

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE  
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# ON THE WAY TO THE HOMELAND

YAKUP KADRI KARAOSMANOĞLU

## Important Terms

Bey It is an honorific for men, equals to Mr. in English.  
Hanım It is an honorific for women, equals to Ms. in English.

## Synopsis

In this work, Yakup Kadri shares his observations on the National Struggle period. When the Armistice of Mudros is signed, he is in his third year in Switzerland for treatment. Due to the prohibitions of the Entente States, he cannot leave Switzerland and communicate with anyone outside the country. However, thanks to Italy's changing attitude toward Turkey, he returns to Istanbul through the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Unable to stand the occupation of the city by the Allied Forces, he supports the national struggle in Anatolia with his writings. After a while, he goes to Ankara. By joining the Red Crescent team bringing aid to the bombarded regions, he sees the ravaged areas in Western Anatolia. Then, he moves to the western front by order of Ismet Inonu and travels from village to village to report the effects of the war on people's lives with Halide Edib Adivar and Yusuf Akcura. This journey ends in Izmir with the recapture of the city.

## People

Adnan Adivar	Physician, writer, politician
Ahmet Anzavur	Ottoman soldier against the national struggle
Ahmet Muhtar	Son of Sheikalislam Cemaleddin Efendi
Ali Said Pasha	Soldier and politician
Ahmet Resit	Statesman
Ahmet Emin Yalman	Journalist and writer
Berthe Georges Gaulis	French journalist
Cemil Topuzlu	Physician, former mayor of Istanbul
Circassian Ethem	The leader of the mobile forces. Voluntarily supported the national struggle.
Ferit Pasha the Groom	Husband of Mediha Sultan, sister of Sultan Vahdettin, politician
Edip Servet	Soldier and statesman
Falih Rifki Atay	Writer, journalist and MP
Fevzi Cakmak	Soldier and statesman
Fevzi Lutfi Karaosmanoglu	Journalist and politician
Gabriele D'Annunzio	Italian poet and military hero
Hamdullah Suphi Tanriover	Literary and author
Halide Edib Adivar	Author
Ismail Besim Pasha	Physician, soldier and statesman
Ismet Inonu	Soldier and statesman
Izzet Pasha	Soldier and statesman
Lutfi Fikri	Lawyer, politician, son of Governor of Kosovo Huseyin Fikri Pasha
Maurice César Joseph Pellé	French soldier
Mustafa Pasha	Head of the military court
Prince Sabahattin	Politician, philosopher, Sultan Abdulhamid II's nephew
Refet Pasha	Soldier and statesman
Refik Saydam	Physician and politician
Riza Tevfik Bolukbasi	Poet, philosopher, politician
Rusen Esref	Journalist, writer, diplomat, politician
Saffet Sav	Translator
Tevfik Pasha	The last Ottoman grand vizier, statesman
Yusuf Akcura	Writer and politician
Yahya Kemal	Poet and writer

## Events

### *In Switzerland*

Yakup Kadri is in Switzerland when the Armistice of Mudros is signed. The hostility toward the Turkish in the press is now unbearable for him after three years of stay. Turks are treated as stateless people because the Allied Powers prevent the citizens of the defeated countries from communicating and traveling. Although Switzerland wants to deport them, no country would open its borders. Yakup Kadri and his friends organize meetings and distribute articles against the European press that mentions Mustafa Kemal Pasha as an adventurous gang leader. Two young majors who came to Switzerland for treatment after getting injured while fighting under Mustafa Kemal Pasha's command support his ideas about the pasha. Both tell that they have not met such a commander, who is so much farsighted, cautious, and proactive.

### *Some Names in Switzerland*

Among those in Switzerland are also the pashas of Abdulhamid and the Committee of Union and Progress's opponents. Most of them live in France and are in Switzerland to get through the war. According to Yakup Kadri, only Prince Sabahattin, Lutfi Fikri, Ahmet Resit, and Cemil Pasha want to return to their country.

Although these names organize various congresses and make publications in French in the first weeks of the armistice to turn the press in favor of the Turks, they cannot be convincing. However, the opponents do not give up trying to persuade the Allied Powers. Yakup Kadri and his friends tell them that there is no other option but armed struggle, yet the opponents mock them arguing that they should not anger the Allied Powers anymore.

One day, Lutfi Fikri tells Yakup Kadri that the only thing to do is to convince the Entente States that they are a civilized country. On the other hand, Prince Sabahattin sees salvation in decentralization and private entrepreneurship.

