters who were executed without trial during World War I. During the war, soldiers are not allowed to visit their families, even if they pass near their villages. If anyone attempts to escape, those on the train are ordered to shoot them. However, some soldiers risk everything and jump off the train. While some go to the mountains to join the bandits, some surrender to the gendarmerie after visiting their families.

The soldiers who are the story's subject run away with the desire to see their families near the villages of Afyon. After spending time with their families, they surrender to the gendarmerie in Afyon. However, they are executed immediately after their surrender. Cevat Şakir writes the story not to protest these unjust executions, but to tell the fortitude of these soldiers. When they realize that they are to be executed, they sell their clothes and distribute the money they earn to the poor in prison. Then they buy coal, heat water, and bathe. In the morning, they say goodbye to everyone and go to be executed.

What pushes Cevat Şakir to write the story is that the soldier on the battlefield is encouraged by the army behind him, and as he sees the enemy, his grudge and anger wash away his fear, but these young people go to their death all alone.

A few months before the publication of his story, he suggests Zekeriya Sertel not publish it because of the Kurdish uprising, but Zekeriya Sertel reassures him that nothing will happen. Cevat Şakir trusts his opinion as he is the former directorate general of press and information.

Prison

In the evening, they are taken to Cebeci Prison, which is under construction. Cevat Şakir is put in a cell without windows and a ceiling. There is a pile of rubble in the middle of it. A gendarme paces up and down on a wooden beam above. He lays the mattress given by Nebizade Hamdi Bey, one of Zekeriya Sertel's guests, on the bed, and then, as there is no place to walk in the room, he starts to walk up and down on a wooden beam placed on the rubble like playing on a seesaw.

After a few hours, he starts to hear a rattling sound from the next cell. Later, he learns that Hüseyin Cahit Yalçın asked him who he was in Morse code. However, at that moment, he does not understand anything because he does not know Morse code. A little later, a guard brings him a gas can half-filled with water. He asks the guard to buy some cheese bread, but the guard never comes back. Late afternoon, as it gets cooler, he puts on his coat and realizes that the candy he bought for the children is still in his pockets. However, he gets diarrhea because of eating too much sugar. Apart from using the cell as a bedroom, living room, dining room, it is stressful to use one corner as a toilet. Moreover, he cannot make sense of being isolated after he came to Ankara with Zekeriya Sertel as a free person.

A few days later, the gendarmes come, handcuff him, and take him out. He finds himself in front of a two-story wooden house with Zekeriya Sertel. This place, which looks like the house of a poor family, is the Independence Tribunal. After they are registered, they are brought back to prison.

The Independence Tribunal

After staying in prison for a while, they are brought to the Independence Tribunal. This time they go upstairs. When they sit in the room where the gendarmerie and the clerks work, Cevat Şakir realizes that the room opposite is the courtroom and starts to watch it. Eight people are let in after the members of the court take their places. Cevat Şakir watches the case for a while. Later, he learns from the gendarmes that the students of The School of Commerce, where he teaches English twice a week, sent a telegram to them explaining how good of a person he is and that they do not want to be deprived of him. He is pleased despite the situation.

A little later, Nebizade Hamdi shows up with an expression peculiar to people who bring good news and says, "Don't be afraid, they will sentence you to death, but they will not hang you, they will forgive you." Zekeriya Sertel is shaken when he hears this. Cevat Şakir drinks a jug of water.

When they are taken to the courtroom, someone brings Zekeriya Sertel's calpack, which he forgot in the other room, as it is considered disrespectful to enter an office with an uncovered head. Cevat Şakir also hides the hole in his calpack. At a moment when he gazes at the sky from the window, he hears, "Look at this sentence." The members of the court claim that he described the executed deserters as "heroes" in the last sentence of his story. Although Cevat Şakir did not use that expression, he says, "I wrote it." The court orders them out to reach a decision, a few minutes later, takes them back, and sentences them to three years of confinement.

Later

Cevat Şakir walks on air after the decision and does not understand where he is taken to but finds himself in the same room with eight or ten people in a one-story building. Huseyin Cahit Yalçın is also there. He is exiled to Çorum but waits for his automobile to be brought from Istanbul. He wants to go there with his automobile because he has just paid the last installment. During the day, they walk together in the courtyard and talk a lot. Among them is a famous French chef from Ankara, who is convicted because of the trap of his partners. He is so passionate about his job that he buys everything he needs to cook and gets depressed whenever the food is insipid. Another prisoner is a Syrian man, who, whenever people stand in silence, says, "This is the seat of Prophet Joseph." From time to time, Cevat Şakir also sings an aria. He corresponds with his family whenever he gets the chance, but his letters are delivered in half. Missing parts are given to him only when he leaves. But he prefers to think that the state does this for a reason.

