

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
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HIDDEN HAND / GIZLI EL (1924)

RESAT NURI GUNTEKIN (1889 – 1956)

Apropos

Hidden Hand, the third novel written by Resat Nuri Guntekin and considered as one of his first novel attempts, was first serialized in *Dersaadet* newspaper in 1920. Sedat Simavi, who wanted to publish novels in his newspaper, asked Guntekin, who was a theater and short story writer, to write a novel to be serialized. The work was censored several times by the authorities due to its criticism of the political events of the period. Resat Nuri Guntekin, who wrote this novel for social and political criticism, based the main plot on a love story upon the recommendation. The novel was first published in book form in 1924 by Ikbal Library. Although *The Flower of Ruins* is his first novel, he admits that he wrote it after taking inspiration from a French novel, and therefore he says that his first novel was actually *Hidden Hand*. As for the immanent structures of the narrative, we see that the open and wide space is generally Bursa-Gemlik. Apart from this, Istanbul and certain European cities, such as Sofia and Vienna, are mentioned in the narrative, albeit very briefly. The hero-narrator and the intradiegetic narrator allow us to follow the events in the first person, and practice such as internal monologue, dialog and stream of consciousness are used extensively. If we divide the time of the events in the narrative into two parts, we see that the first part takes place before World War I and the second part takes place after the war. The main events are conveyed using flashback technique.

Synopsis

Mr. Seref, who has graduated from the Faculty of Law, has been left alone because his parents have died and has come to petition the General Manager to be given a civil servant position. Mr. Seref, who is appointed as a finance officer in Gemlik, experiences the depression of being relegated to a very small place as someone who wants to accomplish great things. He meets Aziz Pasha, a former Unionist, through Dr. Cemil, who is close to him, and begins to teach his son named Adnan and daughter Seniha. Mr. Seref begins to visit Aziz Pasha's farm regularly and falls in love with Seniha, who was educated at the French High School. During an invitation, he falls down on his way back to his own house because he is drunk and jealous of Seniha from a male guest. Some photographs of Seniha are found in Seref's wallet. When Aziz Pasha learns about this, he marries her off to Mr. Seref, fearing that he will lose his daughter by marrying her off to a rich man. The newly married couple is very happy. But after a while World War I breaks out. Retired Colonel Mr. Murat tells Mr. Seref that the country needs railways and wagons and convinces him to work in his company. Mr. Seref, who was working as a clerk in the recruiting office, starts to travel all over the world and gets richer by entering the wagon trade. With end of the war, he becomes one of the richest men in the country. However, during this trade, many innocent people lose their lives due to injustice and lawlessness in order to gain more profit. Seniha also distances herself from Mr. Seref, who has betrayed everything he believed in. But one day, when he is about to be with a rich woman named Nezihe, he is crushed under the weight of his mistakes. He returns to the farm in Gemlik and asks for forgiveness from Seniha. Seniha, who is aware that Mr. Seref is a big boy who thinks he has accomplished great things and committed great crimes, forgives him when she believes that he is truly repentant

People

<i>Seref</i>	Protagonist of the narrative. He turns from a finance officer into a war profiteer.
<i>Ali Sureyya</i>	General manager.
<i>Aziz Pasha</i>	Commander, a former Unionist, became a hermit in Bursa.
<i>Adnan</i>	Son of Aziz Pasha studying at Galatasaray.
<i>Cemil</i>	Retired surgeon, he lives in Bursa.
<i>Seniha</i>	Aziz Pasha's daughter, graduated from French High School, Seref's lover.
<i>Nevnihal</i>	One of Aziz Pasha's wealthy relatives.
<i>Cavalry Officer</i>	One of the young relatives of Aziz Pasha and Seniha.

Nusret
Nezihe

Consul, a diplomat.
Married and rich woman whom Mr. Seref meets while he is abroad.

The names of the other narrative characters in the narrative are as follows: Chief of the Court Appeal, Accountant, Bosnian Idris, Suleyman (coachman), Miller, etc.

Elaborative Storyline

Opium trade of bureaucrats On April 20, Mr. Seref, who had come to meet with the General Manager on behalf of the company he represented, states that there are incompatibilities between the conditions of the company and the offer made by the institution. Furthermore, Mr. Seref tells general Manager Mr. Ali Sureyya that they have some problems with opium trade. It is understood that the General Manager, who wants to take Mr. Seref, who is going to Taksim, to Capa in his car, will try to solve the opium problem by flattery and bribery. Mr. Seref, who had come to this building about five years ago as a student who had just graduated from the faculty, remembers how much he was crushed and humiliated while he was preparing to submit a paper to become a finance officer in Gemlik. Now, as an important businessman, he feels the pride of having put the same person in the same building in the same situation he had been in years ago. During the car ride, Mr. Ali Sureyya indirectly tries to bring up the opium issue, but Mr. Seref responds in the same way and changes the subject.