### *Ahmet Muhtar Bey*

A few months before, Yakup Kadri runs into Sheikalislam Cemaleddin Efendi's son Ahmet Muhtar Bey in a cafe in Geneva. Since Ahmet Muhtar Bey is a pro-freedom person, he hosted the opponents in his mansion during the reign of Abdulhamid and opposed during the period of the Union and Progress. He encouraged young people to be like the French and rejected Prince Sabahattin's ideas on decentralization and private entrepreneurship as he did not find them suitable for a French way of life. As soon as Yakup Kadri recognizes him, he remembers these things. Since Muhtar Bey lived in France during the war, Yakup Kadri ignores him in order not to get into any arguments, as he no longer has a single positive feeling toward the French. But somehow, they have to talk, and Muhtar Bey tells that he lived in a prison camp in France for three years and was left at the Swiss border the previous night.

After that day, he starts to make propaganda in favor of the Ottoman Empire in Switzerland. One day, he asks Yakup Kadri to write a letter addressing the presidents of France and the United Kingdom to protest the occupation of Manisa. Yakup Kadri indirectly expresses the futility of this proposal by questioning why these political figures would pay regard to his letter.

### *Two Results of the Occupation of Izmir*

Yakup Kadri states that the occupation of Izmir province by England and France has two consequences. First, a feeling of patriotism awakens in the hearts of former statesmen, who are against the national struggle. Second, the Italians, who expect Antalya or Izmir to be left to them, revise their policy upon the Greeks' occupation of Izmir. Moreover, Mustafa Kemal also arouses sympathy in Italy because of Gabriele D'Annunzio, who captured the city of Fiume, which was given to Yugoslavia at the Paris Peace Conference. When this sympathy spreads to the authorities, Yakup Kadri and his friends have the opportunity to return to Istanbul with the permission of the occupation command in Istanbul, which they obtain through the agency of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### *To Istanbul*

On the ship that took off from Brindisi are Fuat Efendi, the grandson of Sultan Murat, and a few Turkish officers who were taken to Tripoli by a German submarine in the second year of the war and remained there. The Ottoman prince spends his journey drinking joyfully, playing the violin, and staring at the women on the deck. When Yakup Kadri and his friends hear the report about Damat Ferit Pasha's resignation and Ali Rıza Pasha's replacement over the radio, they also cheer as they appreciate Ali Rıza Pasha's morality.

When they arrive in Istanbul, three steamboats flying the British, Italian, and French flags approach, and the officers occupy the ship. A little later, a French captain sits in the middle of his English and Italian colleagues, reads the names on the passenger list aloud, and then checks everyone's passports in turn. Yakup Kadri is disturbed by his insulting attitude but cannot say anything.

#### *In Istanbul*

He doesn't know where to go as he hasn't heard from his mother and sister for nearly a year. He delivers his suitcases to a porter and goes to Cenyo restaurant in Karakoy, hoping to see someone he knows. However, he cannot see anyone familiar other than the Greek waiters. Yet they act cold. Then, he remembers his relatives living in Kadıkoy, finds their phone numbers in the directory, calls them, and goes to Kadıkoy. His cousin Fevzi Lutfi meets him at the dock, and they go home chatting about the national struggle. His recovery is of no interest to his relatives, and they cannot understand why he has returned to a country with an uncertain future.

#### *Halit Pasha*

Yakup Kadri learns from his cousin that their relative Halit Pasha in Manisa is dead. Halit Pasha went to Anatolia to join the armed struggle and secretly returned to his farm to solve the financial problems of his friends. However, his farm is in the occupation zone, and most of the villagers are Greek. On the third night on his farm, he had to fight alone against the Greeks and was eventually killed. His severed head was carried around the streets of Manisa by a Greek soldier.

#### *The British Officer*

One day, as Yakup Kadri is with Adnan Adıvar and Ahmet Emin Yalman, a British policeman stops their carriage. They wait for a while, but as they see an English captain watching them on the opposite sidewalk, Ahmet Emin, the one who speaks English among them, walks up to the captain to ask the reason for it. However, the captain cries out to him that a Turk cannot address a British soldier, so he returns without saying anything.