Zekeriya Sertel is sent to Sinop even though they are sentenced to confinement in Bodrum. Huseyin Cahit Yalçın's automobile arrives, but he is not allowed to go with it. The car carrying him tumbles down the cliff, and he survives by chance.

After one and a half months, Cevat Şakir is still not transferred to Bodrum. Yet, he is pleased to hear that Zekeriya Sertel can walk freely in Sinop. Still, since the word Bodrum means basement and there is no one around him to describe Bodrum, he feels nervous.

On the Way to Izmir

One day, he is informed that he will go to Bodrum the next day. As he leaves the prison with two gendarmes, he promises not to escape, and then the gendarmes remove his handcuffs. The three of them take the train in a third-class carriage to Izmir. Villagers on the train always offer Cevat Şakir a treat before they have anything, and no one asks about his crime. At one point, they show the trenches after the Battle of Sakarya, where all the forests are burned. When the train stops at the station, he asks a villager, who waits near the window to sell something to the passengers, why they do not replant trees in burn areas. The villager says that the cattle rub themselves on the saplings and the saplings fall down.

As the train goes from station to station, remaining passengers get off, and new ones get on. At one station, two young men get on and start to talk about their crops and the weather, and then they keep quiet. Cevat Şakir is surprised that they do not talk about anything else. At a station, a mother and daughter get on. As soon as they enter, everyone starts to look at the young girl. Cevat Şakir, while examining her, realizes that she is looking at a young man. After a while, the mother and daughter get off, this young man goes after them and returns as the train is about to leave. Although Cevat Şakir is very curious about what happened outside, he cannot do anything because there are gendarmes with

him. After a while, when the gendarme next to him falls asleep, his head falls on his shoulder. They continue their journey as such.

This journey makes him think that his curiosity about his surroundings increases when he suddenly finds himself free. Then, he realizes why Dostoevsky over-elaborates everything in his book, *The Idiot*. Dostoevsky is a man who awaited execution but was not executed, so his interest in life is different from that of a man living his everyday life. He realizes that he read the novel as a man living his everyday life.

When it gets dark, they get off the train in Afyon. Cevat Şakir asks why they get off there. The gendarmes say that the travel allowance entrusted to them is not enough to continue and that they will receive another travel allowance from the government office in Afyon. They rent a small room in a grocery store. While Cevat Şakir is having coffee and chatting with the gendarmes, the grocer wants to learn what kind of thief he is, but as he finds out that he is not a thief, his face falls. This time he starts asking weird questions to size up his knowledge. Cevat Şakir only laughs at himself ironically. When he is about to sleep at night, he sees a woman's leg right in front of the window. The woman is bargaining with someone. They leave after agreeing on five liras.

The next day, they go to the government office to claim the travel allowance, but they cannot get anything. The next day, they come back with empty hands again. Finally, on the third day, they have it. The next day, they get on the train. When the gendarmes see a person is sitting by the window, they ask him to give up his seat for Cevat Şakir because he is a convict. Then, Cevat Şakir offers them cigarettes. When they arrive in Manisa, he eats cherries with the gendarmes. As the sun sets and they approach Izmir, he begins to wonder how people will meet him in Izmir. Each time a station's name is announced, he gets sad thinking that people are happy to return to their homes, but he is going to prison.

In Izmir

When they enter the office of the gendarmerie of the prison in Izmir, a sergeant commands the soldier standing next to him, "Take this!" pointing to Cevat Şakir. At that moment, he bids farewell to the two gendarmes accompanying him and follows the soldier. When the soldier asks him to wait, he puts his mattress on the floor and stays there for almost two hours. Finally, a gendarme appears and orders him to follow him. While Cevat Şakir is following him, the gendarme turns around and scolds him because his belongings are not with him. He returns, takes them, and then eventually settles into a room.

In Ankara, he asked his family to send some money through his relatives in Izmir. So, his relatives come and go to the prison every day until he arrives. He speaks with them behind a window and urges them to ask the gendarmerie when he will be transferred to Bodrum. Then, they learn that since The Independence Tribunal tried him, he cannot be transferred to Bodrum by sea; he can only travel by foot. He requests them to be an intermediary to get permission for him to go by bus. Finally, he is allowed to take the bus where there is a bus and the train where there is a train if he covers all the expenses of the gendarmes who will accompany him. Although this is very costly, he has to accept it and immediately makes the payment.

