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LAZAR HOUSE / MISKINLER TEKKESI (1946)

RESAT NURI GUNTEKIN (1889 – 1956)

Apropos

Lazar House, one of the novels of Resat Nuri Guntekin's maturity period, was first published in book form by Inkilap Publishing House in 1946. The narrative in the mentioned novel begins before the Constitutional Monarchy period and extends until the Republican era. The protagonist, the grandson of a grandfather who sat at the sultan's table as one of Mahmud II's cadileskers and collected the crumbs from his table and fed them to his family, is subjected to descent in accordance with the laws of determinism and resembles his grandfather. The slothful and incapable temperament of the protagonist, who makes a living by begging and becomes wealthy like his ancestors, is in fact seen throughout the entire society. Looking at the relation between name and content, it is known that there is indeed a place called "Miskinler Tekkesi", located in Karacaahmet Cemetery in Uskudar, and that it was built by Selim III to isolate lepers from society. The narrative in the novel is conveyed to the reader by the homodiegetic narrator in the form of a life story. From time to time, the narrator breaks the fourth wall and addresses the reader. Narrative techniques such as narration, inner monologue, dialogue, description, summarization, flash back and prolepsis are used. The first part consists of fifteen sub-sections, the second part consists of ten sub-sections and the third part consists of eleven sub-sections. The wide spaces and place names mentioned in the narrative are generally as follows: Istanbul, Egypt, Izmir, Bursa, Tamasalik, Sinop, Aleppo, Suleymaniye, Esrefpasha Mosque, Kariye Mosque, etc.

Synopsis

The protagonist, whose ancestors were wealthy and influential figures, spent his childhood years in constant sluggishness and laziness. However, in his teenage years, he changed as a character and became educated and fell in love. But, with the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy, the protagonist's uncle, in whose house he lived, was exiled and his grandmother died soon after. After returning from his exile in Sinop, he worked as a civil servant and teacher, but he was constantly in trouble due to political conflicts. Finally, with the outbreak of the WWI, he was injured on his way to the Egyptian front and was invalid out of the army. He started begging after a woman gave him alms while he was sitting in front of the Esrefpasha Mosque. He decides to follow in the footsteps of his ancestors who were beggars of the sultanate and caliphate. However, the situation in which the protagonist finds himself has spread to the whole society. The protagonist, who has made a fortune by begging, takes Mesule as a servant and takes care of Ishmael. With the death of Ishmael's mother, the child is left to the protagonist. As his status as a beggar begins to be revealed, he makes enemies and Ishmael is ashamed of the protagonist, which necessitates a trip to Istanbul. Although the protagonist wanted to get rid of Ishmael by giving him to boarding school, he regrets it very much. In the following years, Ishmael returns to the protagonist's house in Suleymaniye as an influential and wealthy man. Unlike most people in the society, Ishmael became a strong, dignified, brave, honest and sensitive person. Ishmael became the protagonist's biggest success and gain in his life.

People

<i>Protagonist</i>	Homodiegetic narrator is a beggar. He belongs to a wealthy family from the palace elite.
<i>Mesrure</i>	Daughter of a pasha whom the protagonist fell in love with in his youth.
<i>Talat</i>	Protagonist's friend from the pious foundations.
<i>Mesule</i>	Female servant of African origin. Raises Ishmael and takes care of the protagonist.
<i>Ishmael</i>	Protagonist's adopted son.
<i>Shamsettin Mullah</i>	Protagonist's grandfather who was a cadilesker.
<i>Uncle</i>	Wealthy uncle of the protagonist, a member of the palace elite, in whose house he lives.
<i>Grandmother</i>	Grandmother who raised the protagonist.

Gaffer Gani Beggar who has influenced the protagonist.
Zahra Daughter of Gaffer Gani who died of tuberculosis.

Here are the names of other important narrative figures who play different roles in the narrative: Gulfidan; the protagonist's former dry nurse, old woman; the host in Sinop, Mr. Sefkati; principle of Nur-I İrfan School, Cretan Mevlana; a beggar, Sheikh Abdu; a beggar who started a gang, old postal clerk, teacher and his daughter, pasha and his family, Fat Imam etc.

Elaborative Storyline

Sluggishness of the protagonist Unlike the other children living in his neighborhood, the heterodiegetic narrator likes to sit on the chair in front of the mansion that belongs to them and watch the surroundings rather than playing games. Although the gamins occasionally tease him for his laziness, the protagonist does not respond to their jokes and mockery. Instead of taking a kind of revenge based on violence and anger, he likes to make the neighborhood children do what he desires. Having discovered the power of pleading, begging and supplicating, the protagonist makes the gamins do whatever he wants. He makes them climb tall trees and pick fruit for him or take him for a ride in a wheelbarrow. The protagonist, who needs to play games as a child, teaches the game he calls the Begging Game to all the children of the neighborhood. By disguising himself as a cripple or poverty, he manages to get under his influence and make them do whatever he wants with his prayers and supplications. Although he has a very intelligent and strong personality, he prefers laziness and sluggishness.