#### *The Atmosphere in Istanbul*

Yakup Kadri sees that no one is hopeful about the struggle except a few friends. The general atmosphere harbors hostility toward the Committee of Union and Progress that made the country enter the war. The Freedom and Accord Party, which opposed the Committee of Union and Progress, shows no other way than surrender by using accusatory language against the people because the party has turned out to be right about the Unionists. They believe that those who waged an armed struggle in Anatolia are the Unionists and that they somehow convinced even their opponent, Mustafa Kemal, to join them. In the media, *Peyam* and *Alemdar* argue that the British army should suppress those who wage armed struggle in Anatolia, while *Aksam*, *Tasviri Efkar*, *Vakit*, *Ileri*, and *İkdam* support the national strugglers to the extent permitted by the occupation forces.

#### *Akhisar*

Yakup Kadri stops by Manisa to see his sick mother and goes to Akhisar. That is one of the fronts, but people do nothing but walk around town in their fancy clothes and sit and chat in the coffeehouses. When Yakup Kadri asks them if they have any connection with Mustafa Kemal, they say they are affiliated with the local forces.

Thus, Yakup Kadri realizes that the struggle has yet to reach a national consciousness. As a matter of fact, after the Sivas Congress, Mustafa Kemal Pasha takes decisions to ensure unity. But the implementation of these decisions is not so easy.

#### *Journalism*

Yakup Kadri wants to join the armed struggle in Anatolia, but one of his friends says that he can give his best support with his articles in Istanbul. Rusen Esref, whom he asks to convey his desire to Mustafa Kemal Pasha, expresses that Mustafa Kemal Pasha thinks the same when he returns from Sivas.

Thus, when Yakup Kadri takes over the *İkdam* newspaper, he mobilizes the newspaper for the national struggle. He dismisses all the supporters of the Freedom and Accord Party and replaces them with the supporters of the national struggle. He does his best to increase the courage of the people of Istanbul with his writings.

### *The Increasing Pressure of the Occupying Forces*

In Istanbul, rallies are held, and speeches are read on various occasions. But after the British powers overthrow Ali Rıza Pasha's government to replace it with the cabinet of Ferit Pasha the Groom, the pressure increases even more. Yakup Kadri goes through secluded streets to Kadıköy pier that day and encounters his journalist friends. Since the ferries are not working, they think something important is going on in Istanbul, and they go to Ahmet Emin's house together. When Ahmet Emin learns that Ali Sait Pasha wants to reach him, he goes to his house because the telephones do not work like the ferries. When he returns, he tells that the Allied Forces plan to arrest him, and the pasha advised him to flee.

Everyone who learns that Ahmet Emin is to be arrested for supporting the armed struggle in Anatolia decides to run away like him. Thus, Yakup Kadri can't find any of his friends in their house the next day. When he goes to *İkdam*, he receives a notification from the occupation command ordering them to give up the publication that supports the Kemalist gangs in Anatolia.

Thus, all nationalist newspapers in Istanbul are compelled to use neutral language. Yakup Kadri finds the solution in writing short stories. But one day, Minister of Internal Affairs Resit Bey wants to see him about a story about the soldiers killed by the Allied Forces in a raid on a police station and asks him to pay more attention to what he writes.

### *Corruption*

Mustafa Pasha, who presides over the military court, sentences people to death as he wishes. However, some convicts are released in return for a small payment. The person negotiating this is Sait Molla, who works as an undersecretary in the ministry. When writer Falih Rifki Atay is sentenced to death, Yakup Kadri negotiates with Sait Molla to save him. Sait Molla says that Mustafa Pasha wants at least 1000 liras for Falih Rifki, as the opponents of the Union and Progress think that Cemal Pasha left the gold he could not take with him as he fled the country to Falih Rifki Atay. However, they agree on 600 liras, and Falih Rifki's family can barely collect this amount.

Ahmet Anzavur Pasha, who takes action to suppress the national fighters, also forces people in Bandırma and Balıkesir to pay money to him. However, the national strugglers eliminate his armed forces.

### *Detention*

Despite the notification of the occupying forces, the newspapers begin to announce the victories of the national strugglers. One evening, while Yakup Kadri is chatting with his friend Yahya Kemal in his room at the newspaper, two civil servants show up and take him away without any explanation. Since he doesn't write anything other than the serialization of *Kıralık Konak* [Mansion for Rent], which has no political content, he can't understand what his crime would be. He is brought to Bekiraga Squadron, where political criminals are held. There, he sees all *İkdam* employees, including Yusuf Kenan, who is a supporter of the Freedom and Accord Party and was made the editor-in-chief as a precautionary measure when Ferit Pasha the Groom became grand vizier again, and then feels relieved, thinking that the crime is not personal. A little later, as the employees of *Vakit* newspaper join them, he supposes that the government doesn't like publications made in favor of the national struggle in both newspapers.

