

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE  
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# YALNIZ DÖNÜYORUM (1938)

Şükûfe Nihal Başar

## OVERVIEW

*Author* Şükûfe Nihal Başar, one of the most important women writers of the early Republican period, also she was the first woman graduate from the geography department of the Darülfünûn. After graduating from the Darülfünûn, she worked as a teacher in girls' high schools and middle schools in Istanbul for many years. Şükûfe Nihal, who was also active in social life, served as the general secretary of the Women's People's Party (Kadınlar Halk Fırkası) and was among the founders of that party. She who also supported the National Struggle, made a speech at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sultanahmet Rally during the Armistice of Mudros years, in which she talked about the fear of losing her beloved homeland and emphasized that no power could separate them from their homeland. Şükûfe Nihal created her first literary works in poetry under the influence of Tevfik Fikret's poems that her father read to her. After poetry, the author started to write novels and stories, and in her stories and novels she wrote about the impressions she gained during her years as a teacher, some episodes from her own life, the place of women in society, the concept of marriage and Anatolian life and people. She states that in order for national consciousness and patriotism to be formed strongly, everyone should work and labor without discrimination between men and women. For this reason, Şükûfe Nihal wrote her works in a plain and realistic language. She defends the equality of men and women and she also draws attention to the fact that intellectuals like herself in her works should develop the homeland. In this sense, she adopts an approach that criticizes the patriarchal order in her works.

*Novel* The process of the declaration of the Second Constitutional Monarchy and the changes in social and communal life during World War I and the War of Independence are told through the eyes of a woman named Yıldız. In the novel, the protagonist is a woman and most of the other characters are also women. At the opening of the novel, Yıldız, the daughter of a family lives in Macedonia, comes to Istanbul with her family after the declaration of the Second Constitutional Monarchy. After this political event, especially women's visibility in the public sphere is seen as a great development. However, it is also criticized that some women and men at that time perceived civilization as attending balls and changing their clothes. During World War I and the War of Independence, it is underlined that both men and women had to act bravely to save the homeland. The necessity for women to be educated and to take part in society as individuals during the period of revolutions is one of the main ideas that the protagonist Yıldız tries to explain to the people around her.

*Background* In 1908, with the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy II, the constitution was reinstated in the Ottoman lands and the parliament was reopened. Women began to exist in public life alongside men. Women begin to have professions, especially nursing. Modernization and civilization are felt in the Ottoman lands at full speed. Nine months after the declaration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Monarchy, an unexpected event occurred. In 1909, a Counter-Revolution was organized with the aim of replacing the Constitutional Monarchy II with a regime of despotism. This movement was suppressed by the Action Army (Hareket Ordusu) from Macedonia. Since then, the army and military officers have been active in the administration of the country. Meanwhile, World War I begins and men go to the front. It is a period of political, economic and social difficulties. Then comes the War of Independence. The difficult process continues. One of the difficulties faced by the people during World War I and the War of Independence was the black market. People's purchasing power decreases. The country tries to compensate for the occupations on the one hand and human losses on the other. With the establishment of the Republic, reforms are rapidly implemented. During the reforms, both men and women gained many new rights. For example, the right to divorce, the right to vote, the surname law, women and men achieved important developments with the proclamation of the Republic.

## SYNOPSIS

Through the eyes of the protagonist Yıldız, who is the voice of the author Şükûfe Nihal in the novel, the political and especially social changes and ruptures experienced from the declaration of the Second Constitutional Monarchy to the early Republican years are conveyed. Yıldız is the daughter of a family living a life of exile because her father was a member of the Union and Progress Party, that opposed the sultan's rule. For this reason, Yıldız was born while her family was in exile in Macedonia. Yıldız lamented that the first days of Constitutional Monarchy II were days of euphoria and hope, but nothing had changed in the country in the intervening period. Yıldız even says that some of the families misunderstood this period and the freedom that came with it, and that some of them were unconscious and had moved away from national feelings and started to behave like a European. The education Yıldız receives at home, first from her father and then from schools, plays a major role in her critical approach. She learns the concept of freedom from her father at home. Therefore, Yıldız questions the change that is taking place. She receives a good education and becomes a teacher. During both World War I and the War of Independence, she fights as a patriotic individual by attending benevolent associations and making speeches at rallies. She even states that women should go to the front like men when necessary, and repeatedly says that she wants to go to the front herself. According to her, when it comes to the homeland, all individuals, men and women alike, should fight for it. After the establishment of the Republic, Yıldız, an idealistic individual, wants to work as a teacher in various parts of the country in order to realize social enlightenment. After a failed marriage, Yıldız struggles with personal unhappiness and begins to struggle with physical ailments. As a result of her husband's refusal, Yıldız does not work and becomes a housewife. When she falls ill and is hospitalized, she regrets this decision. Because Yıldız has left her idealism aside. Afterwards, Yıldız decides to end her marriage, which has made her unhappy and caused her to give up her idealism, and on the other hand, Yıldız thinks of many projects to make her homeland better. All in all, it can be said that Yıldız is reborn from the ashes.