After falling out with his wife, Mr. Seref questions his own past On Sunday, May 5, Mr. Seref attends a party and is given a motorboat as a gift by Feridun Ziya, a Member of Parliament. Mr. Seref, who is respected by everyone who attends the invitation and who has a lot of fun, returns home in very happy mood. In the evenings, Mr. Seref, who is restless from being cooped up in his house in Istanbul, likes to take a stroll on the beach with Seniha. Sitting on the rocks by the beach and dreaming of the future, Mr. Seref wants to learn Seniha's ideas. When the children grow up, he wants them to receive their education in a developed European country. He also wants to travel the whole world with his wife rather than settling in one place. But unlike Mr. Seref, Seniha wants to settle in Gemlik and live in Narli Farm. Her future expectations are to live a peaceful and comfortable life with her husband. After they return home together, Mr. Seref locks himself his study and reviews his life.

Assignment to Gemlik as a finance officer After graduating from school, Mr. Seref lost his father and thanks to him, he had no financial difficulties until the age of twenty-four. After the tragic event, Mr. Seref has to find a job urgently and, as a recent graduate of the Faculty of Law, he is appointed as a finance officer in Gemlik. The biggest entertainment of the civil servants in Gemlik, which is a very small town, is the invitations held in the evenings. During these invitations, the hierarchy disappears and it is observed that everyone mingles and enjoys themselves unabashedly. The finance officers are seen joking with the chief of police, the court crier with the registry clerk. Noticing that Mr. Seref is sitting alone in a corner, the school teacher goes to him and tells him how he was beaten by the tobacco guards. Noticing that Mr. Seref is quite nervous and that he never has fun or laughs, the school teacher tells him that the way to be liked by the other officers working in the region is to act relaxed. But Mr. Seref is overwhelmed by what he has seen and wants to get out of there as soon as possible.

Narrowing his horizons in Gemlik and meeting Mr. Cemil After wandering in a forested area during the dull days that come with the winter season, Mr. Seref watches Marmara from the top of the lime kiln on the hill and thinks of going deeper into Anatolia to relieve his boredom. But he puts himself at ease by the thought that at least Bursa has a seashore. Meanwhile, he sees Mr. Cemil, a retired doctor, coming towards him. Mr. Cemil, who continues to work even after his retirement and tries to take care of every patient and find solutions to their problems as much as he can, is loved by the locals. Seeing Seref in a thoughtful state, Mr. Cemil thinks that he is in love or questioning his past. But Seref, who has big plans for his future, is thinking about what he will do in the future and how he can become an important person. Realizing that Seref is an honest and intelligent young man, Mr. Cemil decides to befriend him. Mr. Seref accepts his friendship.

Mr. Seref's meeting with Aziz Pasha Dr. Cemil, who came to Mr. Seref on a Friday morning and got on the bus with him and set off, said that they are going to Narli Farm. They strengthen their friendship by chatting with each other during the trip. Mr. Seref begins to like and respect Mr. Cemil more and more each passing day. Mr. Cemil tells Mr. Seref that they will meet Aziz Pasha. Upon

receiving this news, Mr. Seref becomes excited. Aziz Pasha, who had parted ways with the Unionists after the Constitutional Monarchy, settled in Gemlik and started farming. He believes that the country will prosper through agriculture. Mr. Cemil says that the rumors about him being an alcoholic and a womanizer are not true. Mr. Seref is asked to give lessons to Aziz Pasha's son Adnan, who is studying at Galatasaray.

Mr. Seref arrives at Narli Farm and agrees to give lessons to Adnan The two arrive at Narli Farm and see Aziz Pasha taking care of his Muscovite horse. Aziz Pasha, who cares about his horse very much, wants its problem to be solved and it to be well taken care of. He teases Mr. Cemil and says that being a veterinary surgeon is more important than being a doctor. Because, according to him, veterinarian surgeons deal with many living things and doctors only deal with humans. He also jokingly adds that humans are not creatures worth treating. Aziz Pasha starts talking to Mr. Seref at a time when he is fascinated by the greatness of the people he is standing next to and feels himself shrinking. Aziz Pasha asks Mr. Seref to give Adnan lessons in Religion Sciences and Mathematics. He tells him that if he fails in his lessons, he will give Adnan to the Shepherd Ali as an apprentice.

Mr. Seref and Seniha's meeting Mr. Seref, who goes to Narli Farm three days a week to teach Adnan, learns photography from him. Although Adnan fails in some of his lessons, he is very positive young man in terms of personality. Mr. Seref sees Aziz Pasha showing the trees in the garden with his baton to a woman in chador next to him and overhears the conversation between the two. Aziz Pasha, who loves trees and names a large plane tree as Aziz Pasha's Palace, introduces Mr. Seref to his daughter Seniha. Seniha, who is studying at the French High School in Pangalti, is not only a very successful student but also quite sensitive in terms of personality. Aziz Pasha humorously tells his daughter that she is of marriageable age and that he can marry her off to a rich Arab leader. Because Aziz Pasha sees Seniha as a princess. Mr. Seref, who makes eye contact with Seniha for the first time, who calmly responds her father's jokes, is very pleased with the woman he sees.