Toward midnight, they are brought before Mustafa Pasha. After examining the newspaper clippings in front of him, Mustafa Pasha asks who Yakup Kadri is. Yakup Kadri stands up and introduces himself. Mustafa Pasha invites him to the front of the pulpit and asks him to read the news in *İkdam*. It is about

the victory of the national fighter Ali Fuat Pasha in Eskisehir. After Yakup Kadri reads it, Mustafa Pasha asks if he understands his mistake. But Yakup Kadri continues to stare into space because he does not understand anything. This time, Mustafa Pasha says that Ali Fuat is a rebel who has been expelled from the military and sentenced to death, and in this case, it is an insult to the sultan to refer to him with the title of pasha. Then, Yakup Kadri states that he does not write such news in the newspaper and that they can only hold him responsible for the articles he writes. After listening to him, Mustafa Pasha asks who is responsible for these works. In the end, Yusuf Kenan, the editor-in-chief of *Ikdam* and the editor-in-chief of *Vakit*, are jailed for a few months.

### *The French Bureau of Censorship*

One day, the French censorship bureau sends a notice stating that it has abolished the newspaper *Ikdam*. Immediately after that, two French soldiers with bayonets stand in front of the newspaper building. Yakup Kadri doesn't want to be unresponsive to this treatment and asks the French high commissioner for an appointment. The high commissioner welcomes him standing in one of the waiting rooms of the embassy building and states that he thinks that the French soldier doesn't do such a thing for no reason, but he will investigate it anyway. Less than twenty-four hours after this meeting, the chief of the French censorship bureau invites Yakup Kadri to his office. Yakup Kadri goes to the office. There, the chief calls in a young Armenian translator and then shows him a piece of news translated from *Le Matin* asking why he did not tell the high commissioner about the news. Yakup Kadri asks why a Turkish newspaper is held responsible for an article in *Le Matin*. The chief gets angry and says that publishing the story of a fugitive French soldier who steals money and spends it on prostitution and debauchery is malignant. He kicks Yakup Kadri out of his office. But the next day, the young translator delivers a notification stating that the French censorship has allowed the newspaper to be published again.

### *A New Government*

The British replace Ferit Pasha the Groom with Tefik Pasha, one of the withdrawn statesmen, whom they believe, can dissuade Mustafa Kemal from his activities in Anatolia. Because they think of Mustafa Kemal as a Unionist, and Tefik Pasha and his cabinet held various positions during the Union and Progress period.

After a while, Minister of Interior Izzet Pasha goes to Anatolia with a delegation. Meanwhile, Mustafa Kemal tries to persuade Circassian Ethem, who wants to share the military powers of Commander Ismet Inonu, to limit his activities to a region. But Circassian Ethem refuses his requests. Then, Mustafa Kemal goes to Bilecik to meet with the delegation, but as he realizes that they can't have an agreement, he arrests the delegates and brings them to Ankara. His purpose in doing this is to show the government in Istanbul and local forces acting irregularly like Circassian Ethem that the government in Ankara is a legitimate force.

### *After the Victories*

After the Battle of Inonu, the attitude of the occupation forces in Istanbul begins to change. After a while, it is heard that the Ankara government is invited to a peace conference in London together with the Istanbul government.

Yakup Kadri reports what happens in London based on what he reads from the foreign press. The modern appearance of the delegation from Ankara surprises the British, who wait for some exotic-looking men. French statesman Aristide Briand leans in the ear of the British prime minister and says, "They don't look like the sick man at all." Lloyd George starts the meeting by asking Tefik Pasha, who represents the Istanbul government, about his health, but without answering this question, Tefik Pasha says that the delegate from Ankara has the right to speak. Subsequently, the Ankara government does not approve the agreements signed by the Ankara delegation in London, as they find it contrary to the national interest.

### *On the Way to Ankara*

Yakup Kadri sets out with an invitation from Ankara. When he boards a ship, he feels like he escapes from prison. He will no longer see the French, English, or Italian soldiers and be scolded by them for

whatever reason. When the ship crosses into the Black Sea, young naval officers who want to join the national struggle come out of their hiding places and begin to sing national songs.

