

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Muruvet Esra Yildirim, PhD

THE PALACE AND BEYOND

HALIT ZIYA USAKLIGIL

Important Terms

The Sublime Porte	The palace of grand vizier/the central government of the Ottoman Empire
Imperial Chamberlain	It is where state affairs take place in the sultan's palace, known as <i>Mâbeyn-i Humayun</i>
Chamber of Deputies	The lower house of the parliament, created in 1876, known as <i>Meclis-i Mebusan</i>
Assembly of Notables	The upper house of the parliament, created in 1876, known as <i>Meclis-i Âyan</i>
The Regié Company	A parastatal company established to regulate the cultivation and processing of tobacco for the foreign debts of the Ottoman Empire
Bey	It is an honorific for men, equals to Mr. in English
Hanim	It is an honorific for women, equals to Ms. in English

People

Ahmet Muhtar Pasha	Grand vizier
Ahmet Riza	Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies
Bekir Bey	Director of imperial kitchen
Ferit Pasha the Groom	Husband of Mediha Sultan, sister of Abdulhamid
Enver Agha	Sultan Resat's senior companion
Enver Bey	Minister of war
Haci Âkif Bey	Director of furnishings
Hâdi Pasha	Governor of Kosovo
Hakki Pasha	Former ambassador to Rome and grand vizier
Hifzi Agha	Sultan Resat's companion
Huseyin Hilmi Pasha	Grand vizier
Ismail Bey from Komotini	Politician
Kâmil Pasha	Grand vizier
Lutfi Simavi	First chamberlain
Mahmut Sevket Pasha	Soldier and statesman
Mehmet Cavit	Minister of finance
Mehmet Resat	Son of Abdulmecid, the Ottoman sultan
Mehmed Said Pasha	Grand vizier
Nâzim Pasha	Minister of war
Nuri Bey	Director of the Privy Purse Office
Sabit Bey	Senior valet
Sait Halim Pasha	Grand vizier
Süleyman Efendi	Son of Abdulmecid
Talât Bey	Minister of interior affairs
Tevfik Bey	Second chamberlain
Vahdettin	Son of Abdulmecid, the heir apparent
Yusuf Izzettin	Son of Abdulaziz, the heir apparent

Synopsis

The Committee of Union and Progress appoints Halit Ziya as the first secretary to the Imperial Chancery in 1909, after dethroning Abdulhamid and replacing him with his brother Mehmet Resat. The first job of Halit Ziya and his colleagues in Dolmabahce Palace is to modernize the daily of the palace. However, they have to keep up with the centuries-old traditions of the dynasty, too. During the years Halit Ziya is the first secretary, he takes an active role in hosting the kings of Bulgaria and Serbia and in the sultan's tour of Rumelia. After the Committee of Union and Progress loses its power, he is dismissed by the Freedom and Accord Party. Then, he returns to his old job in the Regié Company. However, after a short period, the Unionists, who stage a coup during the Balkan Wars, assign him to carry out lobbying activities in Europe. Afterward, while he is on a trip for medical purposes, World War I breaks out, and he returns to the country under difficult conditions. After a while, he is sent to Germany by the Unionist government to examine. He travels and takes notes in Germany for months, but he cannot stand to be away from his country any longer and returns.

Events

Alone with the Sultan

Halit Ziya begins to tell his memories by referring to a rumor about Abdulaziz. While Abdulaziz was spending time in front of the windows of the Dolmabahce Palace, one day, he saw a shabby bagel seller on the street and asked his servants in the palace, "Isn't that guy what they call the people?" After this anecdote, he tells how he was full of excitement from the moment he entered the Dolmabahce Palace to meet Sultan Resat. He also heard many rumors about how Sultan Resat was a cunning, insidious, selfish, and spiteful person.

Waiting to appear before the sultan, he searches for the most appropriate way to go into his room and address him. Finally, he decides to act like any well-mannered man. He enters the room with a decorous salaam, extending his right hand to the floor. The sultan is waiting for him, standing in his redingote buttoned up to the top. When he shows a place to sit with a smile, Halit Ziya greets the sultan again, raising his right hand to his chin and forehead, and then sits on the chair he showed.

After congratulating Halit Ziya, the sultan says that he is not a wasteful person and is accustomed to getting by on a small amount of money and asks him to agree with the first chamberlain, Lutfi Bey and the Privy Purse Office to adjust the expenses of the palace accordingly. The palace is in ruins. The furniture is rotten by spills of rain from the roof and the sunshine. The mansions allocated for the first chamberlain and first secretary in Nisantasi is not available. Therefore, Halit Ziya and Lutfi Bey are to stay in the rooms reserved for them in the palace until the mansions get repaired.

Since Halit Ziya knows that he should not stand up before the sultan gets up, he waits for him to rise, and when Sultan Resat rises, he follows him. Halit Ziya is convinced that the sultan is a well-meaning and calm man.