Aziz Pasha's fear of losing Seniha Unlike her brother Adnan, Seniha received a very good education at French High School. Since the lessons were taught entirely in French, her proficiency in Turkish has weakened. Aziz Pasha criticizes Seniha's scrawling and spelling errors in a humorous way. Thereupon, Aziz Pasha asks Seref to give Seniha Turkish lessons. Aziz Pasha sees his daughter as a princess and wants to marry her off to an Egyptian prince. But Seniha feels uncomfortable talking about this issue. Upon the arrival of the carriage, Aziz Pasha complains about not being able to buy the car that Seniha dreamed of when she was a child. But Seniha tells Aziz Pasha that she is no longer a little girl and does not care about material things. Aziz Pasha, who still sees Seniha as a little girl, continues to express his disappointment at not being able to buy the car she dreamed of.

Mr. Seref falls in love with Seniha During the carriage ride to the grove, a rapprochement develops between the group members. Seniha takes off her chador before crossing the bridge leading to the mill and looks quite young and beautiful Seref. Mr. Seref helps Seniha cross the bridge and holds her hand. This is their first intimacy. They eat the walnuts picked and offered by the miller. Then they return home for dinner. After dinner on the terrace, Seref returns home. When he wakes up the next morning, Mr. Seref, who does not remember anything for a while, accepts that he is in love with Seniha and confesses this fact to himself. However, the class difference is a significant obstacle between the two. Mr. Seref overestimates Aziz Pasha and does not consider himself worthy of his daughter. Succumbing to his pride, Mr. Seref promises not to reveal his love for Seniha to anyone no matter what. He will keep his love for her a secret.

Mr. Seref gives Turkish lessons to Seniha Mr. Seref starts to give Seniha Turkish lessons. Seniha attends classes in her black school uniform, which she had made a habit of wearing during her student years. Mr. Seref starts the lesson by reading the books he selected from Aziz Pasha's library with Seniha. In the beginning, books written in simple language will be read, and in time, more complex works with grandiloquent will be read. Seniha chooses Tevfik Fikret's *Rubab-i Sikeste* from the library. Mr. Seref, who is familiar with the content of the work, is afraid of being misunderstood and wants to skip the sections about love. When Aziz Pasha sees the book in Mr. Seref's hand, he feels like getting angry. However, after a short while he starts to recite some parts of the work from memory. Mr. Seref comes to the conclusion that the people who say that Aziz Pasha used to be a womanizer might be right. From his statements, it is understood that Aziz Pasha was also in love or suffered from love pain in the past.

Mr. Seref tries not to show that he loves Seniha Mr. Seref starts taking various measures to ensure that his fondness for Seniha is not understood. For now, his greatest fear is the risk of his feelings for her being revealed. Overly caught up in his pride, Mr. Seref starts coming to every class in a more neglected and sloppy state. Day by day, his appearance worsens. One day Aziz Pasha wants to give Mr. Seref a tie that was given to him as a gift because he finds it quite youthful. Mr. Seref thinks that Aziz Pasha's claim of not liking the tie is just an excuse and believes that Aziz Pasha gave him the tie because of his poverty. But Mr. Seref accepts Aziz Pasha's gift and acts as if he liked it very much. Seniha, who loves to read books, is open to development and is a curious personality, progress rapidly without the need for Mr. Seref. Mr. Seref senses that Seniha is looking for someone to talk about private and even obscene matters. But Mr. Seref is very busy and determined not to let anyone know that he loves Seniha. Mr. Seref starts to come to classes with a long beard and not paying attention to his cleanliness. Almost twice a week, they stay at Aziz Pasha's house for dinner and eat on the terrace. One day, Dr. Cemil gives the good news to Mr. Seref that he mentioned him to an old colonel friend he met in Bursa and that he could be given a job in one of the companies in Istanbul or Izmir. Mr. Seref is torn between joy and sadness. Dr. Cemil tells Mr. Seref that he should not stay here and advises him not to miss this opportunity.

Aziz Pasha becomes lonely after the children leave the farm Aziz Pasha comes to meet Mr. Seref and tells him that he has sent Seniha and Adnan to Istanbul, that he had gone hunting many times while he was a civil servant in Batumi and that he wants to go hunting again. Upon this, the two get on a parasol top phaeton and go hunting near the mill in the grove. Aziz Pasha, who moved away from his children by sending them to Istanbul, gambles to forget them when they are not around. The two start to sit in the mill to rest and begin to commiserate with each other. Aziz Pasha especially values Seniha and wants her to marry a good and wealthy man. According to Aziz Pasha, because he is a male, just knowing that Adnan is alive and in good health is enough. But Seniha is very important to Aziz Pasha. His biggest wish is for her to marry a good person. Mr. Seref tries to wangle words out of Aziz Pasha and see if he has a chance of marrying Seniha. With the departure of his children, Aziz Pasha leaves the farm and starts to waste his time playing gambling.