When they land in Inebolu, they listen to many stories about how the villagers struggled against the enemy ships that came to seize the ammunition left in Inebolu to be taken to Ankara. They stay in the inn of a man known as Sergeant Ismail in a mountain village called Ecevit. Sergeant Ismail tells them that Berthe Georges-Gaulis, who reports on the national struggle in Turkey, left the inn the night before and has them read a card written by her. The card reads, "I recommend Sergeant Ismail's hotel to all travelers passing by." When Yakup Kadri asks him about the government in Ankara, Sergeant Ismail says that there is no theft or murder anymore and that people can travel safely.

They go from Inebolu to Kastamonu. Since it is Ramadan, they do not see many people outside, as everyone spends the whole day sleeping. However, Yakup Kadri runs into his correspondent friend Faik Nuzhet and Ismail Hatip, the editor-in-chief of a newspaper in Kastamonu. These two people support the national struggle there. Chatting with them strengthens Yakup Kadri's faith in the national struggle, and even having to spend the night in an animal stall between Kastamonu and Cankiri does not discourage him.

### *In Ankara*

After a journey of seven days and six nights, they finally arrive in Ankara. At the police station where they have to report their identities, Yakup Kadri is told that he is expected at the Red Crescent center. When Yakup Kadri goes to the center, he cannot find anyone, but a few minutes later, Deputy Speaker of the Grand National Assembly Adnan Adivar and Minister of Health Refik Saydam show up. Together with Adnan Bey, he goes to the Ministry of Education. Education Minister Hamdullah Suphi tells him that he dreams of turning Ankara into an intellectual and cultural center. While Yakup Kadri is listening to him, he forgets his exhaustion and worries.

### *With Mustafa Kemal*

Yakup Kadri settles in a room on the farm where Adnan Adivar and Halide Edib are staying. He gets to meet and talk to various soldiers in the evenings but does not like to lead a quiet and still life. Although it has been a week, he has not met Mustafa Kemal Pasha. Because of that, he feels incomplete. Whenever he raises this issue, he does not miss the uneasiness of Adnan Bey and Halide Hanim and learns that Halide Hanim and Mustafa Kemal Pasha are at odds. He thinks of visiting him through Hamdullah Suphi, but he is afraid of being refused because he is Halide Hanim's guest.

While struggling with these worries, one day, Rusen Esref informs that Mustafa Kemal Pasha is expecting him for lunch the next day. The next day, Halide Hanim drops him off by her carriage. As she waits at Rusen Esref's house, Yakup Kadri visits Mustafa Kemal Pasha with Rusen Bey.

Yakup Kadri finds Mustafa Kemal more charming and cordial than he expected based on what he read in the newspapers. He sees a thoughtful but not tired expression on his face. His residence is a simply furnished mansion, and they have lunch at a small table. Yakup Kadri thrills as his elbow touches Mustafa Kemal's, and having lunch with him on a summer day turns into an unforgettable memory for him.

After that, he sees him several times in the Grand National Assembly. Mustafa Kemal always prefers to sit in the back rows, has fun with his friends like a student, but despite this, he has a different air than everyone around him. When he enters his private room, those who want to be closer to him find the opportunity to chat with him over coffee and cigarettes. Yakup Kadri observes that some of these people are closer to him, because after Mustafa Kemal leaves, most of the deputies gather around them and try to get information. But Yakup Kadri feels that Mustafa Kemal is actually a very lonely man despite everything.

One day, he enters his private room after the deputies. Mustafa Kemal shakes his hand, shows him a seat, and then offers a cigarette. Then he joyfully tells him about an article he read in a new humor magazine. He then touches on the debates between nationalist and cosmopolitan newspapers. While chatting with him, Yakup Kadri feels as if he is talking to a colleague and finds him far more human than the extraordinary character he portrayed in his imagination.

### *About Mustafa Kemal*

Mustafa Kemal is not a character loved by everyone. He is often criticized for dedicating himself to politics instead of taking over the army. For this reason, some try to prevent him from being elected as the chairman of the parliament. They name Erzurum Deputy Celalettin Arif Bey as a rival to him. When Yakup Kadri goes to Ankara, this discussion is still alive.

Those who bother Mustafa Kemal the most are the former supporters of the Union and Progress, who cause people to assume that the national strugglers are also Unionists. Some citizens do not support the struggle because they think it is a Unionist game. Mustafa Kemal's only aim is to get it recognized by everyone as a national movement above all political desires.