Sluggishness of his family There is a difference of opinion among the other characters in the mansion where the protagonist lives about what kind of person he will be in the future. While Sudanese Gulfidan thinks that he will be a beggar, his grandmother thinks that he will be an important figure. On the other hand, uncle is undecided about what the protagonist will be like in the future. The protagonist, whose ancestors held important positions, compares himself with them. Among his ancestors there are mullahs, chief admirals, cavalries and poets. Even his grandfather, Cadilesker Semsettin Mullah, had been present at Sultan Mahmoud's table several times. The graves of many of his grandfathers are located in Eyup, Edirnekapi and Merkezefendi. Since family's stud book burned in the Aksaray fire, the family's history cannot be traced further back. One of his grandfathers, Osman Melali Efendi, was a divan poet. In his divan, it is seen that he threw himself at feet of God, the Prophet, the Sultan, and his viziers of the period and praised them. Cadilesker Semsettin Mullah also collected the crumbs from Sultan Mahmoud's table and kept them in a box. Every newborn child in the family is fed with the crumbs from this box, hoping that he or she will become wealthy and powerful like the sultan.

The protagonist falls in love with Mesrure The protagonist, who had undergone a change in personality during his middle school years, started to try find a girlfriend by going girls schools after school. He wishes only for a beautiful wife to marry. When the fire in Edirnekapi spreads to the mansion, they move to Cinci Square. The mansion they moved into is in quite bad condition. However, as soon as the protagonist sees Mesrure, the daughter of the family residing in the mansion next to theirs, he falls in love with her. Thinking that Mesrure will find him ugly because of the size of his head, the protagonist learns to play the oud from his aunt Husniye. However, the protagonist, who needs to climb the tree next to the window to impress Mesrure by playing the oud, is not allowed to do so. Kasim Agha, the cook of the mansion, prevents him. Later on, however, his uncle befriends Mesrure's father Mesut Pasha. The protagonist tries to impress him with his talent in calligraphy. Later, when he learns that Mesut Pasha is an enthusiast of Fuzuli, he memorizes the Water Ode. During a conversation, he completes the ode from where Mesut Pasha, who was trying to recite the Water Ode from memory, got stuck. When the protagonist turns eighteen, he starts working as a clerk at the Ministry of Pious Foundations with the reference of Mesut Pasha. Then the protagonist shares his feelings for Mesrure with his own family. Realizing that he is liked by Mesrure, the protagonist reveals his feelings to her through a letter by quoting from the novel Cezmi. Mesrure also expresses in a letter that she wants to marry the protagonist if fate so decrees.

Decadence of the family and the protagonist With the realization of the Constitutional Revolution, a great commotion reigns over the city. With the Unionists coming to power, there are radical changes in the state structure and institutions. After a while, the uncle, who is found guilty of sleuthing, is exiled and the family falls apart. When the grandmother cannot provide for the family with

the borrowed money, they take refuge in the house of a head of female servants. After a while, the protagonist loses his job and becomes destitute. The protagonist talks about Talat, whom he knew at the ministry, and mentions that he was the son of a simple customs clerk, and that he could not continue his education after completing middle school and high school, because of an unfortunate marriage. Although he is a very hardworking, talented and successful civil servant, he does not receive the recognition he deserves and has difficulty in providing for his family. Upon Talat's advice, the protagonist decides to continue his education at Darulfunun and goes to Zeynep Hanim's Mansion. He shows closeness to the Ahrar Party, which has provided him with some of his needs, but he is not actually interested in politics. His main purpose is to provide for his own needs. Following the 31st March Incident, the protagonist, who is found to have relations with the members of the Ahrar Party, is exiled to Sinop and stays there for three years.

The protagonist is adrift After the Balkan Wars, when the Unionists lose their power, the protagonist's years of exile in Sinop come to an end. The protagonist, who lived in the shop-changed room of a woman's house in Carsibasi, made a living by writing petitions and letters. He also wrote amulets for those who asked for them. Talat, who enrolled in Darulfunun for the second time, teaches Calculus and Persian at a private school in Aksaray, using his lessons as an excuse to his superiors. When he returns to Istanbul, the protagonist meets with Talat and starts working as a clerk and writing teacher at a school. Mr. Sefkati, who had studied Law in Thessaloniki, was the principal of the school called Light of Wisdom. Seeing Galatasaray High School as a rival, the school administration claims that Galatasaray assimilates the children of the influential people of the country and that they are trying to develop a local educational approach. However, intelligent children sent from different parts of the country to receive education resort to begging to feed themselves. In order to meet the needs of the school, teachers also accompany the students in their begging activities. But one day, with the outbreak of WWI, the protagonist is conscripted and sent to Egypt.