## CHARACTERS

*Yıldız:* She is a patriotic, idealistic and nationalist woman. She becomes a teacher to serve her homeland.

*Hasan:* Like his wife Yıldız, he was a patriot previously. But he misunderstands modernization during the reforms. He indulges in nightlife and drinking.

## CHARACTERS ANALYSIS

### **Yıldız**

During the occupation of the homeland after World War I, she worked with other patriotic women and men in associations and made speeches at rallies. She even organized conferences and meetings to improve the living conditions of women in Anatolia. Yıldız, who fulfilled her duty as a patriotic woman at that time, was proud. However, since her husband would not allow her to do so, she did not teach during the reforms and she regretted it greatly. Moreover, she could not establish a happy home as she had imagined. Her husband Hasan has let her down. As she decides to end her marriage as a woman who has been cheated on, she is sad on the one hand and full of the feelings of freedom of an individual who has been freed from her shackles on the other.

*Idealist:* She learned the words freedom and liberty from his father at an early age. Yıldız grew up hearing the poetry of Namık Kemal and Tevfik Fikret. At an early age, her mind was shaped by the idea of equality between men and women. Because, like men, she also had the opportunity to receive a good education. Yıldız graduates from the girls' teacher training school (Darülmualimât). She becomes a teacher. Her ideal is to travel the country and explain the concepts of freedom and equality to young people, especially women. Unfortunately, when Yıldız got married and her husband refused to allow her to work, she gave up on this ideal.

*Regretful:* Yıldız does not want to marry Hasan at first. Because the only aim for her is to have a share in the liberation of the homeland. Patriotism is much more valuable and important than Yıldız's individual

desires. Hasan tries very hard to win Yıldız's heart. Finally Yıldız says yes to him and they get married. The fact that Hasan is a patriot like her plays an important role in her saying yes to him. However, Hasan, who becomes rich after marriage, changes. Patriotic issues are no longer important to him. He pursues his individual desires. He does not approve of Yıldız's work and even cheats on her. When Yıldız learns that she has been cheated on, she is sad and regretful that she followed her husband's decision and give up her ideal, being teacher. Yıldız takes it upon itself to illuminate its surroundings like a candle. She is angry with herself for not doing this because of her husband's disapproval. She does not forgive herself for following her husband's decision.

*Critical:* After Yıldız gets married, she meets İsmet Hanım and Şefkat Hanım. İsmet Hanım is the wife of her husband Hasan's business partner. Just like Hasan, she misunderstands modernization. Because she leaves her young child at home with a babysitter and spends all her time at balls and parties. She has no profession and even does not do housework. Nor does she have any ideals about her homeland. Therefore, according to Yıldız, İsmet Hanım is a disgrace to women at that time. On the other hand, their neighbor Şefkat Hanım is one of the women who should be in the homeland. She is well educated. She fully supports modernization. She always holds meetings in her house to make decisions about the future of the homeland. Yıldız enjoys attending these meetings.

### **Hasan**

According to Yıldız, he is not a handsome and attractive man; but according to Yıldız, Hasan is a valuable person because he is a patriot. He pursues Yıldız for a long time to marry her. He tries to make her like him. Hasan and Yıldız unite around a common ideal. They started to take an active role in the liberation of the homeland. When Hasan started earning money after they got married, the neighborhoods they lived in in Istanbul also changed. First they move to Gedikpaşa, then Şişli and finally to a house in Cihangir. When they earn money, Hasan embarks on a modern but misunderstood western life, much to the chagrin of his wife Yıldız. When Hasan becomes rich, he puts aside his ideal of the homeland and pursues only his individual desires. He does not care about the feelings and ideals of his wife Yıldız as well.