#### *Interview with Ismet Inonu*

After the Greek attack, Yakup Kadri sets out with the Red Crescent team for the places in need of help and tours the fronts in the West. First, they go to Eskisehir, and while they are wandering around the train station, they come across Ismet Inonu. He introduces himself to Yakup Kadri and invites him to the station master's office to chat. Yakup Kadri, for the first time in his life, becomes fond of a person so quickly. He finds Ismet Inonu very caring and winsome. He tells him about the effect of his victories in Istanbul.

On the way back, he visits Ismet Inonu at the headquarters. There is nothing in his room but an old sofa, a tiny table, and a wooden bench. While Yakup Kadri is waiting for him, Ismet Bey signs some files, reads the telegrams. When he is done, he offers to have dinner. Yakup Kadri prefers to chat because he wants to ask as many questions as possible. But as he fires questions off to him, Ismet Bey playfully avoids answering on the grounds that his comments draw too much attention.

#### *Gediz*

While passing through the lands of Western Anatolia, they see the people in the villages working in the fields as if they are not between two fronts, and the animals walking around calmly as usual. However, when they arrive in Gediz, which was occupied twice, they find a ravaged place. People built new adobe houses but left them unfinished for five or six years as they believe that a perfectly built house would bring bad luck.

Yakup Kadri remarks that many cultured state officials departed Anatolia without leaving any trace of enlightenment because of these superstitions and the district governor of Gediz is such a young man. While walking around Gediz in the evening with him, he detects how an enlightened person has suffered at the hands of ignorant people. Later, he thinks how empty, childish and ridiculous it is to fall in love with Anatolian villagers from afar, from Istanbul, and to produce some projects on paper for them.

#### *Simav and Gordes*

When they reach Simav, they see that the destruction is even more severe here. Yakup Kadri learns that a foreign journalist woman, who passed by before them to report the damages, was about to lose her mind after witnessing what kinds of tortures people, especially women were subjected to.

Despite everything, the people of Simav do their best to help the villagers in Gordes, who are in the same situation as them. But even if they can donate food, they cannot send clothes. As the Red Crescent team heads toward Gordes, Yakup Kadri returns to Ankara because of a malaria attack.

#### *The Train That Does Not Take Off*

When he returns to Ankara, he finds the atmosphere changed. The enthusiasm of the soldiers expecting another attack from the Greeks is high. However, some deputies are worried because they think that they would not be successful until Mustafa Kemal takes the lead of the army while some are unsure of the army despite all its success.

One evening, while spending time with Halide Edib and her guests, they learn that the enemy has attacked. Upon the news, the following morning, Halide Edib sets out for Eskisehir to work in the military hospital. On the second day of the attack, Yakup Kadri gets on a train to Eskisehir. On the train, he sees Rusen Esref's wife. They begin to wait for the train to take off. But the train doesn't move. After a while, Yakup Kadri goes out to understand the reason for their long waiting and sees the

soldiers crying near the train. He walks up to them and learns that Colonel Nazim Bey, one of the most valuable commanders of the army, is dead and that the train will not move. Thereupon, he takes Rusen Esref's wife and returns.

### *News from the Front*

After Mustafa Kemal goes to Eskisehir and comes back, he follows the news from the front at the military center in the old Agricultural School building, together with Yakup Kadri, Adnan Adivar, Halide Edib Adivar, and Refet Pasha. When Marshal Fevzi Cakmak is in the center, Mustafa Kemal Pasha works with him in a small room. Since Fevzi Cakmak usually sleeps early, Yakup Kadri and the others enter the room as soon as he leaves. Then, Mustafa Kemal explains the course of the war to them on the map marked with tiny blue and red flags.

On these evenings, Mustafa Kemal receives many telegrams. As he is reading them, they all look at his face to catch a feeling, wondering whether the news is good or bad, but Mustafa Kemal's face reveals nothing. He says things to the officer who brought the telegram, but they don't understand anything from what he says. Just when they are about to fall into despair, Mustafa Kemal feels it and then cheerfully offers a coffee break.

### *Mustafa Kemal's Loneliness*

One morning at half-past eight, while everyone is about to return to their homes, Mustafa Kemal asks the soldier on duty if anyone is around. While the soldier looks at Mustafa Kemal with empty eyes without understanding what he is saying, Yakup Kadri thinks that he does not recognize Mustafa Kemal in plain clothes. Just then, Edip Servet Bey passes through the corridor, and Mustafa Kemal grabs him by the arm and offers him a morning coffee. Although Edip Servet Bey says he is in a hurry, Mustafa Kemal insists that he be with him for at least a few minutes because he is not sleepy yet and left all alone.