A New Order

When Halit Ziya leaves Sultan Resat and goes down the stairs, he sees Lutfi Bey coming to the Palace and immediately shares the conversation with him. Lutfi Bey suggests that they explore the Palace to determine the work to be done, but when they learn that lunch is ready, they change their mind. There are a few people at lunch, but Lutfi Bey and he make fun when they see the trays waiting on the floor. Halit Ziya decides that one of the things that need to be handled first is these trays, as preparing a separate tray for everyone means wasting the meals.

However, the more urgent task is to get some clerks, because it may be necessary to write anything at any time. Medhi, who works in the Sublime Porte, becomes a clerk in the Palace. Halit Ziya recruits Hakki Bey, who used to work in the Privy Purse Office but was left unemployed after the Yildiz Palace was dissolved. Recai Bey from the Privy Purse Office becomes the palace administrator. The next day, Tefvik Bey is appointed as the second chamberlain by the Committee of Union and Progress.

In the following days, Halit Ziya and other employees make calculations with the Privy Purse Office, and they are convinced that the kitchen is a greedy monster. The numbers they hear are so great that they silently dream of the kitchen as a monster swallowing hundreds of sheep, chickens, turkeys, fruits, and vegetables every day, while people are suffering. In the reign of Abdulhamid, the Yildiz

Palace's kitchen fed thousands of civil servants and workers. But cooks and tray bearers distributed trays with desserts, pastries, and various vegetables to many neighborhoods and kept the money to themselves. Halit Ziya becomes aware of the kitchen's corrupt order when he learns that a wealthy but stingy acquaintance spends his summers in Besiktas, near the Yildiz Palace, instead of beautiful summer resorts, because he makes a great profit thanks to the food he buys from the Palace for a small amount. When the sultanate is moved to the Dolmabahce Palace, hundreds of the employees of the Yildiz Palace are appointed to other positions, and some go to their hometown or other places spontaneously. Thus, the budget of the new Palace is relieved.

When Halit Ziya wants to replace trays with table d'hôtes, Furnishing Director Hacı Âkif Bey tells him that he can choose a room to turn into a dining room, however, he adds that no items can be provided to the new sultan's palace because there some proceedings to be completed. The first chamberlain wants to petition regarding that, but Halit Ziya asks him where to apply because departments are yet to be established.

Mahmut Sevket Pasha

After the meeting is over, he learns that Mahmut Sevket Pasha wants to see him. When Pasha offers to go to his room, he says that no one has a room yet in the Palace and invites him to one of the empty halls. Mahmut Sevket Pasha informs him that he will order the things he needs to be brought from the Yildiz Palace and asks about the best way for this. Halit Ziya says that it would be appropriate to register the items in the book and receive them with the second chamberlain's participation, accompanied by a delegation. Pasha likes this suggestion. When Lutfi Bey enters the hall to inform Mahmut Sevket Pasha that Sultan Resat is waiting for him, he goes out, telling Halit Ziya that he wants to meet with him again.

After a short time, he wants to see Halit Ziya again. One of the new scribes is Halit Ziya's wife's brother, and one is Hakki Bey from Abdulhamid's Palace. Pasha is uncomfortable with both of them. Halit Ziya informs him that his relative, Medhi was recruited by chance, and he hired Hakki Bey because he knew he was a clean man although he worked in Abdulhamid's palace. This time, the Pasha asks Halit Ziya how he finds Sultan Resat, whether he is a difficult person to manage or not. Halit Ziya shares his good impressions and then Mahmut Sevket Pasha says that they sent Sultan Resat's personal attendants with Abdulhamid to Salonika, but Sultan Resat wants his men back. The Yildiz Palace is filled with informant letters, and some are from those who served Sultan Resat during his life in seclusion. As the Pasha identifies these letters, he plans to send them to Sultan Resat so that he can decide which of those men he still wants back. But there is a man he specifically demands: Sabit Bey. Since this man knew that no one who did not inform Abdulhamid would prevail in the Palace, he would read the informant letters he had written to Resat Efendi and then send them to Abdulhamid. After Halit Ziya expresses his positive thoughts about Sabit Bey, Mahmut Sevket Pasha leaves the Palace complaining about countless informant letters.

Shortly after that, Halit Ziya's wife's brother Medhi returns to his previous job. Hakki Bey also becomes the director of the Museum of Pious Endowments.

The First Royal Procession to Mosque

The government wants to introduce the new sultan, who has just gotten out of more than thirty years of seclusion, to the public. The best time for this is the Friday Procession, but the government and the Palace have limited opportunities to organize a majestic procession. With these limited possibilities, they prepare a procession, and everyone appears in fancy clothes. The first chamberlain and the first secretary join this procession, too.

Halit Ziya says that he did not understand whether this was an abandoned old habit or made to show the new sultan's entourage crowded, but from that day on, they were present at all official entrances and exits of Sultan Resat.

Visiting Abdulhamid's Children

Halit Ziya begins to get to know other people in the dynasty. But he says that to the dynasty, all state officials are no different from a tool. As members of the dynasty, they continue to consider themselves superior to everyone, despite the constitutional monarchy. He observes this tendency most in the children of the deposed Sultan Abdulhamid and says that all of them were outrageous people just like

their fathers. With Suleyman Efendi's death, the elder brother of Sultan Resat, Yusuf Izzettin Efendi, son of Abdulaziz, becomes the heir apparent. But, Vahdettin is the second heir apparent. Since these two cousins compete, the difference in arrogance between the children of Abdulhamid and his brothers does not exist among them; they are both arrogant.