Seniha and Adnan return with guests and the locals are disturbed by the entertainment When Mr. Seref goes to Dr. Cemil's house, when he is restless, he feels at least partially relieved. He feels comfortable and safe with him. After a while, Suleyman the coachman knocks on Dr. Cemil's door and informs him that Seniha and Adnan have returned from Istanbul. Curious as to why the two siblings have returned, the two make their way to the farm. Aziz Pasha arrives right after the two. Leaning towards Mr. Seref's ear, Adnan tells him that Seniha is about to make a big surprise shortly. Seniha brought a large group of guests to the house. Among them, there are also young people whom Aziz Pasha knows from their childhood. Aziz Pasha is overjoyed to see his children and his old relatives together. There is the joy of having saved Aziz Pasha from the gambling table. Due to the entertainment organized by the guests, the music they listen and the games they play, rumors spread among the locals living in the surrounding areas that guests are Qizilbash (Eng. Red Heads), that they are converting people from religion and that they act completely like Westerners. Mr. Seref also begins to believe these rumors and is affected by them. Since he is especially worried about Seniha and disturbed by what is said about her, he sometimes watches what is going on in the house from the top of a tree near the farm. Days later, Aziz Pasha sends a message to Mr. Seref, telling him that Adnan's exam day is approaching, that they are worried because he has not been at the farm for a while and that they want to see him as soon as possible.

Mr. Seref comes to the farm and envies Seniha for cavalry officer Upon receiving the news, Mr. Seref comes to the farm and starts to teach Adnan Mathematics and Religious Sciences. Seniha tries to attract Mr. Seref's attention by asking him some questions. But Mr. Seref pretends not to be interested in Seniha and tries to ignore her. Seeing that Adnan is being given a lesson about fractions, Seniha intervenes in the lesson. Seeing Cavalry Officer enter the farm talking to Aziz Pasha and the two of them laughing, Mr. Seref starts to have jealousy attacks. Mr. Seref, who teaches Adnan, is secretly angry with the guests at the farm. But after he meets them and starts to mingle with them, his thoughts about them start to change completely. He is especially surprised by the jokes made by the guest, Nevnihal, and her great ease and maturity in accepting even obscene jokes.

Mr. Seref gets close to the guests and becomes jealous of Seniha Having believed the bad rumors he had heard about Seniha, Mr. Seref feels deeply ashamed. As far as he can see from what happens at home, none of the allegations are true. Dr. Cemil tells Seref that he deliberately keeps him

away from Mrs. Nevnihal because women like her have a deep fondness for young and handsome men. Mr. Seref, who has started to lose his anger against the rich, is disturbed by this situation. Because this is how he has protected himself against them until today. Aziz Pasha, who entered the house with anger and reproach, is angry that a new groom candidate has been found for his daughter. Dr. Cemil tells that a young man who works as civil servant in foreign countries is her suitor. But Aziz Pasha, who does not want to be away from his daughter and fears that he will never see her again if she marries someone working abroad, becomes very angry. He thinks that others are jealous of his love for his daughter and the relationship between them. Mr. Seref, who has heard these rumors, says that he has been assigned to Damascus to gauge the family's reaction. Aziz Pasha gets angry at Mr. Seref for not breaking the news to him gradually. Mr. Seref leaves the house in a drunken state and stumbles and falls to the ground on his way home. A few days later, he regains consciousness at Dr. Cemil's house.

Aziz Pasha wifes his daughter to Mr. Seref After leaving the house, Mr. Seref's wallet falls out of his pocket. Seniha's photographs are found in the wallet that fell out of his pocket. Aziz Pasha, who had come to visit Mr. Seref, becomes aware of the situation. Aziz Pasha realizes that Mr. Seref loves Seniha and tells that he wishes he could meet Seref's parents and that he has a few questions to ask them. Dr. Cemil tells Aziz Pasha that he is Mr. Seref's father. Thereupon, Aziz Pasha says that the only thing that needs to be done is for Mr. Seref and Seniha to get married. Thus, Mr. Seref and Seniha get married with an unexpected ease.

The early times of the marriage of Seref-Seniha After some time passed since their marriage, whenever the married couple leaves Narli, Aziz Pasha goes to gamble in Bursa. Seniha and Mr. Seref wonder how they can stop Aziz Pasha's childish habit. Wanting to prove himself to Aziz Pasha, Mr. Seref makes new plans for the development of the farm. Aziz Pasha approves of Mr. Seref's plans and finds them reasonable, but says that they are overly romantic dreams. Mr. Seref also agrees with Aziz Pasha's view. Mr. Seref realizes that he owes his marriage to Seniha entirely to Dr. Cemil. Because he made up the lie that a civil servant working abroad was the suitor for Seniha and convinced Aziz Pasha, who afraid of his daughter going away, to marry Seniha to Mr. Seref. Dr. Cemil has skillfully paved the couple's path to marriage. Mr. Seref is more than happy to be married to Seniha. Although they are very happy together, Mr. Seref cannot easily hear from his extremely shy wife that he is loved. But he knows that he is loved by Seniha.

The breaking out of WWI Seref and Seniha's marriage is going very well and the couple is very happy. They have no other problem but to dispose of Aziz Pasha's surplus land in the farm as soon as possible. But after a while a dulled emotion in Mr. Seref's self reappears. Mr. Seref wants to prove himself by accomplishing great things. One day they learn from Aziz Pasha, who is reading newspaper on the terrace, that Franz Ferdinand has been killed in Bosnia and that there are rumors that a general war is about to begin. One day, the neighborhood watchman announces that the Great War has started. News and progresses about the war are closely followed. Seniha starts to worry about Mr. Seref and so she hugs him for the first time one night when they go to bed to sleep. Mr. Seref likes the fact that his wife is worried and concerned about him. However, Mr. Seref, who wants to show his value to others, applies to the recruitment office one morning after mobilization is announced.