Yakup Kadri sees a tragedy in his words, "I'm all alone, I can't sleep" and feels that he comprehends best how painful the days are for the country and carries the responsibility of this state inside him like a secret. He thinks that his relaxed and playful demeanor is to hide the tragedy he experiences. Moreover, it is known by everyone that his kidneys aren't healthy. Thinking of all these, pity and deep respect for Mustafa Kemal awaken inside Yakup Kadri.

### *Mustafa Kemal Leading the Army*

The debates created by those who want to see Mustafa Kemal lead the army in the parliament intensify. Yakup Kadri assumes that Mustafa Kemal divides the participants in this discussion into three groups. The first group is those who want Mustafa Kemal to be defeated, thinking that the army is already defeated, the second group is those who believe that he will improve the situation by taking the lead, and the last group is those who find it dangerous that he is at the fronts. This group is the one who worries that if something happens to him, their hope of salvation will perish too. Finally, he decides to be at the front.

### *Lonely Ankara*

When Halide Edib starts to serve in the army, the group that gathers at her house in Kalaba village every evening disperses. Some go to other cities. Those who stay have to find a place to stay in Ankara. Thus, Rusen Esref and Yakup Kadri start to oscillate between Cankaya and the city center to be filled in on the war. But they can't even find a donkey to ride on. So, this commute is very troublesome every time. After receiving the news from the parliament, they go to the People's Garden opposite the assembly building to see someone they know. Hamdullah Suphi and Adnan Adivar spend time there too. Occasionally, Minister of Economy Celal Bayar, Minister of Finance Hasan Saka, and Minister of Justice Refik Sevet Ince join them. Since all of the ministries have moved to Kayseri with their officials and belongings, this garden is the only place where deputies can meet outside the parliament.

Yakup Kadri starts to stay in the Red Crescent center with Adnan Adivar. In a few days, Ankara overflows with wounded soldiers. After a few air attacks, the people of Ankara start to migrate to other cities. One evening, Ismail Besim Pasha, the head of the Red Crescent, informs Yakup Kadri, Rusen Esref, and his wife that they can set out with the automobile of the Red Crescent the following



morning, but they respond that they do not plan to go. Upon this answer, Ismail Besim Pasha points out that everyone might have to leave the city at some point. Even though Adnan Adivar gives the same advice, they don't give up on their decision to stay in Ankara.

### *The Victory*

After the victory of the Battle of Sakarya, which lasted for twenty-two days, Yakup Kadri, Hamdullah Suphi, and Rusen Esref encounter Mustafa Kemal's automobile on the way to the station to meet him. As they see no trace of the twenty-two-day war in Mustafa Kemal, who has an elegant demeanor and is cheerful as always, they cannot address him as a national hero as they planned.

### *The Western Front*

Yakup Kadri takes the night train to Polatli to go to the western front by order of Ismet Inonu. After spending a night in an old inn opposite the station, he visits Ismet Inonu in his room at the headquarters. Ismet Inonu is slightly different from the one whom he met before. This time, Yakup Kadri sees a commander with social distance toward people. However, he is not offended. He is proud of his military successes. Upon his order, he travels to the villages on the western front with Halide Edib Adivar and Yusuf Akcura to write down his observations and the things the villagers tell him.

### *Failing to Cherish the Victory*

When they enter the villages, the few people walking around disappear as soon as they see them. No one wants to talk to them, even though they say they're not enemies. They want to herald the victory, but nobody cares. Therefore, when they go from one village to another, they must first convince the villagers that they are not there to do evil and then talk.

The villagers say that the enemies came and told them that they were there to protect them from Kemal's gangs, but after a while, they killed their animals, took some of their crops and set some on fire, raped women and children, and burned those who resisted alive. Yakup Kadri believes that it is necessary to tell all these things to the civilized world, but his heart is full of disappointment toward that world, which is the real culprit.

### *Izmir*

When Yakup Kadri returns to Istanbul, he finds everything as he left. However, anything unrelated to the War of Independence seems uninspired to him. After a while, on September 10, 1922, he finds himself in Izmir with Mehmet Asım from *Vakit* newspaper and Falih Rıfki from *Aksam*. Rusen Esref, whom they run into on the street, takes them to the headquarters. All the windows of the houses in the headquarters are open, and there are no guards in front of the doors. When Rusen Esref stops in front of one of the houses and says that Mustafa Kemal is inside, they watch inside. While Mustafa Kemal is sitting at a table, two foreign admirals are standing in front of him.