Except for Abdulhamid's two sons, Abdurrahim Efendi and Ahmet Nurettin Efendi, none of his children visit their uncle Resat. Then, Sultan Resat asks Halit Ziya to take one of his personal attendants with him and visit all his nephews and nieces in order of age and ask them if they need anything. Halit Ziya starts with Selim Efendi. Selim Efendi hosts him in the anteroom after having him waited for a long time. Abdulkadir and Ahmet Efendi do the same. After Halit Ziya says what he is prepared to say, they thank him, and the meeting ends. Halit Ziya thinks that these three brothers have lost nothing of their arrogance. They leave unanswered whether they need anything, as they all have mansions, cars, entourage, and income provided by their fathers. Only Burhanettin Efendi leaves a different impression. Halit Ziya knows that he plays piano, likes to paint, speaks several languages, and is Abdulhamid's most beloved child. He feels comfortable and has a good time with him in his mansion in Nisantasi. When leaving, Burhanettin Efendi thanks him and expresses his gratitude.

The hardest part of these visits is the nieces. Halit Ziya is anxious because he heard stories about their arrogant behavior. He prepares himself for a cold welcome while Enver Agha is having fun with the situation on the road heading to the eldest niece's mansion. As Halit Ziya expects, none of them accepts to host them with different excuses. However, through their eunuchs, they all thank and state that they do not need anything.

When Halit Ziya asks what it would be like if it was possible to meet them, Enver Agha says that he would talk to them behind a door. After a long time, Halit Ziya learns the way to talk a princess when he is sent to Princess Sadiye by Sultan Resat. He visits her with Enver Agha about her prospective marriage. Sadiye Hanim talks to them behind a partition with her eunuch. The government prevents her wedding because she wants to marry the son of Ismail Pasha, who turned many young people in as an informant. She demands that this obstacle be lifted. Halit Ziya conveys her demand to Sultan Resat, but later, Sadiye Hanim marries Fahir Bey, Galip Pasha's grandson.

After Halit Ziya visits Abdulhamid's children, Sultan Resat introduces Lutfi Bey and Halit Ziya to his children. He heard that Ziyaettin Efendi is a little flirtatious and fond of dressing and traveling. After meeting him, he confirms what he heard. Omer Hilmi Efendi is no different from a child who hesitates even to speak. On the contrary, Necmettin Efendi speaks well, but his left ear has an anomaly, and he is so fat that Halit Ziya pities him. After a while, he dies due to his obesity. However, on the day they meet, he advises Lutfi Bey and Halit Ziya to avoid his uncle, Vahdettin.

Reorganizing the Palace

Halit Ziya and other officials spend a whole day exploring every corner of the Dolmabahce Palace to make it a sultanate seat. Its pier, roof, basement, stairs, floors, and walls bear the traces of abandonment. Architect Vedat Tek is appointed to reorganize the Palace, and within a month, he transforms every part of the Palace into a place to live. A room is assigned to each employee, and bedrooms are also prepared for those who need to stay overnight. Mansions in Nisantasi are also repaired. But for Halit Ziya, the most important place is the imperial dining room. A decent dining room is prepared to host deputies and ambassadors. Four young specialists from the *Enderun*, the Palace School of Ottoman Empire, are trained to serve here. When the Palace's basement repairs are finished, the workers also have their meals in the same fashion as the secretaries. Thus, trays become a thing of the past for, at least, the Imperial Chancery. However, those in the Imperial Harem and subsidiary structures of the Palace and where the eunuchs reside, continue to use trays instead of table d'hôte. Since restricting the meals served here exposes the Imperial Chancery employees to the attacks of the residents of the Imperial Harem, an order in this direction is demanded and obtained from Sultan Resat through his personal attendants.

A Gift from the Sultan

While the repair of the mansions in Nisantasi continues, Halit Ziya starts to stay in the Palace every other day at the request of Sultan Resat. One night, his door is knocked by one of the companions of the sultan, Besim Agha, who is carrying a gift pack sent by Sultan Resat. Besim Agha says that the sultan sent a robe de chambre because it is cold and a bottle of mineral water to relieve his stomach,

and then he takes a smaller bottle in his hand, adding that it is not a dye, but if it is applied to hair, it restores its color. After walking Besim Agha out, Halit Ziya examines the robe de chambre and likes it very much. However, unable to figure out the meaning of the bottles, he lights a cigarette and starts thinking. He associates the mineral water with his recent abdominal pain because Sultan Resat is a man who is sensitive to other people's illnesses because of stones in his bladder. But he is sure that the other bottle is a dye. Even though Sultan Resat is more than twenty years older than him, he often makes Halit Ziya feel like his peer and Halit Ziya does not object to this at all. But the idea of dyeing his graying hair scares him. He imagines himself, with disgust, as a person covered with henna stains on his temples and neck. He thinks that the sultan, who grew a beard after becoming the sultan, thinks of dyeing his beard, just like his brother Abdulhamid did but wanted to set an example first. After that night, Sultan Resat does not ask anything about the dye, but yellow dye stains begin to appear on his hair and beard.