Transformation of the protagonist The protagonist, who is taken on the train with a volunteer Mevlevi regiment, dwells on the miserable conditions of the soldiers going to the front. Since it is not possible to reach everywhere by railroad, most of the time they continue their journey on foot. During these marches, soldiers beg and it is not uncommon for soldiers to steal not excepting from dead ones. The protagonist's right arm is crippled after being run over by supply mule. Thereupon, he is invalid out and sent on İzmir. The protagonist, who regains his health as a result of the treatments, is placed in Katipoglu Tobacco Warehouse. The protagonist, who goes to the Jewish cemetery from time to time, makes a decision about what he should do. While watching a woman in front of the Esrefpaşa Mosque, the protagonist is given two pieces silver out of charity and starts begging and helping other people staying in the warehouse. In time, his financial situation improves enough to leave the warehouse and rent a place to stay.

The protagonist settles in Tamasalik The protagonist begins to tell what happened in Tamasalik on the outskirts of Kadifekale and explains that in the past this settlement was full of African servants who were thrown out of the mansions they worked in and that it was full of ramshackle buildings without even a road. The Africans who have settled here make a living as seasonal laborers and beggars. The number of Africans working in fig and acorn market halls is quite high. The protagonist, who settles in an empty room in the house of an old head of female servants named Nur-i Nigah, rents the house completely after the death of the householder due to a disease called elephantiasis and becomes one of the most respected names in the neighborhood. African settlers living in the same neighborhood start working in the protagonist's house. Rumors spread that the spirit of Damaci Hadji, who died in Tilkilik, wanders around the neighborhood at night after he is buried. However, the person wandering around the cemetery at night is a black beggar disguised as Damaci Hadji.

Mesule joins in his life The protagonist meets Mesule, who works as a servant in one of the mansions in the region, and hires her to take care of the housework. Mesule, who had worked as a servant at Sururi Pasha Mansion, comes to Topalti after the death of the master of the mansion because of his prodigal son, his predecessor. Mesule loves and cares for the person she calls "Little Master", whom she has been taking care of for years, as if he were her own child. However, "Little Master" has grown up and the protagonist estimates that he is in his forties. One day, the protagonist sees Sheikh Abdu beating Mesule in the cemetery in Pestemalcilarbasi and saves her by pretending to be a gendarme. Sheikh Abdu, one of the region's most respected beggars, is a man who, as a fair-minded man, does not encroach on other people's territory, but he does not allow others to encroach on his territory either. Shortly afterwards, "Little Master" dies and Mesule is left completely aimless.

Ishmael walks into his life During the Steer Feast, which is considered a kind of African fete, a child is found lying on the ground with his mouth filled with blood. The incident becomes clear when the child's mother arrives at the scene. Born into a poor family, the mother was given up for adoption to the provincial treasurer. She was exposed to violence at an early age and was constantly harassed during her youth. Finally, she is deceived by the son of the provincial treasurer with the promise of marriage and becomes pregnant. However, not wanting to tarnish his name, the provincial treasurer kicks her out of the house. She starts working as a laborer. She entrusts her son to a Jewish nanny, but he is constantly beaten by others. Thereupon, the protagonist says that he can take care of the child. Mesule loves the boy as much as "Little Master". Deceived by the manager of the market hall where she worked with the promise marriage, the mother disappears completely after a while.

Thoughts on labor and begging When Izmir is under occupation, the protagonist has to work and works as a laborer in a fig store. However, this job exhausts him physically and psychologically. Finally, the protagonist decides to go back to his old work, starts begging again and talks about the tricks of begging. According to him, a talented beggar is not the one who constantly pleads and prays, but the one who can use silence and pity effectively. Because the beggar who can reflect silence and victimization well is respected and earns large amounts of money. He emphasizes the reasons why the society of the period gave so much money to beggars while resorting to every means to avoid paying taxes.

The protagonist is revealed to be scamming people Izmir is liberated from occupation, but the number of beggars increases in parallel with the increase in poverty after the battles. Ishmael, who refers to the protagonist as his father at school where he continues his education, becomes a subject of ridicule. Although the protagonist is a beggar, Ishmael's wearing clean and high-quality clothes and eating good food disturbs people and the true identity of the beggar begins to emerge. When a beggar who claims to have spoken to Rumi earns large amounts of money, he is slandered due to the envy of other beggars. Rumors that he harassed the children to whom he offered desserts from time to time led to him being stoned and dying in the hospital after a blow to the head. Ishmael, who is expelled from high school after Mesule quarrels with teachers, is ashamed of his situation even though he does not judge the protagonist. The protagonist fears that Ishmael, like Gaffer Gani's daughter Zahra, will die of tuberculosis due to the shame he feels for his beggar father.