However, even after ten days, he cannot depart. On the tenth day, the soldiers bring a religious man and chain him to the room by his feet. This man, who is a teacher, raped one of the male students. In the evening, he harasses Cevat Şakir, too.

After twenty days, he finally departs with two gendarmes. The gendarmes demand cash in advance for the carriage that will take them to the station. He pays them right away. On the train, he is seated between the gendarmes, not allowed to sit by the window. For a while, he listens to the conversations of other passengers. Then a young woman sitting a little further away catches his attention. There is nothing remarkable in her appearance, but she is a cheerful person. When she sees him looking at her, she offers a cigarette to him, saying, "This too will pass, sir."

In Aydin

When they reach Aydin, he sees the damage caused by the Greeks, who set fire to the cities after the war. Since the gendarmerie is on the mountain where the ancient city of Tralles used to be, they have

to walk up a steep hill. As it is so hot, Cevat Şakir has a porter carry his mattress and bag. But before a hundred steps, the porter throws the things on the ground crying, "Am I crazy to carry these things up in this heat!" Although Cevat Şakir offers the porter more money, the porter leaves without looking back. Desperately, he shoulders the mattress, grabs his bag and coat, and climbs the hill with difficulty. When they reach the gendarmerie, the two gendarmes leave him. The sergeant orders a soldier to take him to the ward, he objects to him, saying he will go to Bodrum, but the sergeant informs him that they will send him to Çine first.

As he settles in a ward of twenty-five to thirty people, he lays his mattress on the bed and rests. Some nights, a gendarme reads the stories of Sayyid Battal Ghazi for them. On one of such nights, when a gendarme says that a man like Battal Ghazi should be the head of the government, everyone agrees with him. But Cevat Şakir observes them with irony.

Cevat Şakir's only curiosity is what kind of place Bodrum is. One day, when the gendarmes tell him that two people from Bodrum are waiting to be tried by The Independence Tribunal and looking for someone who knows what the court is like, he immediately goes up to them to tell comforting things. Then they say that Bodrum is a beautiful town by the sea. However, what Cevat Şakir wants to learn is the fate of Bodrum Castle. As he finds out that it was destroyed in the war, he begins to wonder if he will be allowed to roam freely in the city.

At the end of twenty-five days, he is informed that the following morning he will be transferred to Çine. In the morning, he gets ready, begins to wait, but no one shows up to pick him up. The next day, the gendarmes come and say that they have to leave immediately. When they go downtown, he does not remember which bus he was instructed to get on and takes the first one. He asks the driver how much he wants per person, and when the driver says "Five liras," he remembers that he was instructed to pay ten liras per person. So, he figures that he is defrauded.

In Çine

Hitting his head on the ceiling throughout the way, he arrives in Çine by bus. The gendarmes accompanying him leave him in the gendarmerie. After a while, he hears a voice say, "Welcome, Cevat Bey." He is surprised by this greeting and replies belatedly. He then settles into a twin room, which he will share with a sergeant.

Since he has not shaved for weeks, he asks the officer to bring a barber there, but the officer tells him he can go to the barbershop. Cevat Şakir finds it strange to go out freely for the first time after a few months and constantly turns around to check whether someone is following him or not. Because of the queue at the barbershop, he returns without shaving, fearing that the officer might think he abused his trust.

He stays in Çine for six days. However, compared to the weeks he spent in Izmir and Aydın, these six days feel like a day.

In Muğla

He sets off for Muğla with two gendarmes, the bus is worse than the previous one, but the scenery is so beautiful that he forgets all the troubles and injustices he suffers. He is elated as he finds himself in "genesis" again. When they reach the place called Gokbel, he is fascinated by the wildlife that he thinks does not belong to the world. He considers it both a nightmare and a state of madness. He imagines the stones as giants who escaped from the asylum. As he looks at the majestic mountains, he feels like seeing the earth's movements centuries ago. Then suddenly, a large plane tree appears in front of them. He imagines that the "genesis" that created man created Gokbel to tease humans, and when it realizes that people do not get its jokes, it laughs in the shape of the plane tree.

The bus takes a break at the coffeehouse under the plane tree, and he sits there drinking coffee and watching the water flowing in front of the tree. A little later, when they reach a plain, he starts to think that the person who escapes from city life feels like enlarging in open places and that this is what makes someone human.