In a Friday Procession following this event, Sultan Resat salutes the ministers present and the imam of the Palace and orders the solemnization of the first secretary's beard on Wednesday. Halit Ziya is shocked when he hears the sultan, who speaks without looking at him. As he imagines himself with a beard, he feels alienated from himself. At the moment, everyone around him is looking at him both mercifully and mockingly. He tries to figure out why the sultan demanded this. Every time he goes to the Imperial Harem, the eunuchs make the women disappear. Still, Halit Ziya assumes that it is impossible not to feel the women behind the doors, and maybe that is why the sultan does not want a young-looking first secretary. He also theorizes that perhaps the sultan aims to see the dye on his beard. Eventually, his beard is solemnized on Wednesday, but he gets it square-shaped and keeps it until the sultan's death.

A Change

Abdulhamid replaced Grand Vizier Huseyin Hilmi Pasha with a more neutral name, Tevfik Pasha, after the 31 March Incident. However, after Sultan Resat took the seat of the sultanate, the Committee of Union and Progress brings Huseyin Hilmi Pasha, who is affiliated with the Committee, back to the office to show its power. Sultan Resat, who follows a policy suitable for those in the government, is only busy with the Palace, and the only reflection of this change in the Palace is a ceremony to be held.

As it is customary, a delegation comes from Besiktas to Sirkeci by sea to get on the horses waiting for them. Surrounded by the aides, they slowly climb the slope of Bâbiâli Street with the first secretary, the new grand vizier, and the sheikh-ul-Islam, saluting the tradesmen and the crowd. In the end, the first secretary delivers the edict in his hand to the letterman of the viziership, and then he reads it in a loud voice.

However, even if they had horse riding habits in their youth, it is challenging for the elderly grand vizier and sheikh-ul-Islam to go from Sirkeci to the Sublime Porte on horseback. Halit Ziya has a hard time trying to control his horse's reins with one hand and keep the pouch with the edict on his chest with the other hand. Moreover, the trousers of his formal attire leave his legs exposed up to his calf, rubbing on the horse's stomach. As soon as the ceremony is over, he tells the situation to Sultan Resat immediately. Then it is decided that a landau will carry them if a ceremony is necessary.

The First Feast

One day, they learn that there will be a feast for the Egyptian Khedive Abbas Hilmi Pasha. However, it will be simple befitting a governor, so only three people from the Imperial Chancery will attend; the first chamberlain, the first secretary, and the head aid. A wooden table is set up in the Zulvecheyn Hall, and the silverware, known as "the Vlach Silverware" because it was sent to Vlahya [Wallachia, Moldavia, and Transylvania in the Ottoman Empire] to provide a feast for the Russian tsar, is used.

However, many people are offended because they are not invited to this feast and project their anger onto Halit Ziya, although Galip Pasha organized the feast and Lutfi Simavi is the person responsible for it.

The Budget

One day, Minister of Education Emrullah Bey, visits Halit Ziya and informs him that the government has just decided to save five thousand liras from the twenty-five thousand liras, allocated for Sultan

Resat. Halit Ziya pauses to think for a while because they have not yet been able to get a precise idea of the costs. Moreover, Emrullah Bey is not related to the practical aspects of life and money. Therefore, he can only ask how to say such a thing to the sultan. But Emrullah Efendi leaves, saying that the Committee of Union and Progress expects this from him.

Halit Ziya invites Minister of the Privy Purse Nuri Bey, and they hold a meeting in the first chamberlain's room. Nuri Bey protests this, saying that the receivables and payables are not clear yet. When Halit Ziya realizes that this meeting cannot be concluded, he proposes to appear before the sultan together.

Before the sultan, he talks about his guest and what was spoken. Sultan Resat is eager to save and states that it is more appropriate to do it independently, so he asks Halit Ziya to write a note. When they are out of the room, Nuri Bey's face is red, and Lutfi Bey is biting his lips. Halit Ziya laughs up his sleeve because the sultan is far from understanding the difference between five thousand and twenty-five thousand liras. Later on, fifty thousand liras are allocated annually for reception and travel expenses.

Three Resignations

In a short time, three successive resignations occur. The first person to resign is Asim Bey, a clerk of the Imperial Chancery. Each time Halit Ziya sees him wandering around the large halls of the Palace, he feels this nervous man will do something unexpected. One day, he informs Halit Ziya of his decision to resign, and when Halit Ziya finds out that he has been offered the position of the first secretary of the Parliament, he does not try to deter.

The second resignation comes from the Minister of the Privy Purse, Nuri Bey. Halit Ziya cannot understand the reason for his resignation. He asks Nuri Bey whether it is because the Ministry of the Privy Purse will be turned into a directorate or because he cannot accept to work under command. As he is offering the third possible reason, Nuri Bey interrupts his speech and says that he will not give up on his idea and that his resignation should be conveyed to Sultan Resat.