They go to Istanbul after Ishmael is expelled from school The protagonist, who decides to go to Istanbul, mentions that beggars are in competition everywhere. Finally, the protagonist is convinced that he has made enemies when someone he thinks will give him alms asks him for opium. Fearing what happened to Rumi, he decides to go to Istanbul. His main purpose in doing this is to enroll Ishmael in a boarding school and to get rid of Mesule for good. They arrive in Istanbul to enroll Ishmael in a boarding school. Being expelled from school and never being able to go back to school again is too much for Ishmael. The protagonist understands the problem of Ishmael, who circles around him but too proud to say anything about it. At the same time, Ishmael started to show symptoms of depression and melancholy after being expelled from school. When they arrive in Istanbul, the protagonist also conducts market research on his work. He also shows Ishmael and Mesule around the important neighborhoods of Istanbul. The protagonist shows Mesule, who wants to see the mansion where she used to work, one of the mansions on the Uskudar coast. Mesule experiences emotional moments upon seeing the mansion. An old and dilapidated mansion in Suleymaniye is visited. The protagonist, who longs for the days he lived in the mansion in Istanbul and wants to relive those feelings, decides to buy the house. With this decision, the protagonist decides to stay in Istanbul for a while longer and make sure that the two have a good time.

Ishmael is enrolled in boarding school The wandering in Istanbul continues. Finally, the protagonist tells Ishmael his real intention. The protagonist tells Ishmael that his real father is someone else, that he raised him with the money he gave him and that he will cover the expenses of the boarding school with this money. Thus, Ishmael is happy to be free from embarrassment but is sad to be separated from the two. The protagonist entrusts Ishmael to Talat. The protagonist, captivated by the charm of Istanbul, finds it difficult to leave from here. The protagonist saves a man who collapses in a bathhouse, offers him a soda and learns that the person he saved is a lawyer. Upon the lawyer's invitation, the protagonist goes to the office in Galata where he works.

Protagonist encounters Talat The protagonist meets with the lawyer in his office and at the end of the meeting, he decides to open a tobacco shop as a disabled war veteran. He struggles with

the inertia of the bureaucracy and the incompetence of the officials in the relevant public bodies in order to carry out the necessary official procedures for the opening of the shop. One day, in one of these public bodies, the protagonist sees his old schoolmate Talat. As in every public body, Talat is one of the civil servants who has taken on the entire workload of the institution he works for. Everyone who has a problem asks him for help. Talat recognizes the protagonist as soon as he sees him and says he wants to talk to him. A few days later, the two sit and chat in Sultanahmet Park and begin to talk about their problems. Despite working as a civil servant for twenty years, Talat struggles to make ends meet with the money he earns, and he has serious problems regarding his children and family as well. His daughters and sons are experiencing financial difficulties and as a father, he deals with their problems. Moreover, even though he is the fundamental part of the institution, Talat is not treated with the respect he deserves by his manager and is treated the same as the servants. The protagonist, who wants to comfort his friend who cannot receive the reward for his labor and the respect he deserves, tells him that he has been begging for a long time and that this is how he makes a living. In this way, the protagonist thinks that Talat will be grateful for his situation and find the strength to endure the injustices he is subjected to.

Panhandling in Istanbul The protagonist, who had begged on the premises of public bodies during the winter season to shelter from the cold, realized that civil servants are no different from beggars. Most civil servants beg for the favor and grace of their superiors. The protagonist, who also begged in the courthouse at Hagia Sophia, which burned down years ago, witnessed many murder, theft and divorce cases. There were even people who suggested him to bear false witness in some cases. With the arrival of summer, the protagonist starts begging outside. The most popular beggars among the townspeople are the crippled, the lunatic and the stupid. A panhandler nicknamed Hacıyatmaz, who has lost all his limbs, has acquired more wealth than many intelligent and healthy people thanks to the alms he has collected. However, with the changing regulations, the municipalities started to prohibit begging on the streets. Therefore, beggars started to resort to different ways and change their clothes. With the changing political order, the form of begging also changed. A sleuth who informs the state about unstamped advertisements and beggars who indirectly threaten young girls who secretly meet their lovers are mentioned. The narrative also touches on how child beggars beg alone or in groups, how they sleep in cemeteries, how they are subjected to violence by security forces and shopkeepers, and the form of education they develop among themselves. Begging on the street is a different kind of school for children. The protagonist, who remembers Ishmael when he sees children lying in cemeteries, wants to take them home but is afraid of taking responsibility for them. Pointing out that the number of deaths increases with the arrival of spring, the protagonist states that cemeteries are suitable areas for begging during these periods.

Self-questioning of the protagonist The protagonist then mentions those who beg in cemeteries and talks about the hypocrisy of people attending funerals. The protagonist, who observes the hypocrisy of the people attending funeral ceremonies and touches upon typical events and situations, emphasizes the helplessness and impotence of human beings. The protagonist, who has rented a house with a view of the Golden Horn, says that he earned a lot of money and accumulated wealth by begging, but it was the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy that caused him to start begging. Since his uncle was exiled with the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy and a new government came to power, the family lost all their assets over time and the grandmother died after a while. As the nephew of an exiled uncle, the protagonist also experienced various misfortunes and had difficulty in meeting even his minimum needs with the wages he earned from his jobs. When they are left alone in a house without Ishmael, Mesule starts looking after a cat, the protagonist reads his book and thinks about his past. Seeing that Ishmael reads poems from Razi and Saadi and that he knows them, the protagonist tries to impress him by reading Masnavi, just as he tried to impress Mesure by playing the oud in the past.