*Captivated:* When Hasan meets Yıldız, his financial situation is not good. After marrying Yıldız, he turns the loan he received from his uncle into an investment. He opens factories in Bursa and Istanbul with his partner Namık Bey. Hasan becomes rich and starts going to balls every night. He drinks alcohol and he starts to frequent nightclubs. Hasan even gets so caught up in pleasure and debauchery that he travels abroad to eat different foods. Hasan tells Yıldız that he does all this as a necessity of westernization.

*Shameless:* Hasan cheats on his wife Yıldız with his cousin Gülsüm and is not even ashamed of it. On the other hand, when he becomes a businessman and gets rich, he gropes the women around him every night while having fun in nightclubs. The women around him get fed up with him. He drinks too much and gets drunk. He comes home drunk. When Yıldız sees Hasan in this state, she gets angry with him and feels sorry for her own misfortune. Even though Hasan has money, he does not give it to his wife Yıldız when she asks him for money to give to charity organizations established to compensate the losses of people who have survived wars. But Hasan, despite all this, is neither ashamed nor sad. He has completely built his life on pleasure and enjoyment.

*Self-Interested:* Hasan wins Yıldız's heart by appearing idealistic and they get married. One day they go to Hasan's uncle's house in Anatolia. Hasan's uncle, aunt and cousin Gülsüm do not treat Yıldız well. While talking to Hasan, his uncle says about Yıldız, "She is a bride from Istanbul, she is very free to go out without a man, here it would be misunderstood." There is a reason why Hasan's uncle, aunt and their daughter Gülsüm do not treat Yıldız well. Years ago Hasan had married Gülsüm, his uncle's daughter, in a religious marriage (imam nikahı) and borrowed money from his uncle, which he capitalized on. Now he is officially married to Yıldız. Hasan also has two children with Gülsüm. Hasan acted in his own self-interest and did not care about the feelings of Gülsüm and Yıldız. Hasan did not even feel sorry for them.

## THEMES

**Nationalism:** Yıldız grew up as an individual with a national consciousness due to the influence of words such as homeland and freedom that she heard from her father at home and the education she received at the teacher training school. According to her, “the great Turkish nation” experienced very difficult times during World War I and the War of Independence. It suffered many losses. Its capital was occupied. The “great Turkish nation”, which has achieved many successes in history, should be united and realize its strength. Cowardice, weariness and frustration do not befit neither Turkish men nor Turkish women. The glorious past, greatness and power of the Turkish nation was announced to the whole world at the Sultanahmet Rally by the esteemed literary writer and brave Turkish woman Halide Edip. According to Yıldız, when the Turkish nation entered the process of modernization after the proclamation of the Republic in 1923, the Turkish nation should modernize by preserving its own unique culture as well.

**Gender Equality:** Gender Equality: Yıldız has always stated that there can be no distinction between men and women when it comes to the future of the homeland. Yıldız has always advocated for the equality of men and women and is convinced that this equality exists. This idea of equality is based on the books she has read, the lessons she has taken and the information she has heard from her teachers. According to her, women should also go to the front when the homeland is in a difficult situation. Moreover, according to Yıldız, there must always be equality between men and women. Women should also study, get a good education and take part in working life by having a profession. This idea was instilled in her at a young age by her father. Yıldız studies accordingly and becomes a teacher. During wartime, she took part in rallies and benevolent organizations together with men for the liberation of the country. During the period of reforms, one of her closest friends was Şefkat Hanım, who like her, advocated for the equality of men and women.