The third resignation comes from the Chief of Protocol and the Dragoman of the Imperial Council, Galip Pasha. Galip Pasha is famous for being under the patronage of Abdulhamid's Chief Harem Eunuch, who is the third in importance after the sultan and the grand vizier. Halit Ziya states that it is possible to have such a guardian, but the administration may not want to keep Galip Pasha in his place since they cannot even tolerate such rumors.

Sultan Resat's Personal Attendants

Halit Ziya states that those in the personal service of Sultan Resat are not more than those working in a vizier's mansion and that the sultan retires many people from his service to economize and eliminate those betraying him. The number of his personal attendants becomes even smaller when the pantry chief and head tobacconist die. However, there is no need for them anyway because the Privy Purse Office takes over the job of the pantry chief. The Régie Company will also handle the tobacco business.

Halit Ziya says that Abdulhamid's tobacco manufacturing in the Yıldız Palace was not under the control of the Régie and supplying smuggled tobacco for the Palace and its surroundings. While the belongings of the Yıldız Palace are transferred to the Privy Purse Office and the use of Sultan Resat, using his previous connections in the Régie, Halit Ziya ensures that each month, the Régie will deliver the accumulated tobacco in the manufacturing houses in parts to the Dolmabahçe Palace. Thus, the Privy Purse Office meets the tobacco need of the Palace for years without making any payments.

Thus, Sultan Resat's personal attendants are not more than ten people. However, Halit Ziya states that all of them are reliable and honest people. Among them, Senior Valet Sabit Bey becomes one of Halit Ziya's most valuable colleagues. Sabit Bey has been one of Resat Efendi's attendants since his youth; he studied at Galatasaray High School for a few years and improved himself as much as possible. But after losing his son, Necdet, he lives in grief.

During his years of seclusion, Sultan Resat made promises to everyone in his service, and Sabit Bey was expecting to be the first secretary for years. Halit Ziya says that Sabit Bey's resentment at Sultan Resat's failure of this promise is normal, but he does not take this out on him.

The Processions

In processions for Friday prayers and special days, while everyone slowly moves toward the destination in their fancy dresses, Halit Ziya feels sadness and embarrassment due to the neglect of the streets they pass through and the miserable state of people watching them. Sultan Resat demands that the ceremony be held in Fatih, Beylerbeyi, Ortakoy, Sultanselim, Beyazit, and Eyup to show the troops to the whole city. However, Sinanpasa Mosque in Besiktas and the mosque in the Dolmabahce are his most preferred ones. Whenever they go to a mosque other than the one used to be, the officers of the Pious Endowments go before the sultan to clean the sultan's lodge, prayer rugs, carpets, and upholstery. Still, despite all, these mosques' neglected walls and roofs leave a funeral effect on Halit Ziya.

The Friday Processions generally are like hours of slavery to him. While the sultan changes his clothes with his attendants and prays in the sultan's lodge, or when he accepts one of his deputies, Halit Ziya changes his fancy official clothes and waits in the room left to them. Here, he is usually accompanied by the mayor, the minister of awqaf, the minister of war and the minister of the navy. During these waiting hours, First Chamberlain Lutfi Simavi talks endlessly, and as he speaks, Mahmut Muhtar Pasha listens to him patiently.

Sultan's Responsibilities and Trips

After leaving the harem and eating his meal, the sultan draws the first secretary to his side through one of his personal attendants to look through the wishes and information presented to him. When the first secretary arrives, he passes to the writing room, sits opposite the first secretary, listens to the summaries of the official papers, and dates them to show his approval. If the documents are related to the laws or the Council of Ministers' decisions, the first secretary summarizes them as well, and the sultan writes, "By virtue" on them. If the sultan has orders, the first secretary notes them. After the first secretary leaves the writing room, all the documents are sent to the required places within that day. Halit Ziya states that every paper is returned to the place it comes from within the same day, as needed. Even when Sultan Resat has a fever, he does not hesitate to perform his duty. Therefore, he does not go on a trip before his work is over.

Halit Ziya tells that Sultan Resat, who spent most of his life in seclusion, often goes to mansions in different places for a change of scene, and that he waits for hours at every location. One day, when they have just arrived at the mansion in Zincirlikuyu, an aide comes to inform him that there is an urgent paper to be seen by the sultan.

Execution Orders

Halit Ziya tears the envelope handed to him in anger to find out the reason for this rush and sees the execution orders of those involved in the 31 March Incident. He tells the aide not to wait. He prepares himself to present execution orders to the sultan for the first time. At the moment, one of the sultan's personal attendants, Emin Bey, comes and tells that the sultan is wondering what the envelope is about. Halit Ziya explains the situation; Emin Bey goes and returns and informs that the sultan will pray first and then see him.

While Halit Ziya reads the execution orders to the sultan, the sultan listens to him quietly. When the reading is over, he takes his pen, asks Halit Ziya what to write, then writes "By virtue" on the papers and requests Halit Ziya to stay in the Palace for the night, because men will be executed that night. Halit Ziya stops by his mansion in Nisantasi to inform his family that he will spend the night in the Palace, and then goes to the Palace, and the approved execution orders are sent to the Sublime Porte.