After three and a half years of denial of the right to speak with a soldier from the Allied Forces, Yakup Kadri feels joy, national pride, and relief in the face of this scene. They go up to Ismet Inonu and Marshal Fevzi Cakmak, who are in the other room of the same house. After chatting for a while, they agree to dine at the Kramer Hotel in the evening.

As they sit in front of one of the houses in the headquarters in the afternoon, the view in front of them is the soldiers sleeping on the streets due to tiredness, the Greek-speaking people trying to get on the boats on the dock, and the warships with their guns pointing toward the city. While one of the young officers next to them shows the warships and explains that the thing that surprises the foreign commanders the most is the simultaneous entry of horsemen, carriages, automobiles, and foot troops into Izmir, suddenly an explosion is heard. As the sounds get louder, a black cloud surrounds the city. One of the officers says that people from the Christian quarters will flock there, then everything is possible, so all three pashas must go somewhere else before dark. He goes inside to convey this idea to the pashas, but all three pashas do not go anywhere.

As churches explode, flames spread, and a Greek-speaking crowd gathers on the quay. The two officers dive into this crowd and come back and say that the Greek boatmen don't accept anyone without taking cash. Then another officer interferes in and explains that the Greeks hope for help from the waiting warships, but the crews hit those who try to board the ship and throw them into the sea.

## *General Pellé*

In the evening, they can't meet at the hotel. After that night, Yakup Kadri and his friends go to the mansion of the Usaklıgils, where Mustafa Kemal is staying. The mansion is full of foreign military visitors who want to see the pasha. Yakup Kadri sees High Commissioner General Pellé, who came to Izmir from Istanbul to meet with Mustafa Kemal, come out of Mustafa Kemal's room in a dazed state, and then learns from the translator Saffet Sav what happened in the room.

Mustafa Kemal put it to General Pellé that it was the British and the French who had equipped the Greek army to attack Anatolia, but despite this, they present themselves as the sole agents of mercy and humanity. Saffet Sav tried to soften some expressions in translation, but Mustafa Kemal warned him, saying that he is translating incorrectly. But as the conversation progressed, the tension eased, and the atmosphere softened considerably.

## *Is the Struggle Over?*

After a while, visitors leave the mansion. Then, Yakup Kadri and his friends sit on the terrace and chat with Mustafa Kemal. While speaking, Yakup Kadri eyes him from head to foot. His dress, elegance, and cheerfulness make him think that he is now preparing to live a happy and peaceful life. However, at the very moment, Mustafa Kemal declares that the first phase of the national struggle is over and that the second phase should be started now.

## Themes

**Humiliation** During his stay in Switzerland, Yakup Kadri is treated as if he were a stateless person due to the prohibitions of the Allied Forces. Thanks to the changing policy of Italy, he returns to Istanbul but meets the humiliating mindset of the occupation forces before he sets foot in the city. During the passport control on the ship, he does not know what to do against the arrogant officers of the Allied Forces. During his stay in Istanbul, this manner affects every aspect of his life. The British police arbitrarily pull over his carriage, and he and his friends are told that they have no right to ask why because they are Turkish. In this context, the most significant reason why Yakup Kadri wants to go to Ankara to support the national struggle in Anatolia is that continuing to live in Istanbul means accepting humiliation.

**Patriotism** Yakup Kadri receives the news of the armistice in Switzerland and makes various publications with his friends to defend his country against Turkish hostility in Europe. When he finally returns to Istanbul, he writes articles to support the national struggle in Anatolia. When necessary, he confronts local authorities and occupation forces. Finally, he goes to Ankara, taking all kinds of difficulties. There, he uses his pen both to express the national struggle poetically and report the effects of the war on people. He does all these things with a sense of patriotism that flares up and never goes out when he is treated as if he were a stateless person due to the prohibitions of the Entente Powers during his stay in Switzerland.

**Catharsis** Yakup Kadri is purified from the hatred he has accumulated against the Western powers during the years of occupation when the national struggle succeeds. Foreign admirals standing in front of Mustafa Kemal at the headquarters in Izmir, inaccessible representatives of the occupation forces in Istanbul visiting him at the Usaklıgils' mansion, and Mustafa Kemal's courage to openly state that the Allied Forces are responsible for everything help Yakup Kadri achieve emotional catharsis. For he feels that he has regained his homeland only after all this.

## Bibliography

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