**Idealism:** Yıldız's father is an idealist libertarian who is a member of the Committee of Union and Progress. He was a member of this society, which was founded to liberate the country from the regime of tyranny, to reinstate the constitution and to reopen the parliament, and for this reason he was exiled with his family first to Arabia and then to Macedonia. But he did not give up his ideal of liberating the homeland. And also he tried to raise his daughter Yıldız as someone with this ideal. He taught her the concepts of nationality, homeland and freedom at an early age. Accordingly, Yıldız chose to become a teacher and made it her mission to teach these concepts to all the young people in the country. In short, Yıldız aims to work for her homeland. This becomes Yıldız's greatest ideal. Therefore, unlike other women, Yıldız never thought about marriage and being a housewife. She even despises her mother and sisters for being only housewives and not being able to talk about anything related to the homeland. In short, her ideal was far ahead of her individual desires.

**Misunderstanding:** Reform were rapidly introduced, some people perceived modernization as dressing like Europeans and having fun like them. Whereas, for Yıldız, modernization and civilization had to be primarily mental. The reforms enacted had to be well understood and assimilated. The first step for this was to get a good education. Then, individuals had to organize their daily lives according to these reforms. Every citizen had to adapt to change as it was expected of them. The intellectuals in the country had a role to play in this regard. Intellectuals had to set an example for individuals in order for modernization and civilization to proceed in the right direction. In the process of reforms, according to Yıldız, individuals had to act with the values and future of the homeland in mind, not individual feelings, wishes and interests. Hasan, Hasan's business partner Namık Bey and his wife İsmet Hanım, Hasan's nephew Ali, Hasan's other friend Esat Bey and his wife Raife Hanım, for example, perceived being westernized and civilized only as a change in their appearance. These people could not understand that this was a process and a matter of mentality. Therefore, these people and others like them who understood modernization were part of a superficial change. So, Yıldız is sad to see these people, Seyhan whom Yıldız met at Şefkat Hanım's house, wanted to return to her homeland as a person who had lived in Europe for many years and knew many foreign languages. But when he saw these degenerate individuals, he decided to go to Europe again.

**Polarization:** After the end of the War of Independence, there are those who support the reform process on the one hand, and those who understand and interpret this process according to their own

interests on the other. On the one hand, there are those who act selflessly for the betterment of the country, such as Yıldız, Yıldız's friend Nüket, Yıldız's neighbor Şefkat Hanım, Seyhan and Altan, whom Yıldız meets at Şefkat Hanım's house. On the other hand, there are those like Hasan, Hasan's partner Namık Bey, Namık Bey's wife İsmet Hanım, who use this process for their own interests and pursue their own desires instead of the homeland. For them, the process of reforms means having fun. Drinking, eating different foods, running from one dance to another, furnishing the house with new furniture, raising the children with nannies, wearing Western-style dresses and clothes are what these people understand by being westernized. They never have a word about the state of the homeland on their agenda. They are completely focused on their own lives. During the period of reforms, on the one hand, there were such people who did not care about the future of the homeland, and on the other hand, there were patriots who were saddened by the presence of such people. Polarization is seen as a danger for the future of the homeland by Yıldız and patriots like her. Because according to patriots, everyone living in that land should be united and have ideals for a better future of the homeland. It is time for unity and solidarity, but it is a matter of regret for patriotic individuals not all citizens have this awareness.

## SCENES

### **1. Yıldız's father, a member of the Committee of Union and Progress, is exiled and she learns the concept of freedom from him**

Yıldız's father joined the Committee of Union and Progress to demand the restoration of parliamentary and constitutional government in the Ottoman Empire. This was a secret society. Their main aim was to overthrow Sultan and reinstate the constitution and the parliament. When it was discovered that Yıldız's father was a member of this secret society, he was exiled first to Arabia and then to Macedonia. Yıldız was born while her family was in exile in Macedonia. Yıldız learned the concepts of freedom, homeland and patriotism from the poems of Namık Kemal and Tevfik Fikret that her father read to her when she was young. When the Second Constitutional Monarchy was declared, Yıldız's family returned to Istanbul.

### **2. Yıldız goes to Çapa Teacher's Training School for Girls (Darümuallimât) and admires her female teacher there**

Yıldız was born in a house with a library that housed many books. Her father was an intellectual. He wanted his daughter Yıldız to grow up in the same way. While Yıldız's older sisters did not want to get an education, Yıldız wanted to have a profession instead of being a housewife. Besides, Yıldız loved to study. The lessons she took at home did not satisfy her, so when she wanted to go to school, she was sent to *Çapa Teacher's Training School for Girls*. There, an idealistic female teacher plays a major role in shaping Yıldız's future because Yıldız, as a woman, looks up to her teacher, a knowledgeable and enlightening idealist woman, and strives to be like her.