Loneliness and despair in the city During the days spent in solitude, the protagonist questions himself and thinks about Mesule. She could not forgive the protagonist for Ishmael's assignment to boarding school. The protagonist's melancholic mood is reinforced especially after reading the Masnavi. The protagonist goes to the flea market from time to time and observes people trying to buy valuable items at cheap prices. The people who sell their belongings to the sellers in this market are usually those who have financial difficulties. It is told in a dramatic style that a Black Sea man tries to sell his kamancheh, but the kamancheh, which has a very beautiful sound, cannot be sold. The broker says that the kamancheh seller's wife is sick and he needs travelling money to go to his hometown. For this reason, the seller says that he cannot make any discount on the price of the kamancheh.

Talat borrows money from the protagonist After learning about the protagonist's job, Talat begins to feel ashamed of him, but when he sees the magnificence of his home, he begins to visit there regularly. In the following days, Talat embarrassedly asks the protagonist to borrow money. The protagonist compares Talat's behavior when he borrowed money for the first time to his behavior when a woman gave him money in front of Esrefpasha Mosque. Initially, Talat borrows money from the protagonist with embarrassment and discomfort, turns it into a habit. However, being a very proud and honest person, he pays his debt at the beginning of each month and presents a plan to the protagonist on how he will pay off his debts. Although the protagonist seems to be interested in Talat's statements, he does not care at all about the money he lends.

Ishmael gets accepted into a public boarding school Mesule, who initially treated Talat very well, turns against him when she learns that he had enrolled Ishmael in boarding school. Mesule uses hurtful words to humiliate Talat and hurt his pride. Talat, not wanting to fall out with Mesule and the protagonist, takes her to Ishmael's boarding school. From that day on, Mesule goes to see Ishmael regularly. Realizing the situation, the protagonist scolds Mesule. However, in fact, he also wanders around the school from time to time and watches Ishmael. One day, Talat tells the protagonist that Ishmael has successfully completed his class and can now go back home. The protagonist is undecided about whether to take Ishmael back home, although he wants to. Finally, at Ishmael's request, after visiting Chora Mosque, they sit in a coffee house and talk about what to do. Ishmael expresses his desire to spend the summer term at school and study. Upon hearing this, the protagonist is disappointed. He had hoped to hear that Ishmael wanted to come home. When September comes and the protagonist finds Ishmael has been accepted into a public boarding school in Bursa. Learning that Ishmael no longer needs money deeply hurts the protagonist. Because the last bond between the two has been broken. The protagonist becomes worried when he learns that Ishmael clashes with some of his teachers and reads some banned books by the school. After a twelve-day break, Ishmael goes back to Bursa. Whenever the protagonist hears a ghazal sung by Mesule that reflects Ishmael's longing, he is overwhelmed with sorrow.

General situation of the neighborhood residents The protagonist, who starts to take interest in his neighbors after Ishmael's departure, talks about them. It is seen that there are people from all strata and they are in need. He talks about how a teacher in mid-thirties was left alone with his daughter after his wife left home to pursue her dream of becoming a singer. Later, the mother, who has returned to the neighborhood, starts working as a wage earner in the house of her ex-husband and daughter. He mentions the financial difficulties faced by an elderly postal clerk, his wife, and their three children who live in a blue mansion. The wife of the postal clerk nursed the daughter of a neighbor, who was one of the pashas of the Abdulmecid period. For this reason, the pasha gets along well with the postal clerk's family. Pasha, who became rich by trading wagons during WWI, later became poor and started working as a weigher in a coal mine to support his family. Fat Imam, who gained a reputation as a go-getter person during the Abdulmecid period, is also considered one of the wise people of the neighborhood. But later, he started to smuggle rakes to Anatolia with his children and host gambling in his home. In a house with blue lights, there lives a worker and his wife. A womanizer, in his thirties machinist/leveler, falls in love with his wife, whom he sees for the first time in tears outside the factory at the end of his shift, and marries her. However, being a conservative and jealous person, he constantly argues with his wife. Some time later, it is observed that a woman from countryside who moved into the teacher's downstairs is visited by a tall man at night. Afterward, it is mentioned that this man is the son of the woman, that the woman sent him to study in Europe with experiencing financial difficulties, that the son married the daughter of a wealthy family and that the family, ashamed of the countrywoman, ostracizes her. The son has his mother treated, who came to Istanbul from Karaman to cure the stomach ulcer, without revealing it to his in-laws and the mother hides his mother from his in-laws.

Talat retires and Ishmael grows up After retiring and losing his sick wife, Talat, who completely moved into the protagonist's house, has also added newspapers and groceries to his tobacco shop. His children still ask him for money from time to time. The protagonist bought the house in Suleymaniye. Ishmael, who could not finish school due to arguments with some of his teachers, goes to Anatolia with a group of engineers. Later, it is heard that he did various jobs in Europe and it is seen that his photographs taken with important figures in Ankara are published in newspapers. Years later, Ishmael, who came to visit the protagonist, got married and became a wealthy man. Ishmael introduces his wife to his family and tells her all about his past without shame or hesitation. His wife listens to him with admiration and a smile. Ishmael asks the protagonist for his blessing. The

protagonist, who has seen Ishmael turns into a brave, honest and sensitive character, tells him that he has received the greatest charity from him and is proud of him.