Mr. Seref becomes a soldier who does the typing, the individual and social effects of war Mr. Seref goes to the recruitment office in Bursa and applies to attend the Reserve Officers School at Harbiye. While undergoing a health check, a soldier asks him some questions about whether he has any health problems. Mr. Seref, who has had a kidney problem in the past, answers some of the questions about this issue involuntarily. The soldier who asked him these questions tells Mr. Seref that he can leave the room without looking at his face. While people with much more serious health problem were accepted for military service, Mr. Seref's application was rejected. Instead of the Reserve Officers School, he is recruited as a soldier who does the typing at recruitment office. Every soldier to be sent to Canakkale passes through Mr. Seref's supervision. While the war continues in Canakkale, daily life in Bursa also continues. Mr. Seref, who hides from Seniha that Aziz Pasha goes to play gambling, attend one of the games one day as a spectator upon Aziz Pasha's request. Listening to how the rich gamblers make money from the war, Mr. Seref thinks about how the poor have difficulty in meeting even their most basic needs. Mr. Seref decides to devote himself to finding a solution to this problem during his military service. The war has made some rich people richer and the masses of people starve.

Mr. Seref becomes a courier at the wagon company During their stay in Bursa, Dr. Cemil, who returned from Balikesir to Bursa, visits the two staying at the Madame Burot's boarding house. Dr. Cemil introduces Mr. Seref to Colonel Murat, whom he had mentioned before. When they start to talk about the war and the problems that have surfaced with the war, Retired Colonel Murat says that the biggest problem of the country is transportation and logistics. Since there are not enough railroads and wagons, the food products produced cannot be taken to the necessary places despite having very fertile lands. Colonel Murat, who is involved in wagon trade, says that there is a need for people behind the front lines who will take care of such problems and work in line with the needs of the country. Affected by the statements of Colonel Murat, who had been a brigand, comitadji and trader for years, Mr. Seref accepts the job offer made to him and constantly travels abroad to make agreements on wagon production and imports.

Mr. Seref unjustly enriches himself and advances in the company Mr. Seref starts working as a courier for the company, shuttling between Sofia, Vienna and different European cities. Seniha has difficulty understanding what Mr. Seref does for a living. She cannot understand whether he is a soldier or a merchant. Mr. Seref and Mr. Murat, who do not tell exactly what they do for a living, are the cause of this uncertainty. Mr. Seref tells Seniha that he is a soldier fighting behind the front. Although he had initially set out for this purpose, his work has changed Mr. Seref over time. Staying in the most luxurious hotels and eating in the most expensive bars and entertainment venues in the capitals of Europe, Mr. Seref mingles with the gentry. He learned how to deal with customs officials, especially when it comes to the things he has to clear through customs. He bribes customs officials to clear expensive and valuable accessories and clothes through customs. By working in Colonel Murat's company, he has the opportunity to get to know the people who became rich from the war. His former classmate Bosnian Idris, whom he sees at a party, has made a lot of money by selling fictitious lands. Mr. Seref, who has the opportunity to closely observe the change every time he returns in Bursa, sees that the only thing that has not changed is his wife Seniha. After the war, he becomes the manager of an international company.

Mr. Seref and Seniha's estrangement from each other Important agreements, especially between company owners and merchants, are signed during short parties, invitations, gambling tables, drinking tables and venues where various dances are performed. The men and women who participate in such events generally act entirely in accordance with Western customs and understanding. Seniha, who has not changed in the slightest even after the war, comes to the invitations wearing a chador, does not drink, does not dance and establishes her intimacy with people in a very measured way. Because of Seniha's attitude, Mr. Seref is afraid of losing lucrative business opportunities. Mr. Seref, who pursues big business and lives in luxury during the day, is tired of pretending to live a modest life as Seniha wants when he returns home in the evenings. Mr. Seref thinks that Seniha is too naïve and unaware of the reality. Mr. Seref tries to prevent Seniha from visiting her father, who pretends to be ill in order to get more attention because he is getting more emotional due to old age. There is a low-tension argument between Mr. Seref and Seniha, who wants to return to the farm. Seniha tells Mr. Seref, who asks her if she loves him, that she loves him for the first time. Thus, Mr. Seref realizes that Seniha's fine and pure feelings have atrophied and the charm of their relationship has been lost due to abuse and lack of understanding.

Mr. Seref faces the consequences of his own selfishness Seniha decides to return to the farm in Gemlik and stay with her father for a while and packs her belongings in a suitcase. However, he gets worried when he sees that Seniha has put some winter clothes in the suitcase as well as photographs taken with her relatives. Mr. Seref thinks that Seniha will return to Gemlik for good and will leave him. Mr. Seref also gives Seniha a photograph that they took together. Seniha says that she almost forgot to take it and takes it and puts it in her suitcase. Mr. Seref decides to go to Gemlik with Seniha, and the two set off together. When they arrive in Bursa, they see the funerals of many children being carried. Due to shipment problems, many children died of various diseases due to lack of medicine and basic foodstuffs. The people of Bursa implicitly blame Mr. Seref for the deaths of the children. Realizing that he is now a persona non grata in Bursa and thinking that he cannot go back to his old life. Mr. Seref leaves there.