### **3. Yıldız's astonishment and frustration after the declaration of the Second Constitutional Monarchy**

When they arrived in the capital after the proclamation of the Second Constitutional Monarchy, Yıldız saw that some people only participated in the celebrations. There was no change in their mentality with the Constitutional Monarchy. For this reason, Yıldız began to lament, "What we had expected and hoped for from the Constitutional Monarchy had come to naught." Moreover, Yıldız, as a woman who had devoted herself to her homeland, reacted to the fact that she was not allowed to go to the front because she was not a man, and expressed her sadness, anger and silence with the words "no man has ever felt the love for the homeland that I have felt, and now I will sit like this because I am not a man". In fact, while talking to her aunt, she defends the equality of men and women by saying "men and women are inseparable when the country is in danger".

### **4. Yıldız, who communicates best with her father and despises her mother and sisters**

Yıldız spends most of her time reading, thinking and conversing with knowledgeable people. As a little girl in Macedonia, Yıldız had the best communication with her father at home. He was the most influential person in her life. She believes that social development and change can be achieved through the education of women and their contributions. Yıldız saw the Second Constitutional Monarchy as an important opportunity for women in particular to improve their standard of living in the country. She prefers to be together with well-educated women. She dislikes her mother and sisters because they are not

educated. Moreover, they are indifferent to the positive or negative things happening in the homeland and society. Therefore, Yıldız cannot talk to them about literature, culture, history or politics. After the death of her father, Yıldız put books and her ideal at the center of her life.

#### **5. Yıldız participated in Halide Edip's Sultanahmet Rally**

After the occupation of Izmir, students from schools in Istanbul, mostly law students, began to organize together. Yıldız was among these young people. She even said, "Let's put a bomb at the Hagia Sophia, I will take on this job." This idea was not approved. The students collected money from merchants and businessmen in the capital. In this way, the news of the rally, which would concern the whole country and citizens, would be announced with flyers to the farthest corners of the capital. Thousands of people gathered at the rally site with black flags in their hands. On the day of the rally, shops and stores were closed. Halide Edip began her speech by saying "my brothers, my children, I am a hapless daughter of Turkish history". And at the end she said the following sentence: "We will not betray the honor of our ancestors, we will not forget our heroism, swear an oath." When Yıldız heard these words, she exclaimed "we swear". Tears flowed from her eyes. Yıldız said to herself: "When I lost my father, I was not as sad as when I heard the news of the occupation of my homeland, I endured his pain, but I cannot tolerate the occupation of my homeland".

#### **6. Yıldız, as a patriotic woman, admires Mustafa Kemal**

She admires Mustafa Kemal, the Commander-in-Chief, because it was thanks to him that the Turks' right to independence was introduced to the world with the victory in Sakarya. With the news of this victory, Yıldız started to walk around her homeland with pride. For her, Mustafa Kemal is the eternal hero of the Turks. After the homeland was liberated, she and Hasan went to Ankara. Yıldız lived her best days there. Because for her, Ankara is the symbol of the liberation of the Turkish homeland. In this sense, it is a sacred place for Yıldız. When they lived in Çankaya, she visits the mansion of the national hero Atatürk many times and calls this visit sacred.

#### **7. Yıldız and her husband Hasan visited his uncle's house in Anatolia and Yıldız is surprised by the treatment she receives**

Some day, they go to Hasan's uncle's house in his unspecified hometown in Anatolia. Yıldız bought gifts for Hasan's uncle and his family, but when they arrived, they called her "the bride from Istanbul". The family disliked her. In fact, Yıldız was spoiled and raised by her father, uncle, aunt and cousin Fahir. She did not fail to respect that family. In fact, Yıldız thinks that the reason for their poor condition and backwardness is themselves, that is, the negligence of the intellectuals. Therefore, she was convinced that intellectuals and also she had to work to develop these neglected lands. Afterwards, she was disappointed by what she saw and heard. Yıldız leaves the house where she stayed for two months despite all kinds of troubles, sad and disappointed. Because Yıldız's walking the streets without her husband was considered "dishonorable" by Hasan's uncle. Especially hearing this makes Yıldız very sad.