Theme

Patriarchy The real time in the novel *Lazar House* begins before the Constitutional Monarchy and extends until after the Republic. In the Ottoman Empire, a religious-agrarian society, the sultanate, which owns everything, also owns people. Therefore, people who are the servants of the sultan gain various privileges with the sultan's grace and favor. The vulgar can only have various privileges with the alms given to them by the sultan. It was thought that this would change with the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy and subsequently with the Republican regime, but the expected does not happen. With the advent of the Constitutional Monarchy, the power falls into the hands of the Unionists, who cause polarization within society. Many people were victimized due to discrimination. After the proclamation of the Republic, slowly emerging capitalists in the country took place of the sultan. Therefore, in order to move up the social ladder, people belonging to the lower class have to ingratiate themselves with their superiors, flatter and beg. Except for a minority who are superior, most of the society lives like beggars waiting for alms. A person is respected for his/her material means rather than his/her labor and talents. Moral decline in society has turned the whole country into a lazar house.

Conflict In one of the episodes in the narrative where peripeteia takes place, it is seen that the Unionists put pressure on the sultanate and proclaimed the Constitutional Monarchy. Therefore, there is a conflict between a minority group of Unionists and the supporters of the sultanate in the narrative society. Once the Unionists, who aim to transition to the constitutional government, achieve their goal, they start to destroy everything related to the old order. The protagonist's uncle, who was an aide of sultan, is exiled. After this exile, the family falls into financial difficulties and falls apart. After a while, the protagonist's grandmother also loses her life. After starting to work at Light of Wisdom School with the reference of a friend from pious foundations, the protagonist is exiled to Sinop by the Unionists because of his closeness to the members of the Ahrar Party and stays there for three years. At the same time, there is a conflict between labor and begging in society. Talat, who graduated from high school with hard work and became a pious foundations officer, neither gets the reputation he deserves nor the reward for his labor, despite the fact that he has successfully completed his education and is the most competent employee in his department. Despite his hard work and self-improvement, he lives in poverty. In contrast, people who beg live in comfort and wealth. There are those who rise in their careers by flattering their bosses, superiors and chiefs, and there are those who give up their roots and dignity to become wealthy.

Fatherhood The protagonist, whose right arm is crippled by an equipage mule on his way to the Egyptian front, stays in the Jewish cemetery for a long time when he arrives in Izmir. While sitting in front of the Esrefpasha Mosque and watching the mosque congregation, a woman gives him alms. The protagonist refrains from spending the money for a while, and then he starts begging. With the money he earns, he buys a house in Tamasalik. The protagonist, who becomes one of the important figures of the region, starts to take care of the child of the woman who was raped by the son of the house where she lived as an adopted child, got pregnant and gave birth to an illegitimate child. When the mother disappears one day, the child is left entirely in the care of the protagonist. Mesule becomes a mother to Ishmael. She takes care of him like her own son. When Ishmael reaches a certain age, with Mesule's encouragement, he begins to address the protagonist as father. From that day on, the protagonist decides to distance himself from him because he is afraid of commitment. Ishmael is given to a boarding school. However, the protagonist goes to school every week and watches over Ishmael. He misses Ishmael and a life without him seems meaningless to the protagonist. Ishmael is the only thing that makes his life meaningful and gives him hope for the future.

Otherness The protagonist of the novel *Lazar House* is an otherized and isolated character. Having lost his mother and father, the protagonist is raised by his uncle and grandmother. Immediately after the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy, with the exile of his uncle, the family experiences financial difficulties and after a while the grandmother loses her life. The protagonist, who studied at Darulfunun while working at Light of Wisdom School, is exiled to Sinop because of his closeness to the members of Ahrar Party. When he returned to Istanbul from Sinop, war broke out and he was conscripted into the army. On the way to Egypt, the misery of the soldiers is revealed. Most of the soldiers meet their daily food needs by begging in the places where they stop on their way to the front.

The poverty, ignorance and political crisis that dominate the society cause the people to become isolated and marginalized. This is how the protagonist, who has no name, reflects his orphanage, loneliness and marginalization. Especially the protagonist, who makes a living by begging and acquires wealth in this way, is almost invisible in society. However, most of the society is in the same situation as the protagonist. All the characters who are civil servants or laborers are actually begging in a way. It is seen that the protagonist is isolated from the society and the characters in the narrative isolated both from each other and from the world, as in Miskinler Tekkesi (eng. Lazar House), which was built by Selim III in Karacaahmet Cemetery in Uskudar in order to isolate the lepers from the society.