Late afternoon, he asks the gendarmes if they are approaching Muğla and becomes happy when he learns that Muğla is further away. He gazes at mountains, plains, and streams. When they arrive in

Muğla in the evening, the gendarmes leave him. He is locked up in a ward where there is no one else but him.

Love Letters

He is about to run out of money because he has to consume cheese, olives, halva, pastrami, and sausage for months. On his second day in Muğla, a gendarme tells him that upon the commander's order, if he wants the cook to prepare something special for him, he can order it. So, he orders what he likes. Since the money in his pocket is barely enough to go to Milas, he sends a telegram to Istanbul asking for money and sells his coat with the help of a gendarme. Towards evening, the gendarme notifies him that the commander wants to see him. They go upstairs together. There, a young man meets him. This young man is in love with the actress of a touring theatre, and asks him to write love letters to the actress on his behalf. He gives him several papers and two pens, along with a summary of the date and place of his birth and the schools he attended.

When Cevat Şakir goes downstairs, he gets furious and writes almost fifteen pages. But, as he remembers the innocent face of the young man, he concludes that he is not a womanizer and loves the woman. Then he tears up what he wrote. He writes a letter again and sends it to the commander. The next evening, a light bulb is installed in the ward, but it stops working due to a malfunction. He hears an officer upstairs giving a lesson to the privates. For a while, he listens to them. His mind is still busy with the state of Bodrum Castle. His biggest fear is to be locked up there. The city of Muğla is the capital of Muğla province, Bodrum is one of the districts of this province. However, no one in the capital knows about this district.

The commander wants to see him again and delivers a letter he wrote to him for editing. A few days later, when the money he wanted from Istanbul arrives, he wants to go to Milas, but the commander constantly demands him write another letter. On his fifteenth day in Muğla, he notifies the commander that his confinement should begin in Bodrum, but the commander implicitly states that he does not want him to go. Upon that, he writes a petition to the governor insisting that he was sentenced to the same punishment as Zekeriya Sertel and that he should be treated the same way he is treated. A few hours later, he receives the governor's reply from the principal gendarmerie commander in Muğla province. The governor's note addresses the district governor of Bodrum, stating that Cevat Şakir will be free within the borders of Bodrum but cannot sail. When the commander leaves the ward, he dances with joy. He reads this note to many people to hear them say, "With this paper, you will be free in the city." However, everyone gives evasive answers. Since it is not clear whether what happened to Huseyin Cahit Yalçın is a trap or an accident, he begins to fear that the same thing will happen to him.

One day, as the same commander tells him that he can go to Milas with him if he pays half of the expenses of the automobile, he agrees right away, and they set off together.

In Milas

When they arrive in Milas, Cevat Şakir is settled in a room. The following morning, since he knows an officer from the Prince Islands in Istanbul, he asks if it would be possible for him to explore Milas in the evening with him or another officer. He gets happy when the officer tells him that they can do it together. He waits until the evening, but the officer does not show up. He continues to read the note of the governor. Since the officer does not come even though he knows him, he begins to doubt whether there is any indication in his file that he should be imprisoned. He spends seven or eight days suffering in doubt. Finally, it is said that the following morning, he will be transferred to Bodrum by horse.

Bodrum

In the morning, he sets out with three gendarmes, a postman, and a few passengers. Since the road is rough and unimproved, they have to ride horses. However, since Cevat Şakir does not know how to ride a horse, he prefers to walk. They oppose him, but he does not listen to anyone, gets off the horse, and starts walking. While walking ahead of the gendarmes, he watches nature and ignores the possibility of the gendarmes shooting him. Once he hears a gunshot, he looks back; one of the gendarmes killed a sleeping snake. He cannot understand why he killed a sleeping animal.

Later, he understands that they are approaching the sea, looking at the changing weather, sandy soil, and plants. He imagines the plants in fear under the tyranny of the sea. As the sea finally appears, he realizes that he has forgotten the existence of seagulls in the world. They arrive in Guvercinlik and go

to a coffeehouse with a grocery store, where some eat what they brought with them, as some have what they found there. Afterward, they reach Torba, and their paths diverge from the sea. Descending the slope, the gendarmes try to get him back on the horse, saying that it would be appropriate to go to the government office on horseback instead of walking. No matter how much he protests, in the end, he has to ride the horse. The postman and the passengers leave them in an alley. They go to the gendarmerie. Cevat Şakir shows the governor's note to Commander Fethi Bey right away. Fethi Bey goes to show the paper to the district governor, and when he returns, he says that the district governor wants to see him. As he enters the office, the district governor stands up, shows him a chair to sit on, then announces that he is free within the borders of Bodrum. Later, Cevat Şakir hears from Fethi Bey that the district governor wanted to give the good news in person. But after hearing the news, he only replied "Thank you" and looked around in bewilderment. However, what he feels is nothing but tiredness.