Mr. Seref admits his mistakes and asks for forgiveness Mr. Seref, who goes to various cities thanks to his business trips, begins to question himself. He becomes close to Mrs. Nezihe, the wife of a businessman he met through his friend Idris. He wants to be with Nezihe to forget Seniha and get rid of his old life. One day, when Mr. Seref is invited to Nezihe's house and is about to be with her, Seniha

appears before his eyes. Thinking that he has done great evil and betrayed everything he believed in, Mr. Seref at least does not want to degrade himself by cheating on Seniha. However, he does not believe that he will become a businessman and cause the deaths of children, and he thinks that he will cheat on Seniha in the near future. Returning to the farm in Gemlik, Mr. Seref apologizes to Seniha and asks for forgiveness for all the evil he has done. Seniha tells Mr. Seref that he is like a big boy who thinks he has committed great sins, considering himself a great person. But, Seniha, who has lived a wealthy life and raised in Western culture, knows how childish Mr. Seref's obsessive ideals are. Even though she is younger, Seniha is more mature than Mr. Seref. Seniha, convinced that Mr. Seref has not been with other women and that he is truly sorry, forgives him and tells him that they can be like they used to be. Mr. Seref gets a second chance.

Themes

Social Class Guntekin's *Hidden Hand* reveals the situation of the Ottoman bureaucracy and aristocracy before and after WWI. Especially the civil servants working in the rural provinces have completely detached themselves from their responsibilities and started to devote themselves entirely to entertainment. Those who occupy high positions in important institutions of the state engage in illegal businesses and cooperate with businessmen in order to accumulate wealth and prosper their won future. Especially during wartime, businessmen who strategic investments and keep the products that people need in stock and raise the prices, make significant profits. It is critically portrayed how the bourgeoisie becomes wealthy in times of war through their tricks in the field of trade and how the poor are condemned to death. It is narrated in a realistic style how Mr. Seref, who turned the war environment into an opportunity while he was a simple finance officer, became wealthy.

War According to Guntekin's statement about the genesis of his novel *Hidden Hand*, he particularly wanted to tell the story of the people who became wealthy during the war and what kind of relations they had with state officials. However, due to the censorship imposed on the literary work, the author had to base his narrative on a love story. WWI was an event in which many wealthy people became even wealthier and the poor were condemned to starvation and death. The basic foodstuffs and other products produced in the country could not be delivered to the places in need because there were not enough railroads and wagons. Therefore, Mr. Seref goes into the wagon trade with the encouragement of Colonel Murat. Thanks to the agreements made between companies and states, large sums of money are earned in a short time. Meanwhile, huge masses of people lose their lives en masse. Especially the Gallipoli Front is mentioned in some chapters.

Love Mr. Seref, who is appointed as a finance officer in Gemlik, starts to work at Aziz Pasha's farm in Narli and teaches his son Adnan through Mr. Cemil, a retired military doctor. Mr. Seref met Aziz Pasha's daughter Seniha, a graduate of the French High School in Pangalti, falls in love with her as soon as he sees her. Mr. Seref, who is socially beneath Seniha, hides his feelings for a long time in order to not to crush his pride and dignity. He even neglects his personal grooming to an exaggerated extent so that his love for Seniha is not understood. Mr. Seref, who is jealous of Seniha from other men and wants to be with her, manages to marry the woman he loves with the help of Dr. Cemil. However, after being married for a while, Mr. Seref, once again consumed by personal ambitions, begins to distance himself from the woman he loves. Although time and circumstances have changed Mr. Seref almost completely, Seniha remains the same. Mr. Seref, who becomes a wealthy businessman, begins to find Seniha closed to innovation, romantic, naïve and shy. While Mr. Seref represents modernization in a negative way, Seniha represents its positive side. Realizing his mistakes and accepting them, Mr. Seref asks Seniha for forgiveness. Seniha forgives Mr. Seref, whom she truly believes is repentant, and accepts him back into her life.

Alienation After graduating from the Faculty of Law and losing his father, Mr. Seref, who wants to become a civil servant and accomplish great things for his country, takes action in line with this goal. When Mr. Seref is appointed as a finance officer in Gemlik and witnesses the irresponsibility and indifference of the other officers, he begins to lose his hopes and beliefs. He falls in love with Seniha, the daughter of Aziz pasha, and begins to enjoy a modest life with her. However, some time after his marriage, some primitive feelings within Mr. Seref are reawakened. Eager to prove himself and accomplish great things, Mr. Seref applies to the recruiting office upon the outbreak of WWI. However, citing health problems, he is assigned as a scribe at the recruiting office. After a while, Dr. Cemil introduces Mr. Seref to retired Colonel Murat. Mr. Seref starts working as a courier for a wagon company during the war and travels the world. Mr. Seref, who has changed completely as a

personality over time, has become completely alienated from his initial ideals and personality. By climbing the social ladder, he has alienated from the class he was born and raised in. Many innocent people lose their lives because his unethical and illegal actions to become wealthy.