#### **8. Hasan, ashamed of his ignorance in the process of modernization**

Hasan is a man with patriotic feelings previously. He met Yıldız because of their patriotic ideals. When they start earning money, Hasan immediately changes the house they live in. He renews the furniture inside the house. He also changes his own clothes. When Hasan earns money, he embarks on a modern but misunderstood western life. Moreover, Hasan is insecure. He is ashamed of his ignorance when furnishing the house or choosing clothes. And Hasan has participated in modernization only through the change in his appearance or possessions. He has not joined modernization in terms of mentality, he himself is aware that he cannot fully comprehend the process of change, so he dislikes himself instead of appreciating himself.

#### **9. Hasan, who had an overwhelming dominance over the Yıldız**

While Yıldız was proud of the fact that she was preparing projects in her sick bed, she was secretly regretting the fact that she had not chosen a working life due to her husband's disapproval. Yıldız was as angry with herself as she was with her husband because she had a teaching degree but she did not work. Even Hasan was walking with his wife Yıldız in Beyoğlu and he showed her the example of the women in front of him and said to her "walk like them". While Yıldız was trying to be happy with her husband, her husband started to dislike Yıldız. They go to balls. Many families considered going to a ball as being

Europeanized, but according to Yıldız, this was not the westernization she had expected and hoped for. Whereas before Hasan used to discuss ideas with her, now he saw her as a housewife who took money from her husband and sat at home like an ornament.

#### **10. Yıldız's ideal female friends around her and what they share**

According to Yıldız, Turkish women should be brave, idealistic, hardworking and selfless. For example, "Anatolian woman Ayşe" whose husband had died in the War of Independence and who came to an association for war orphans looking for a job and working there, is in the category of exemplary women for Yıldız. Another woman who can be cited as an example is her friend Nüket. Because Nüket also reads a lot of books, especially loves literature, studies, thinks about the state of the state and generates ideas. Another friend she enjoys spending time with is her neighbor Şefkat Hanım. Şefkat Hanım, like Yıldız, is a well-educated woman from a wealthy family who is not indifferent to the problems of the country. Yıldız would get together with all these women friends and they would discuss literature and the future of the homeland.

#### **11. Poor women who, according to Yıldız, are a disgrace**

Yıldız is a woman who advocates equality between men and women. One of her greatest desires is to see women receive a good education and take an equal place in public life with men. However, according to her, there are some women who are only consumers. However, according to Yıldız, one of the greatest virtues of Turkish women is that they are hardworking and self-sacrificing. For example, Gülsüm is a peasant girl living in Anatolia. She agrees to marry her uncle's son Hasan in an imam marriage. Although Gülsüm knew Hasan has legal wife Yıldız, she had two children with Hasan. In this situation, she is almost like an object in life, she is passive. On the other hand, İsmet Hanım is an urban rich woman. As her husband Namık Bey, a businessman, perceived modernization as attending balls, changing his clothes and changing the neighborhood he lived in, İsmet Hanım perceived modernization like her husband. She was not even taking care of her child. She left her two-year-old child with a nanny. Another example is. Raife Hanım, the wife of Hasan's friend Esat Bey. Like İsmet Hanım, Raife Hanım perceived modernization superficially. She was a woman who spoke half French and half Turkish, but was ridiculed by the learned people around her for her mispronunciation of French. Neither İsmet Hanım, Raife Hanım nor Gülsüm had any idea about the current state of the country or its future.

#### **12. Yıldız puts her individual desires on the back burner and views marriage in this way**

Yıldız is not a woman who marries just to be married. On the other hand, she is a woman who does not want to get caught up in the adventure of love as well. She gives importance to spirituality rather than materialism. She wants to realize her individual development instead of pursuing her individual desires. Thus, she will have the opportunity to work for the development of society and the country. In this sense, Yıldız feels responsible for the issues related to the homeland and society and devotes herself to this path, despite the fact that no one imposes a duty on her. After completing her education and becoming a teacher, she marries Hasan, because now Yıldız was able to make herself ready to work for her homeland.