Search The protagonist of the novel *Lazar House* has ancestors who have been nourished by the grace and favor of the sultan and have reached important places. When looking at his stud book, it is seen that there were ancestors such as poets, admirals, provincial treasurers, cadileskers etc. He himself has a tendency towards sluggishness and laziness since his early years. Although he was encouraged to take some action in his youth, the disasters that befell the family due to the revolution and the war caused him to become lazy and sluggish again. The protagonist, who started begging in İzmir, comes to Istanbul due to the revelation of his identity, making enemies and wanting to get rid of Mesule and Ishmael. The homodiegetic narrator is in a constant state of observation and questioning. He sees that the whole society is made up of the majority who live off favors and blessings provided by a certain minority class. Labor has no value and worth. People live their lives by currying favor with their superiors and begging them for favors. But Ishmael is different from the others. Thanks to his labor, dignity, courage and honesty, he reaches important places. Ishmael, who becomes one of the well-known figures of the country, is so self-confident that he is not ashamed of the protagonist who lives off begging. While the protagonist represents the past, Ishmael represents the future and hope.

Character Analysis

Protagonist (Closed/Social/Unconscientious/Rational)

The protagonist, whose ancestors belonged to the palace notables, is the son of a wealthy and influential family. It is not known what happened to his father and mother. Raised by his uncle and grandmother, the protagonist lives in a mansion in Istanbul. At an early age, he is too lazy and sluggish to play with other children. It is believed that he inherited this habit from his ancestors. In his youth, he goes to secondary school and falls in love with a girl named Mesrure. However, the two part ways due to the disasters that befell the family. The protagonist is injured on his way to the Egyptian front and is brought to İzmir, where he starts begging. The protagonist, who shows cynical characteristics as a personality, was actually made this by the environment he grew up in and lived in. Because the protagonist, who lived in a period of wars and depressions, could do nothing but protect his own skin. The protagonist accumulates wealth by begging and starts a family by taking Mesule and Ishmael into his home. Although he does not want to be a father to Ishmael, he lives in the following years thinking only about him. The protagonist constantly observes and questions the society he lives in. He reflects the reality of society in an ironic and parodic style. Although he tried to make a living with his labor, he preferred to beg rather than work in the face of exploitation. However, seeing Ishmael reach important positions with his labor becomes the greatest gift to him.

Experienced “The child who prayed at his father’s foot at the age of seven, becomes a heathen at twenty-seven while reading philosophy, and talks about heaven and hell with laughter. But around fifty, the weather starts to turn again. Along with the bottles of vascular medicine, strength medicine, etc. that appear on the bookshelf, some doubts and “what ifs” arise in his mind” (Guntekin 2022, 11).

Self-critical “What I want to tell is that there is not much difference between the “me” of eight or ten years old and the “me” of today. But between these two “me’s” that understand each other very well, in my adolescence, a foreign “me” entered, a kind of guest” (Guntekin 2022, 11).

Lover “I would be a disaster if I showed myself to Mesrure with this head. She, like everyone else, would first look only at my head and see no other side of me” (Guntekin 2022, 20).

Careless “He adopts a rather indifferent attitude towards the political conflicts of the period: “I didn’t know much about the Unionists, though. All I did was nod my head at everything the people around me said because of my loose nature” (Guntekin 2022, 36).

Helpful He takes care of Ishmael: "(...) she was going to leave the child with Mesule. We didn't ask for money for this, like the Jewish old woman, and there was no fear that his food would be taken away from him. Because the child would eat with us whatever God gave us" (Guntekin 2022, 64).

Thoughtful "Some rubbish is found on the seashores. It is not clear whether it is grass or seaweed, whether it belongs to the land or the sea. The wave takes them in, then throws them out again, it takes them in again, brings them back, but in the end, it does not bring them back. There is also a part of people that is detached from its roots and that vacillates between the two realms for a long time" (Guntekin 2022, 67).

Ironic "What force is it, then, that makes the beggar, an absolutely helpless person in this world of greed and self-interest, a stronger person than the tax collector who relies on the force of law and police?" (Guntekin 2022, 72-73).

Solitary "So, what do you do" you might ask? Well, I am just such an ordinary man... I am what I am and it brings neither honour nor shame upon you..." (Guntekin 2022, 97).

Ishmael (Open/Social/Conscientious/Rational)

Ishmael, the son of a mother who was deceived and impregnated by the son of the provincial treasurer from whom she was adopted, was impregnated by the promise of marriage, and was later thrown out of the house by the provincial treasurer for fear of tarnishing the family's honour. Ishmael grew up in impossibilities. The mother, who works as a labourer in İzmir Tamasalik, tries to provide for her son. When it is revealed that Ishmael is beaten by other children in the Jewish nanny's house, the protagonist takes over his care. The mother thinks that she will marry the supervisor of the storehouse where she works. However, when she realizes that she has been deceived, she never returns home again. Thus, Ishmael is left in charge of the protagonist. Ishmael successfully passes his classes and graduates from secondary school. He is brought to Istanbul to be enrolled in a high school. Ishmael is given to a boarding school and in time his ties with family are severed. He goes to Bursa and then Europe to receive education. Ishmael reappears before the protagonist years later as an important person. However, his aim is not to humiliate or oppress him. He apologizes to his father, whom he once despised for begging, and reunites with the family. Although Ishmael is at odds with the protagonist in terms of his personality traits, he understands him and ask for his blessing.