Again, later on, he learned that before his arrival, the Bodrum prosecutor said that he wanted to lock him in Bodrum Castle, but since the castle is in a dilapidated state, he would have to imprison him. However, the governor's note changed everything.

Routine

As the people in Bodrum think that he is an old writer, they are surprised to meet a tall young man in his thirties. However, he considers himself a finished man. The reason for this is his routine life in Istanbul. Supposing that after three years of confinement, he will go back and rot away at the secluded rooms of the buildings on Bâbîâli Street, like many others, he confirms them.

A House by the Sea

The district governor proposes to explore Bodrum together. He introduces him to some civil servants in front of the municipality, and then they go to a coffeehouse. The only police officer in Bodrum wants to host him, but Cevat Şakir dreams of spending that night alone on a mountain. When he tells the district governor that he wants to rent a house, the district governor mentions a four-room house by the sea. As soon as Cevat Şakir learns that the house is by the sea, he wants to hire it before seeing it. The district governor whispers right by his ear, "Don't accept it right away, let them discount the price." Then he ponders for a moment whether he can afford it. While walking towards the house, Cevat Şakir desires to jump for joy, and as the district governor speaks, he smiles and nods, saying, "Yes, sir."

When they finally arrive at the house, Cevat Şakir says he wants to rent it. It is a four-room box-like house with two rooms on each floor. One room on each floor faces the sea, and a door in the courtyard opens to the sea.

The house's owner is called away from the coffeehouse next door, the district governor and the man have a conversation, at some point, the district governor turning to Cevat Şakir says, "Twenty-five." Cevat Şakir takes out twenty-five liras right away. After giving a strange look, the district governor says, "Cevat Bey, the price is twenty-five cents." This time, Cevat Şakir gives the district governor a strange look and then rents the house by paying six months' rent in advance. The owner leaves him the keys to the courtyard and the door of the house.

Cevat Şakir closes the courtyard's door and opens the door opening to the sea after asking a man to fetch his bag and mattress. He looks at the white houses looking pink under the red sky. As the waves move towards the house, they lick the ground two feet away from the door. At that moment, he falls to the ground whimpering for the first time since his childhood. He dips his fingers in the water and sand with a sense of great admiration for nature. He thinks he can live on bread and water until he dies on that spot.

While lying there, he dreams that Cevat Şakir rotting away in Istanbul remains on the ground like a mold, as the Fisherman of Halicarnassus is to stand up as a brand new person. Then he rushes out of the courtyard and grabs a bucket of water and a rope. He draws buckets of water from the well in the courtyard, and not knowing why he throws it on the ground.

Then he enters the house, opens the windows, and looks out of each of them. While trying to decide where to sleep, the doorbell rings and the man delivers his mattress and bag. He lays the mattress on the floor before the window facing the sea. To keep out mosquitoes, he goes out again, buys the

material to make a mosquito net, as he saw from the Americans working at the Yulen Company, then he sits by the sea and smokes until late.

The Bomb

While he is in sleep, he is suddenly thrown away by a terrible explosion. At that moment, he remembers what happened to Huseyin Cahit Yalçın and thinks that someone is trying to kill him. After finding his cigarette and matches in the dark, he lights his cigarette and starts walking up and down. He looks at the sea, but sees nothing strange, then jumps out of the window and starts walking along the shore. He returns home at dawn. On the way, he runs across a few people carrying sacks and chests on their backs, but they run away in fear. He runs after one of them to ask about the explosion but cannot reach him. As he comes across one of the officers he met the previous day, he asks him about the explosion and learns that some smugglers blast a bomb near his house for distraction before bringing goods to the shore.

Life

In the evenings, civil servants, sailors, and shopkeepers gather in the coffeehouse next to his house, called "casino." Since Cevat Şakir does not know any other game besides chess, he gets bored watching people play backgammon and card games. Most people say that they kill time there, that nobody can live in a place like Bodrum, and complain about life in Bodrum. But for him, life is not in a place; it is in the person.

Fishing

Since Derviş, the owner of the "casino," is a fisherman, Cevat Şakir buys fishing tackle with his help. Now he gets up before sunrise to shrimp and then goes to Bardakçı. Bardakçı, formerly known as Salmacis, is where, according to legend, a fairy girl falls in love with Hermaphrodite, the son of Hermes and Aphrodite. After the fairy girl's praying to the gods to unite them, Hermaphrodite is transformed into a half-male, half-female body. There, he fishes all day.