Halit Ziya feels tragic, as he thinks that he has an involvement in someone's death and goes to Second Chamberlain Tevfik Bey's room as he always does whenever he gets upset. Tevfik Bey is a man who knows very well how to remove the garbage from his mind. Whenever Halit Ziya talks to him, he is convinced that everything will be alright. On that day, after Tevfik Bey finds out about the situation, he only expresses his happiness from having dinner with Halit Ziya without talking about the execution orders. After having dinner in the Palace, Tevfik Bey's only entertainment is to go to Tepebasi Movie Theater. That evening, while having dinner, he talks about the cinema and the future of cinema. He tells Halit Ziya that if he did not have to stay in the Palace, he would suggest that they go to the cinema together because there is an excellent picture.

That Night in the Palace

Halit Ziya explains that since the electrical installation of the Palace has not been completed yet, the dinners are always in an air of mourning. That night, again, after eating the meal by candlelight, one of the sultan's companions informs that the sultan wants to see him. Usually, to go to the harem, the guard of the Imperial Chancery opens the door, a long passage to the harem is walked; finally, the guard of the harem opens the door. That night, Halit Ziya walks the long path with the sultan while a guard illuminates the passage with a lantern in front of them. Sultan asks him, "What will happen?" Halit Ziya cannot say anything. Then the sultan says that he keeps him in the Palace just in case. When the guard of the harem opens the door, the sultan wishes a good night and goes to the harem. Halit Ziya walks the long passage back with the guard and enters his room in the Imperial Chancery. He contemplates why the sultan keeps him in the Palace. After a while, he can't stand and leaves his room to go to his bedroom. The Palace is in deep silence. Only the guards walk around. One of those who see he is about to go to his room wants to help to open the door of his room and light his candle, but Halit Ziya declines this offer, saying that he will do it. He enters his room, lights the candle and sees a tray full of various cookies and fruits on the table. He puts his elbows on the table and bursts into tears.

The Yildiz Palace

Sultan Resat sends a delegation consisting of First Secretary Halit Ziya, First Chamberlain Lutfi Bey, and Senior Valet Sabit Bey to examine the Yildiz Palace. While visiting the Palace, Halit Ziya concludes that the Palace is far from its fame. Abdulhamid's dressing room is full of stuff. Abdulhamid, who could not even throw off his cardigan with dye stains, collected everything here. The apartments of the harem are just as bad. While the women whom Abdulhamid wanted to be close to him stayed in the spacious rooms, the older women were placed in the damp and musty-smelling parts of the harem.

There are also many items Abdulhamid made with his own hands in his carpentry house. He gave one of these tables as a gift to Sultan Resat. Sultan Resat gifts this table to Halit Ziya. Halit Ziya sees it more appropriate to keep it in the Imperial Chancery than taking it home. While visiting the Palace's museum, Sait Bey, one of the museum's organizers, points to a cube then puts his hand into it and pulls out a paper. This paper is one of the informant letters Abdulhamid hid all over the place. In the museum, there are also many artifacts brought from the Topkapi Palace, essentially the property of the sultanate. A group of treasure guards, who could not openly oppose the seizure of the sultanate's property by Abdulhamid in this way secretly kept a record of seized artifacts, hands over these records to the administration of Sultan Resat. Thus, many pieces are returned to their place.

There is also a stage in the Palace. Abdulhamid hired some of the Italian opera artists, who stopped by Beyoglu, to perform the works he liked in the Palace. Halit Ziya says that this is understandable, but inviting foreign ambassadors to the plays performed in a ridiculous way in this unqualified stage is inexcusable. He says that he feels ashamed when he thinks these sophisticated people watched these childish ceremonies in the Palace.

Music

Halit Ziya states that it is unknown how the Palace Orchestra, consisting of soldiers at various levels, was established due to the lack of historiography. But it was liquidated to transfer it to the palace of Sultan Resat. During the reign of Abdulhamid, ranks, and medals were distributed to many people at all levels of the administration, and the orchestra was no exception. However, thanks to the negotiations of Sadullah Bey, one of the young officers, the Ministry of War gives the orchestra the imperial spirit.

The Imperial Property

Halit Ziya explains that the initiators of the constitutional monarchy have many inquiries about the time of Abdulhamid. Mainly, Abdulhamid's uncertain resource of wealth remains an essential question because it is clear that the source of the gold flowing from the Yildiz Palace is not official. However, it is avoided to research because of the destructive effects of such an attempt. Only when Abdulhamid is deposed can this question be asked. However, the answer is so confused that they only ask to transfer the Imperial Property revenues to the Privy Purse Office and the remainder to the Ministry of Finance. That is why, when Sultan Resat takes the throne, the Privy Purse is empty, but when the

allowance allocated to the sultan is combined with the revenues of the Imperial Property, a sufficient amount is reached for living in prosperity.