Hardworking "The boy is very hardworking. He was working harder than one would expect from him. So much so that in two years he skipped two grades to fourth. I mean, he almost would come down on me for going to high school" (Guntekin 2022, 79).

Decent "Nourice Mesule's bad upbringing had planted the seed of a disease called the self-respect in the brat. This was the sprout of it. God damn it!" (Guntekin 2022, 79).

Restless When he is expelled from school, he loses all his peace: "But when he stopped going to school, he completely stopped doing these. He became almost an old man. He doesn't let the children near him, he builds stone houses by sitting on the ground, he draws something on the ground with pieces of wood" (Guntekin 2022, 87).

Mature "But to rejoice that he seems to understand a poem! You kiddie, I've had enough of you. But fortunately, the day is near when I will find a school and get rid of you, even if I have to give my life (...)" (Guntekin 2022, 92).

Curious "(...) he was walking around quietly, with his diminutive stature, which did not seem to be intimidated or overwhelmed by any greatness, he was watching the domes, arches, chandeliers, entering and leaving the gathering-places" (Guntekin 2022, 95).

Sensitive "« Besides, sir, I'm not fighting for myself... I work, I respect my teachers, what can they say to me? They even love me... I can't stand what they do to others. For others »" (Guntekin 2022, 167).

Headstrong "(...) but Ishmael was expelled from the school three months before the exam, because he is a rebel" (Guntekin 2022, 204).

Righteous "There were times when I despised my father, he said. But after seeing how many elegant people, even great people, who lacked nothing in terms of position, honour, money, when they were in a little financial difficulty, when they coveted more than they had, when they envied the automobiles and positions of others, when they opened their eyes widely and cried "we are hungry!..." (Guntekin 2022, 208).

Talat (Closed/Social/Conscientious/Emotional)

He was born as the son of a customs clerk who had many children. After graduating from high school, he met a woman while he was preparing for the exams of Faculty of Political Sciences and his education was interrupted due to his marriage with her. Talat starts to work as a pious foundations officer, and although he is a hardworking, talented and disciplined character, he has difficulties in making a living. He graduates from Darulfunun and later studies law. In addition, he teaches Calculus and Persian at Light of Wisdom School. Because of his docile and timid character, he is constantly despised by both his colleagues and superiors. He could never reach the rank he deserved and was not rewarded for his efforts. In the following years, when he has daughters and a son, their problems also fall on his shoulders. Although he is the best instructed and most hardworking officer in the department, he is in a position to borrow money from the protagonist. Over time, he gets used to borrowing money from the protagonist regularly and begging money from him. Although he tries to make a living without begging or flattery, his docility and fear always stand in his way. In the following years, when he retires, he becomes a partner in the protagonist's tobacco shop and settles completely into his house.

Oppressed "Talat was a small, unpretentious man. That's why, he was doomed to be always underfoot wherever he was" (Guntekin 2022, 33).

Exhausted "He is old, rather wearish, slightly hunchbacked and his long beard is snowy white. But his body is as agile and impetuous as before" (Guntekin 2022, 101).

Poor "Talat was as poor as the prophet Job. He was the son of a petty customs clerk with man children" (Guntekin 2022, 32).

Unfortunate "There was no place to sit or stand in their house, so while he was preparing for his Faculty of Political Sciences exams in the graveyard across the street, the poor wretch was haunted by an adopted maid from the neighbourhood. On hot afternoons, amidst hot gravestones and knee-high clumps of dry grass, the adopted maid starts to make cheeky advances and hand jokes, and you know what happens... The neighbourhood mobilizes and forces the girl to marry Talat (...)" (Guntekin 2022, 32-33).

Hardworking "You know the idiots of the lodges... I am the idiot of the departments... Hit the idiot... That's how it is in all departments. The whole department sleeps, there is only one useful man standing, maybe a poor man who has somehow begun to work, perhaps because of his nature... They put all the work on him" (Guntekin 2022, 104).

Docile "However, he would take the harshest insults as compliments and he would almost leave nothing without saying thank you. Only, I must say, he was obstinately sensitive, even though he didn't seem to understand anything" (Guntekin 2022, 34).

Self-sacrificing "Oh, if you only knew how sweet grandchildren are... I swear, one loves them more than one's own children... The middle daughter is waiting for money from me to get married. The others' food, clothes and other expenses... My wife has been sick for a long time, or more like crippled..." (Guntekin 2022, 103).

Proud "I said, « Hey! Mr. Talat, I think you resent this bird-brained Arab! » Suddenly his face became confused; he slapped his hand on his chest, as if he was complaining about a resentful lover: « You'll see; she will make me sick! », he said and ran away quickly so as not to show that he was crying" (Guntekin 2022, 159).

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