He spends time alone with "genesis" in places like Kaplankaya. For him, a person should either belong to oneself or someone else. People avoid loneliness not because they love others but because they do not want to face their emptiness. That is why his place is not the "casino," but Kaplankaya.

Bodrum Castle

Four names are given to Bodrum chronologically: Zefiriya, Halicarnassus, Petronium, and finally, Bodrum. Halicarnassus, like every word ending with -assos, belongs to a forgotten language of Anatolia. It is not Hellenic. Artemisia, Queen of Halicarnassus, is present at the Battle of Salamis as admiral and ally of Xerxes. She is the only admiral who can save her navy among the defeated in this war. A second queen, Artemisia, has the Halicarnassus Mausoleum built in the name of her deceased husband, Mausolos. Alexander the Great surrounds the city but cannot capture it. Centuries later, the Crusaders establish their headquarters on Rhodes, aiming to capture the sea routes to Jerusalem. The Knights Hospitaller builds a castle in Halicarnassus. In his memoirs, Schlegelholz, the construction supervisor, states that they broke the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus to fortify the castle. Since they name it Petronium, the word is translated into Turkish as Bodrum. Sultan Abdulhamid II uses Bodrum as a prison. However, in the First World War, the French bombard it believing it is the place where the fuel of a German submarine attacking British and French ships is stored. The artilleryman's saying, "How are we going to hit such a beautiful and innocent city," resounds down the ages.

Ismet Pasha's Visit

His wife and son Sina also move from Istanbul to Bodrum. At that time, it is reported that Ismet Pasha will stop by Bodrum on a yacht. Cevat Şakir writes the speech to be given by the chairman of the People's Party at the ceremony and has the president memorize it. The speech begins with the sentence: "The enemy swooped down on Anatolia just as the crows gather on a carcass." At the ceremony, the chairman recites "just as the crows" but cannot continue because he forgot the rest of the sentence. When Cevat Şakir whispers the rest of the sentence, people repeat it silently, and finally, the chairman finishes his speech. Ismet Pasha, realizing what people do, smiles. However, for Cevat Şakir, such an official speech does not befit the free atmosphere of Bodrum.

Cicadas

Since the plane tree in the square is a gathering place for cicadas, people in the surrounding coffeehouses are disturbed by their noise. One of them hangs the bell of the church left by the Greeks, who left Bodrum with the population exchange between Greece and Turkey, on the tree. Then, people begin to ring the bell to silence cicadas. However, Cevat Şakir loves to listen to them. He also believes that in *The Grasshopper and the Ant*, the grasshopper is wronged; as winter comes, it is already dead. So it does not suffer and need the help of the ant.

Musa

Musa, a civil servant in the Ministry of Agriculture, shares all his problems with Cevat Şakir. After ending his marriage, which he constantly complains about, one day, he tells him that he is in love with the girl who brings water to his house and asks him to speak with her mother on behalf of him. Then, as Musa requested, he tells the woman that a friend of him desires to marry her daughter, but he is somewhere else for a few months due to his duty. The woman gives her consent to the marriage.

Afterward, Musa rents a house near her, without telling the girl that he is her fiancé. One night, while watching his fiancée's garden, he sees that she draws water from the well instead of a horse to water their garden. A few days later, he brings lettuce, green pepper, parsley, apples, pears, tangerines, lemons, and oranges to Cevat Şakir. Finally, when Cevat Şakir tells him that what he brings is not eaten and gets angry with him, he learns that Musa buys everything in his fiancée's garden so that they can buy a horse to work.

One day, Musa happily comes up to him to say that he finally met his fiancée and begins to tell how it happened; While shopping again, he sees the ring he sent on her finger and starts to ask her about her fiancé, but the girl says that she does not know him. Sitting next to each other by the pool to wash the lettuce, he asks the girl who she wants her fiancé to be like. The girl looks at him and says, "It's fine if he looks like you." Then, he tells her that he is her fiancé, and the girl shyly runs away.

Istanbul

After one and a half years, the Independence Tribunal decides to send Cevat Şakir back to Istanbul for the rest of his confinement time. He sadly leaves Bodrum. This time, his journey is not like the previous one; he gets on the ferry alone. However, people send chests and sacks of salted fish, almonds, dried figs, and more to their relatives in Istanbul. Although he objects to them because he has to go to the Police Department after getting off the ferry, people tell him that their relatives will meet him in Istanbul. But when he arrives in Istanbul, no one shows up. So he goes to the Police Department with three automobiles carrying the chests and sacks.