The Imperial Property is under the sultan's command, but the sultan is not its owner. One day, Ahmet Riza requests Halit Ziya to ask the sultan to donate land to a hospital run by nuns. The hospital wants to include the land belonging to the Privy Purse Office. Halit Ziya rejects this, saying that the sultan does not even have a broken chair in the Palace, let alone the Imperial Property. Moreover, he says that if he donates land to someone today, other people from his attendants will make other requests from him. Then Ahmet Riza agrees to him.

Upon this event, a meeting is held to protect the Imperial Property. The Privy Purse Office is authorized to sell goods that are not good income sources with the permission of the sultan and the government and make investments that are thought to bring better income.

The Sultan's Son-in-Laws

The constitutional monarchy gives salaries to princes, and grooms. However, among the grooms, those who find the salary assigned to them insufficient and resent the Palace are in the majority. Halit Ziya only mentions that Ferit Pasha the Groom often visits the sultan. However, he intends to annoy Sultan Resat as a supporter of his brother-in-law, Vahdettin. Yet the sultan's son-in-law is not a title given only to those who are married to the Sultan's daughters. It is a title given to the husbands of all women in the dynasty. During Sultan Resat's time, all marriages are arranged in the Dolmabahce Palace, and the Privy Purse Office covers their costs. The Furnishing Administration furnishes even the mansions reserved for new couples.

Halit Ziya explains that the opposition between the two brothers Abdulaziz and Abdulmecid continues in their children and that Abdulmecid's sons Abdulhamid, Sultan Resat, and Vahdettin do not like Abdulaziz's sons Yusuf Izzettin, Mecit Efendi, and Seyfettin Efendi. However, he adds that the siblings do not like each other either.

Abdulhamid thought of marrying Resat Efendi's son Ziyaettin Efendi and one of his daughters because he considered marriage among family members suitable for politics. As Resat Efendi did not like this, Abdulhamid planned to marry his son Abdurrahim Efendi and his brother, Suleyman Efendi's daughter Princess Naciye. This marriage plan awaits Sultan Resat's decision to realize. However, one day, Halit Ziya finds Sultan Resat angry with a paper in his hand. It is a letter written to Princess Naciye's brother, Abdulhalim Efendi, asking how come he allows his sister to marry the son of a cruel sultan. Sultan Resat orders the letter to be given to the Ministry of War for investigation, and this marriage plan is thus cancelled.

However, one day, Enver Bey, who is not yet a pasha, aspires to marry Princess Naciye. Halit Ziya recounts in sarcastic language that many men would dream of becoming a groom to the Palace and that Enver Bey did not find being a "freedom fighter" enough and dreamed of being "the sultan's son-in-law," too. He also adds that those who know that shyness and timidity are signs of excessive arrogance, greed, and ambition wondered what was hidden under Enver's face, as they see his constantly blushing face in public.

At the time of the wedding, Ismail Bey, someone Suleyman Efendi trusts, brings the list prepared by the bride to Halit Ziya. Halit Ziya looks at the list and sees many excessive requests. Quilts embroidered with pearls, jewelry, silver sets... He informs Ismail Bey that these requests are not realistic and tells what the sultan could do to marry other princesses up to that time. Ismail Bey agrees to him. However, Halit Ziya is sure that Enver Bey, who knows the situation of the Privy Purse Office, did not see this list.

The Heirs Apparent

Halit Ziya says that all employees of the Imperial Chancery knew that the grandchildren of Mahmud II, from his sons, Abdulaziz and Abdulmecid, wake up every morning wondering how many of them died that night. After the death of Sultan Resat's brother Suleyman Efendi, the sultanate is to pass to Yusuf Izzettin, son of Abdulaziz, to Vahdettin, son of Abdulmecid, to Salâhattin, son of Murat IV, and to Mecid Efendi, son of Abdulaziz. As Yusuf Izzettin and Vahdettin are the most suitable candidates in terms of age, they are the two heirs in the spotlight. Halit Ziya perceives a state of wonder in both men about how long Sultan Resat will continue to live, as they find the sultan healthy. But Yusuf Izzettin is

in a state of insanity because his biggest fear is that Vahdettin agrees with his brother Sultan Resat to dismiss him. Every time he visits the Palace, he fishes for information and leaves Sultan Resat depressed. However, Halit Ziya says that the sultan is not in favor of his brother Vahdettin because everybody knows that those in the sultanate's position do not even love their own children.

According to Yusuf Izzettin, the heir apparent is only himself, whereas, for Vahdettin, he is the second heir apparent. Vahdettin claims that Yusuf Izzettin is crazy like his father Abdulaziz; he does not fulfill the rule of authorizing the oldest and most reasonable male member of the dynasty to ascend the throne. Halit Ziya, who finds the opportunity to watch him closely every time he comes to the Palace, says that Yusuf Izzettin even refuses the coffees and sherbets he is offered for fear of being poisoned.

One day, Vahdettin wants to sit in the same landau with Yusuf Izzettin in a procession as the second heir apparent. Halit Ziya hesitantly conveys this request to Yusuf Izzettin, but Yusuf Izzettin states that it is impossible to be in the same car with Vahdettin; he will not join the procession. Thereupon, Halit Ziya proposes to arrange another landau for him, and this conflict is resolved so.