Reputation “In the novel, the narcissistic tendency that forms the substructure of Seref’s passionate soul identity is also among the themes. Seref, from the first moments of his career as a civil servant, is a character who is overconfident and feels that he is different from those around him. (...) Seref, who wants to show that he is “not a random man”, is ambitious to be different from others. Underneath these attitudes of Seref, who dresses differently from other civil servants in order not to be an ordinary person, narcissism is seen. However, his narcissism is based on the effect of obtaining unattainable objects. His inferiority complex is replaced by a superiority complex, and accordingly narcissism, with the objects obtained” (Kanter 2008, 74).

Character Analysis

Mr. Seref (Open/Closed/Social/Conscientious/Unconscientious/Emotional)

Having lost his father at the age of twenty-four after losing his mother, Mr. Seref grows up with the ambition to prove himself and to make others accept his value. After graduating from the Faculty of Law, he applies to become a civil servant. Mr. Seref is appointed as a finance officer in Gemlik and what he sees there causes him to feel pessimistic and disappointed. Because he has come to a very small place to realize the things he thought of doing for his future and his country. The fact that Bursa has a coastline, even if it is small, opens his horizons. The narrator, who wants to achieve great things and prove to everyone that he is not an ordinary person, thinks of a way out of his predicament he is in. At a time when he is thinking of going to Anatolia, he meets Seniha, the daughter of Aziz Pasha. Falling love with Seniha, the character forgets his ambitions and personal passions as his feelings for her outweigh them. However, as the marriage becomes ordinary, Mr. Seref burns with the desire to regain his reputation. During the war, while he was a scribe soldier at the recruitment office, he becomes a courier and then the manager of a company engaged in the wagon trade. Having become one of the richest men in the country during the war and having traveled the world, Mr. Seref has become alienated from the social class he belonged to and changed completely as a personality. In order to make more profit, he resorted to illegal and unethical means and contributed to the deaths of many innocent people, even if unintentionally.

Lonely Having lost his parents at a young age, he feels the need to belong somewhere and prove himself: “All my torments, all my depressions arising from the struggle between hope and despair were until I resolved this issue. Now I see that I am no longer from one side or the other, that I am a man in between, even alone among all classes, and I am saddened by this” (Guntekin 2018, 76).

Pensive He interrogates himself deeply for some mistakes he has made: “I sent Seniha to bed. I myself went down to my study on the pretext of an account that was due tomorrow. Surely, I am working on calculations at this hour, sitting at my desk... But, on reckoning of my old life” (Guntekin 2018, 14).

Self-conscious The smallness of Gemlik and the fruitlessness of daily life cause him to become more and more depressed with each passing day: “Months passed, and I could not settle for this new life. Once or twice I had the opportunity to go elsewhere. But I was afraid to go deeper into Anatolia. Here at least there was a sea. I would lose it there too” (Guntekin 2018, 17).

Reproachful He rebels against the boredom of the daily routine: “In the first months, civil servant life seemed very boring to me. Dealing with colorless, insignificant things in the daytime in the cramped rooms; pleading of fighting; dozing off on tables full of food crumbs and cigarette ashes. In the evening, a bit of gossip in the coffee gardens, complaining about livelihood... (...) It’s always like this, until death” (Guntekin 2018, 14-15).

Ambitious He wants to prove himself to others and make them recognize how valuable he is: “I am just a man who wants to be successful. One of the great businessmen who kept this city, this country beck and call. For such people, making great fortunes comes first. It is natural for me to be like this, sir... But my real pleasure is to show that I am not a random man, to do great things for this neglected country...” (Guntekin 2018, 20).

Lover He is in love with Seniha, but he is too proud to confess his feelings for fear of being misunderstood for financial reasons: "I will remain as distant and alien to her as the picture on the table. But that won't stop me from loving her. I don't know which poet, I think an English one: "If I love you, what's it to you?" he said. I will be proud enough to not even say that much, to not let it be known, to protect my weakness with the cruelty of a monster, like an honor" (Guntekin 2018, 36).

Inconnu "The whole strength of my body, which was certainly very worn out, and of my days consisted of two words, the ambition for work; I did not feel myself responsible for a accountability that I did not realize what I was, and I did not feel myself the instrument of a fate that would surely be fulfilled in the giant mechanism" (Guntekin 2018, 109).

Narcissist "I am just a man who wants to be successful. One of the great businessmen who kept this city, this country beck and call. For such people, making great fortunes comes first. It is natural for me to be like this, sir... But my real pleasure is to show that I am not a random man, to do great things for this neglected country... I see in myself this spirit, even this ability" (Guntekin 2018, 20).