He spends the night there, but the officers do not want to release him because they are afraid of the Independence Tribunal. Finally, he writes a telegram to the Independence Tribunal demanding that he be sent back to Bodrum because no one in Istanbul wants to release him. Upon this request, he is released and goes to his mother's house with the chests and sacks.

He continues to write and translate and saves his earnings to build a new life in Bodrum. He obtains agricultural encyclopedias in three different languages, has a collection of fishing spears, buys seeds to plant in Bodrum.

One day, while exploring palm trees in The Princes' Islands, he comes across a California fan palm. He climbs it to collect its seeds. While he is stuffing his pockets with seeds, a few people show up under the palm and start to ask what he is doing. Although he says he collects seeds, he cannot convince them. He climbs down the tree and introduces himself, but others, since it is the garden of Trotsky, think he is someone pretending to be crazy to reach Trotsky, who is at home at the time. They eventually settle the dispute at the police station.

The twentieth day of the birth of his daughter Ismet is the last day of his confinement. That day, he happily goes to the Police Department, but the chief of police states that they do not have any file regarding him, so his confinement ended one and a half years ago when he came back to Istanbul. Cevat Şakir feels miserable because he spent one and a half years in Istanbul dreaming of Bodrum, and the next day he sets off for Bodrum with his family.

During his stay in Istanbul, some people spread a rumor about him being an enemy of the army. Because of the rumor, many of his friends remove themselves from his life. However, he does not get angry with anyone and does not feel the need to defend himself because he believes that neither praise nor criticism changes his worth and that the meaning of everything that happened to him is obvious.

Freedom in Bodrum

As soon as he arrives in Bodrum, he sows the seeds he brought with him in the garden of his mother-in-law. After lunch, he buys a boat. When two fishermen who see his setlines propose to go to Adabogazı Island to fish, he sails from Bodrum Harbor for the first time. The honesty of the fishermen makes him think that two things give a person the freedom to act as he is; loneliness and a true friend. They share the fish they caught that day and return home. While Cevat Şakir is making the first comeback from the sea to Bodrum, he feels that the shore heralds a new life.

As the roof of his mother-in-law's house is collapsed, and the floor is full of holes, they spend one night there, and the following day, rent a two-room house in a neighborhood called Manastir.

Knidos

Since all sailors consider it insane to go to the tip of the Datça Peninsula, Cevat Şakir secretly sails to Knidos without informing anyone. While passing by the Bodrum Castle and Salmakis and Kaplankaya, he catches a glimpse of two Cevats fishing alone three years ago. In the lonely sea, there are only the sounds of the yard's rubbing against the mast, the fall of a flying fish, and the waves. These make him feel more alone. He takes a bird's-eye view of himself in a state of solitude. The wind drags him to Mersincik. Because of the harsh weather, he stays there for a while. As the direction of the wind changes, he sails again. He arrives in Knidos at midnight and spends a day and a night there.

Yatagan

His third and last boat is a tirhandil named Yatagan. When he moved to Bodrum, the little children he took to his boat to go fishing with Yatagan are now young men. One night, while fishing, they get tired and want to sleep, but Cevat Şakir sails a little more and anchors near an island. Sitting on the deck, he catches something in the water, looks with a flashlight, and sees herrings eating squids. Finally, when the sharks arrive, he places the lamp to illuminate the sea, kills one with his four-point fishing spear, and lays it on the deck. Since one of the boys loves to eat sharks, they reserve his share and save the rest to make fish bait.

A New House

He looks for an earthquake-resistant house after an earthquake, but he cannot find such a house, so he decides to build it himself. He brings books about reinforced concrete structures and builds a house that is fifteen meters long and five meters wide, with one side facing the sea and the other facing the mountains. Everyone finds the roof of the house strange because instead of protruding upwards, it is in the form of a downward recess like the letter V. He designs it against the storm coming from the sea in winter. Three or four years after the construction, because of a storm, Bodrum floods, and the roofs of many houses are blown off. After that day, his house's roof is considered a miracle.

The British Fleets

When the British fleets arrive in Bodrum, he is summoned to the government office to serve as an interpreter. Afterward, the admiral and other captains invite him to dinner. He rows to the dreadnought named Royal Oak. After dinner, he finds his boat's upper part painted and paint boxes with various paintbrushes put in the boat. He feels both contented and dejected and rows quickly to disappear.