#### **13. Hasan who cannot take responsibility for his actions**

When Hasan met Yıldız, he was a person who thought about his nation and homeland. For this reason, he met Yıldız and they founded a charity organization together. But after the War of Independence, when Hasan entered the business world and started to become rich, his lifestyle and thoughts changed in an instant. His wife Yıldız was upset to see this negative change in Hasan, such as him coming home drunk and groping women at balls. Unable to do anything, Yıldız could only say to her husband Hasan, "If you follow this wrong westernization, I will leave you, however you should aware of that our country needs young people like us to work". When Hasan hears these words of his wife, instead of correcting his wrongdoing or apologizing to his wife, he blames his friend Namık Bey. He states that he drinks and goes to balls and even bars because of him. According to Hasan, it was his friend Namık Bey who led him astray.

#### **14. Hasan's friend Esat Bey comes to Yıldız and Hasan's house late one night and shamelessly declares his love for Yıldız**

Esat Bey was Hasan's friend with whom he attended balls. As he had done before, he came to see Yıldız late one night without his wife and without informing her. Hasan was not at home. He said to Yıldız: "Altan or Mortan or whoever is at Şefkat Hanım's house. You spend too much time with him but you don't pity me. I am crazy about you." Yıldız didn't know what to do when she heard these words. She replied to Esat Bey: "You are my husband Hasan's friend and you are not ashamed to say that you are crazy about his wife." Then Esat Bey tells Yıldız, "I wanted to play a joke on you." Yıldız said, "You should make these immoral and inappropriate jokes to the women who are waiting for them. You see, you have nothing to talk to me about" and does not mention this to Hasan. However, a few days later, she learns that Esat Bey is also trying to molest her friend Nüket. It was very heavy for Yıldız to go through all this. It made her very sad. She didn't know what to do, what to do.

#### **15. Hasan was getting richer but also depressed**

Hasan, who considers speaking half Turkish and half French as European, is completely detached from the ideal of saving the homeland. Hasan starts to change his house and neighborhood frequently as he earns money. First they rent a house in Gedikpaşa, then Şişli and finally Cihangir. This allowed Hasan to meet his rich friends more often and attend balls. However Yıldız, she not liked to spend time with his degenerate friends. After a while, Yıldız was hospitalized because of her mental problems, but Hasan didn't care about his wife's illness. He preferred to go to balls in Cihangir instead of being with his wife while she was hospitalized. As Hasan became richer, he ate more and got fatter. He even goes abroad to eat more. Doctors suggested a trip to Europe as a cure for his nervous illness. As a result, Hasan went to France with his wife Yıldız to find a cure for his depression.

#### **16. Yıldız decides to take action**

Yıldız began to regret getting married when she started to feel ignored by her husband. But despite everything, she still had hopes that Hasan could recover. The fact that Hasan was a drunkard and refused to give her the money she needed for the future of the country, as well as refusing to allow her to work, was the final straw for Yıldız. Because now she thought "well, this diploma could be useful to me" and she started to pursue the realization of her greatest ideal. Yıldız, who was also contemplating a separation, did not think it was appropriate for her to complain that "Hasan did this to me, Hasan left me alone during my illness, Hasan wandered around in bars". What Yıldız needed to do was to take action and shape her future as a woman with a profession, confident in herself and free from passivity. Yıldız realized that she had to stand up and take action. Instead of complaining, she had to decide what to do immediately and draw a road map for herself. At the top of Yıldız's roadmap was to work and labor for her homeland, and especially for the betterment of women citizens.

#### **17. Yıldız meets Seyhan, a Turkish young man who has understood Westernization correctly, at Şefkat Hanım's house**

As Yıldız was beginning to realize that she had made the wrong marriage because of Hasan's indifference and indifference towards her, she met Seyhan, a young man who had just returned from Europe, at a party at her neighbor Şefkat Hanım's house. Seyhan was a member of a wealthy family. But he had left the country he loved so much. Because he was at odds with his family members over inheritance disputes and gossip. Talking to Seyhan, who had traveled to many European cities and had internalized civilization, was like therapy for Yıldız. Yıldız saw someone who looked at life from the same perspective. They could speak the same language. This was something Yıldız longed for. Seyhan said that he actually wanted to return to his country because he missed his homeland and his culture. But he didn't want to relive the conflicts with his relatives and family back home, so he was forced to go to Europe.