Seniha (Open/Closed/Social/Conscientious/Rational)

Aziz Pasha's daughter Seniha, who was educated at the French High School in Pangalti, was raised with Western culture. Even though she is fluent in French, her Turkish is not good enough. Although she grew up in a wealthy family and was raised by Westerners, Seniha does not dress, behave and live like Europeans. Unlike Mr. Seref, Seniha is not an upstart bourgeois. Since Seniha has experienced the wealthy life that Mr. Seref has now acquired since her birth, Seniha is not so weak-willed as to be easily corrupted as a person. "Seniha was born and raised in the social environment that Mr. Seref aims and passionately wants to reach. For this reason, she dislikes the noisy and gaudy aspects of the environment she lives in and always wants to escape from it" (Kanter 2008, 66). At every opportunity, it is stated that Seniha is much more mature than Mr. Seref. Unlike Mr. Seref, Seniha only wants to live a modest life with her loved ones. She knows that there is no limit to greed and that the greedy person will not be content with what he has and will always want more. For a long time Seniha waits for Mr. Seref to understand and accept this reality on his own. Seniha believes that emotions, thoughts and values that add value to human beings should be protected. She loves Mr. Seref with the purity of a child.

Mature "Why do I always look like a child next to you, even though I am both a man and five or six years older than you? You've become like the Virgin Mary for me" (Guntekin 2018, 81).

Satiated "I prefer Gemlik, Seref... The trip that will give me the most satisfaction will be to return to our farm, she said" (Guntekin 2018, 15).

Thoughtful "I'll live and die here like a weed... I'm nothing!" you were saying... "How am I any different from your father's henchmen in this farm?" you were saying... It is dangerous for a man to see himself belittled, Seref. That's why I wanted you to try your luck in Istanbul" (Guntekin 2018, 16).

Modest "There was a little spat between father and daughter. The daughter said tat this new car was a completely unnecessary luxury and that she didn't like such things anyway. The Pasha revealed what was she hiding without hesitation" (Guntekin 2018, 31).

Curious "Seniha loves reading books. I understood that she often went to the library and read poems and novels. He more or less made our syllabus himself and didn't leave much to me. What I was doing was just trying to remain a unfruitful and prosaic grammar teacher, consisting only of words and phrases" (Guntekin 2018, 45).

Strong-willed "A person with such a business circle like mine would of curse have a circle that lives and has fun at the same pace. The chador, although still the old chador, had almost disappeared in high society. The woman who came to a closed meeting wearing a chador from the street, but threw it off at the door and undressed, still gave the impression of a woman who had undressed secretly for you, for a night of fun" (Guntekin 2018, 122).

Humble "During the day, her husband will struggle with all his fire and passion on the path of his suddenly opened new destiny, but in the evening, in slippers on his feet, pajamas on his back,

under the dreamy light of a lamp with a blue lampshade – Are we happy? – Of course, we are happy” (Guntekin 2018, 123).

Wise “Seref, let’s be reasonable, she said, the poor Doctor always repeated to me until the day he died: “He’s a toy boy who thinks he’s big”. He needs to be pitied and... loved... You, on the other hand, have been very big since you were little. Big enough to be his mother”. These words never left my mind” (Guntekin 2018, 150).

Dr. Cemil (Open/Social/Conscientious/Rational)

Mr. Cemil, one of the norm characters of the narrative, is a retired military doctor. After his retirement, he settles in Gemlik and starts to take care of everyone in need and does not turn away any patient. Dr. Cemil directly affects Mr. Seref’s life. He directs and radically changes his life with his actions. It is seen that Dr. Cemil has a very wise and effective character with his messages and discourses. “The doctor, who is a mature, knowledgeable and cultured character, is almost like a father to Seref, who has no one in life. In fact, it was Dr. Cemil himself who mediated Seref’s marriage to Seniha and asked for Seniha’s hand from Aziz Pasha” (Kanter 2008, 66).

Sensitive “(...) they told me that he treats patients just for pleasure and did not take money from them” (Guntekin 2018, 21).

Modest “To be well-off but to find no other place to settle but Gemlik, to treat patients for pleasure and not to be paid for it! These were things that were not understandable to me” (Guntekin 2018, 21).

Friendly “- Then it gets easier,” he said, I was curious to get to know you a little bit, that’s all... My home is the white house that grows gray among the trees opposite; as we see it; it sees us and the lime pit on the hill” (Guntekin 2018, 21).

Active He influences and directs people’s lives: “- I told him, you will give lessons to his child at Galatasaray a few days a week. They have dropped the child from one or two classes. You will get five or ten liras” (Guntekin 2018, 25).

Honest “Don’t be snob, she said, you also have silly and impertinent sides, but in a different way... Anyway, you’ll see” (Guntekin 2018, 26).

Helpful “I have a close friend who was a Unionist bigwig. We were both in the army. He was a valuable staff colonel. After the Constitutional Monarchy, he left military service and turned into a politician. I ran into him in Bursa. I talked about you” (Guntekin 2018, 50).

Knowledgeable “I didn’t understand it because I only learned Persian from the lessons taught at school. He was translating them couplet by couplet” (Guntekin 2018, 57).

Planful “As I suddenly shone like a bundle of dry straw, he realized that Seniha had also a gravitation towards me. As I later learned, the Doctor, under that naïve appearance, had deceived Seniha with tricks similar to the ones he had used on me, had skillfully lured this naïve child into traps, and had found what he was looking for with his eyes, which I knew how they shone in his long, white eyelashes. The doctor, who knew how to skillfully poke the skin that covered some of Seniha’s hidden wounds, did not hesitate to pry open some of Seniha’s feelings that had remained closed even to herself” (Guntekin 2018, 94).

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