Innovations

He makes various innovations in fishing gear. He proposes to attach an iron chain to the gangava, a dredge for taking sponges from the sea bottom to make it access the pits. The sailors do not agree to replace the iron rod with a chain, but eventually, they decide to attach the chain to both ends of the iron rod. Then he adds other innovations to it in time. Thanks to his innovative solutions, everyone

asks him for something. He is even asked to name the newborn children and give the medicine to children who resist taking it.

Plants

In order to bring the seeds suitable for the water and air of Bodrum to Turkey, he buys English and French currencies from Istanbul and then orders seeds from London and Paris. While waiting for them for weeks, he spends his days in fear that the time of sowing will pass. When people question him, he says he will earn millions of liras from these plants, so they do not think he is crazy. However, he believes that his only duty in life is to awaken the sleeping beauty in the seeds. Every day, he removes the heather that covers the seed with a pin and checks with a magnifying glass whether the seed sowed has taken root or not. He rejoices like a child when he sees some whiteness next to the seed.

To plant saplings, it needs four things: a sapling, a pole to hold the sapling straight, which the people of Bodrum call the guarantor, the rope to tie the sapling to the guarantor, and the barbed wire to protect the sapling. He makes a guarantor out of a branch of a tree he has grown from seed, the barbed wire from the leaf fibers of a palm tree he has grown, and the barbed wire from the acacia tree. When he plants the saplings, only fifteen of a hundred saplings remain. Children pluck the thorns to play, the grown-ups uproot the guarantor to make sticks, and the cattle eat saplings. That's why sometimes he has to plant saplings four times until filling a street with them.

"The Fishing Poet"

One day, as he is collecting seeds from the Brazilian bella sombra tree he has grown, two French-speaking women come under the tree. When one asks the other about the type of the tree, he answers from above. When the women scream in fear, he climbs down the tree to meet them. One of the women is French Poet Anna de Noailles. When Cevat Şakir sends flowers to their yachts, she sends him a poem called "The Fishing Poet."

Citrus Fruits

The Greeks planted most of the citrus trees before the population exchange, and people do not know how to grow them. So, he tries to teach them. He writes a nearly three hundred-page book on growing citrus trees. However, this manuscript is passed from hand to hand and eventually disappears. He introduces eighteen types of citrus fruits to the country. He makes anyone who has a garden plant citrus trees. When he is in Antalya, people offer him a basket of Brazilian oranges, which he introduced to them.

Cassia Flowers

While translating Prosper Mérimée's Carmen into Turkish, he reads that Carmen enters the tobacco factory with a cassia flower in her hair, then has cassia seeds brought right away. Later on, while sitting in a shop, he sees that some poor girls in a bridal procession are decorated with bouquets of cassia flowers because they do not have anything else. And this makes him happy.

Leaving Bodrum

Now, his children are grown-up, and everything is expensive because of the war. In despair, he decides to leave Bodrum. He fills his pockets with seeds and sows them wherever he sees a bush. He sells his tirhandil, Yatagan, and the house. He likens Yatagan to a coffin from afar. At night, thinking of places he has gone with it, he hugs and kisses its bow. While leaving Bodrum, the British commander provides a truck with him. But he crams other traveling people into it. The truck, passing through the trees he has planted, arrives at the top of the slope where he first saw Bodrum twenty-five or twenty-seven years ago. He looks at Bodrum from there again, and after a while, neither Bodrum nor the sea can be seen...

Themes

Injustice Cevat Şakir witnesses that people are exposed to violence by the Allied Forces. He takes his share of this brutality both materially and spiritually. While others are beaten in the street, he is subjected to assault and humiliation. However, injustices continue even after the end

of the occupation. Because of a story he wrote, he becomes a stigmatized political criminal whom nobody wants to accompany, and his whole life is turned upside down.

Spirituality In order to overcome his alienation towards Istanbul during the occupation, Cevat Şakir not only walks to the city borders on all occasions but also spends time alone with nature, which he calls "genesis," and becomes a dervish in a lodge. He searches for a utopic place in the books, which he calls "The Unknown Land" and "The Talismanic Island." This place he seeks is a free piece of nature untouched by human hands. Finally, when he is sentenced to confinement in Bodrum, he finds what he seeks. That ecstatic moment at the seaside on the first night in Bodrum makes him discover that his true self that is used to live for routine in routine, has a much different purpose; admiring the splendor of nature and awakening its sleeping beauties. In this way, the punishment that starts as a story of injustice turns into a spiritual journey.