#### **18. Raife Hanım, the woman everyone mocked at balls with her French she couldn't speak and her lack of manners**

Yıldız was going to balls at the urging of her husband Hasan. Yıldız did not like the atmosphere at the balls, the women or the men who came. But she still attended them so as not to offend her husband. At a ball she went to, Yıldız met Raife Hanım. Raife Hanım was not the daughter of a wealthy family. When she married the rich Esat Bey, she started to live a rich life. Raife Hanım's life was a life of vulgarity. She looked down on people who were not rich. Although she did not speak French, she pretended to speak a



foreign language by mispronouncing the words she heard around her. But this made those around her who knew foreign languages laugh at her.

#### 19. **Peasant Ali becomes a snob under the influence of his cousin's Hasan**

Ali, the son of Hasan's uncle, often came and stayed at Hasan and Yıldız's apartment in Şişli from his village in Anatolia. Yıldız liked his purity and cleanliness and thought that Ali's ignorance would disappear with Yıldız's guidance. As Ali came and went to their house, he met well-bred people, learned the rules of etiquette, started to wear a tie like Hasan, and wore a jacket and pants. He started to act like a knowledgeable person in order to make a good impression on the people around him. But according to Yıldız, "this young Ali a primary school graduate, eventually became a snob because of Hasan's bad example."

#### 20. **Yıldız's nightmare night: Her cousin Fahir saw her drunk and resents her**

Fahir was the son of Yıldız's uncle. He was a well-educated middle-aged man. After her father, Fahir was a big part of Yıldız's upbringing as a self-confident woman. They had not seen each other for a long time. Fahir had been abroad for a long time. He had just recently returned home. One night he suddenly showed up at Yıldız and Hasan's house. That night Yıldız was having a nervous breakdown. Yıldız wanted to show how Hasan made her feel by pretending to be him. She got drunk like Hasan and was acting ridiculously when she unexpectedly saw her cousin Fahir and was shocked. She is very embarrassed that her cousin Fahir sees her drunk. Fahir immediately leaves Yıldız's house and resents Yıldız. Fahir doesn't want to see Yıldız for a long time and Yıldız does not forgive herself for that night. For a long time Yıldız could not get over the shame of that night.

#### 21. **Yıldız realizes the truth with a letter from Gülsüm**

Yıldız tries to endure all the negative changes in her husband Hasan. Yıldız even tries to do her best for Hasan's recovery. The doctor suggests that Hasan should take a trip to Europe for his recovery. Yıldız goes with her husband. During this trip, Hasan receives a letter from his uncle's daughter Gülsüm and Yıldız opens the letter and reads it. Yıldız is shocked. Gülsüm has written a letter to Hasan giving him information about their children and herself. In short, Yıldız learns that she has been deceived by her longtime husband Hasan. While Hasan does not care about Yıldız's illness, Yıldız goes abroad with her husband Hasan for his recovery, no matter what. Yıldız accompanies her husband, even though Hasan makes her sad. Yıldız receives Gülsüm's letter to Hasan before Hasan does and secretly reads it. Yıldız, who had put up with Hasan's wrongdoings until then, realizes that she has been taken for a sucker. According to Yıldız, this marriage must end as soon as possible.

#### 22. **Yıldız's "lonely" return home from Paris on the Orient Express**

Yıldız traveled with Hasan to support him, even though she was resentful and angry with him when she went to Paris for treatment. When Hasan went to Paris, he started traveling. The change of place and the change of weather did Hasan a lot of good. Hasan now had the opportunity to see the Western civilization he admired in person. But everything came to an end for Yıldız when she found out by chance through a letter that he was married to his cousin Gülsüm in a religious marriage. Yıldız planned to write a letter to Gülsüm as if Hasan had written it, and so she did. When Gülsüm received this letter, she was first of all very happy and immediately came to Paris with her two children. Yıldız met them at the train station. She took them to Hasan and then she got on the train and Yıldız wrote a letter to her cousin Fahir, "I am coming back from Paris alone, will you meet me?"

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