After a while, these two heirs apparent, participate in a trip of Sultan Resat to Edirne and prove that they will never be in harmony. Yusuf Izzettin always delays while Vahdettin is always ready to show the second heir apparent to the world.

Mecid Efendi, the other son of Abdulaziz, is a kind and charming man. He is interested in foreign languages, music, and painting. However, Salâhattin Efendi, the son of the Fifth Murat, is entirely different. Whenever he comes to the Palace, he talks so much that Halit Ziya and Lutfi Bey hardly tolerate these moments. His favorite subject is money; when he leaves the sultan's room, the sultan always says Halit Ziya and Lutfi Bey, "You tell the minister of finance." However, since the minister cannot do anything out of the procedure, Salâhattin Efendi comes again and again. As Halit Ziya and Lutfi Bey hear his name, each time, they prepare themselves to spend time with him as if they were preparing to suffer torture.

The Chief Harem Eunuch

The constitutional monarchy wants to deprive the chief harem eunuch the influence and power he has in the Palace, but it is not that easy. When Sultan Resat ascends the throne, Fahrettin Agha becomes the chief harem eunuch. However, the sultan's promises to Fahrettin Agha during his time in seclusion do not come true. Fahrettin Agha can neither be a vizier nor be such an influential figure in the Palace. Thus, Sultan Resat asks Halit Ziya for an idea to make it up to Fahrettin Agha. Halit Ziya recommends that an edict be written to be read at the end of a procession specially arranged for the new chief harem eunuch. Pleased with the idea, Sultan Resat wonders what Mahmut Sevket Pasha, Talat Bey, and members of parliament think about this. When Halit Ziya says that they will all have fun with this situation, the sultan accepts it, thinking that Fahrettin Agha will be happy with such a ceremony. To thank Halit Ziya, he orders to change the wheels of his car with tires.

Visitors

While the Yildiz Palace was full of crowded visitors during the reign of Abdulhamid, the Dolmabahce Palace is usually empty. None comes and goes to the Palace neither to protect their office nor to obtain an office. Although a period of hesitation has started after the reenactment of the constitution, many people are eager to appear in the newspapers as being accepted by the sultan. However, Halit Ziya adds that no minister comes to the Palace unnecessarily.

A regular of the Palace, since the time of Abdulhamid, is the grand vizier. The grand vizier comes to the Palace for lunch two days a week. Apart from that, Ahmet Riza visits whenever possible. In the beginning, the sultan is pleased by his visits, but later on, Ahmet Riza's straightforward personality disturbs him.

Halit Ziya says that accepting people with their flaws and being tolerant of their faults by considering their merits is a science, and Ahmet Riza is deprived of this science. As a matter of fact, one day, unexpectedly, he tells Halit Ziya that the yellowed fingers do not suit the first secretary because he does not use a mouthpiece while smoking. Halit Ziya agrees with him. But one day, at a feast with foreign guests, he complains to Halit Ziya, who is sitting a few chairs away from him, because lemon is not served next to the fish. Halit Ziya gets angry at him, thinking that if lemon had to be served with the fish, it would be served. But he does not show his feelings.

Those who frequently come to the Palace are from the Chamber of Deputies and Assembly of Notables. There are opposing turbaned men among them. Thus, one day, Ahmet Riza warns Halit Ziya not to be kind to those opponents.

When Sultan Resat ascends the throne, some congratulatory delegations from various provinces visit him, too. These delegations first wait in the big hall to the left of the entrance, where they are served coffee and sherbet; the first chamberlain informs the sultan of their arrival and ensures that they are accepted. When these delegations begin to visit, Sultan Resat asks Halit Ziya how to talk to them. Halit Ziya prepares a few lines of response and states that it is not appropriate for the sultan to ask the delegations for information about their provinces and their needs, as this is the government's job.

Thus, the delegation appears before the sultan; the sultan waits in front of the first chamberlain, first secretary, and the head aid, speaker of the delegation speaks, the sultan responds, and the meeting ends. Halit Ziya adds that Syrians are the most excited of these delegations.

Said Pasha and Kâmil Pasha are among the people Sultan Resat enjoys welcoming and chat with because he wants to know the people who served Abdulhamid and keep good relations with them. He rarely invites the Poet Abdulkhak Hamit, Kose Raif Pasha and Abdurrahman Seref. The sultan appoints Abdurrahman Seref Bey as a chronicler, but Halit Ziya notes that he cannot perform as a chronicler because nothing happens to write. There is another visitor he does not name; a retired ambassador. He is such a talkative person that Halit Ziya and Lutfi Bey listen to him for hours while working. As these long talks disturb Sultan Resat, too, Lutfi Bey warns this talkative visitor to leave whenever the sultan moves in his seat. One day, although a long time passes, the talkative visitor does not get out. To save the sultan, Halit Ziya takes a notecase and goes to the sultan's room. As soon as the sultan sees Halit Ziya, he gets up; the visitor stops his speech and leaves. When he is gone, the sultan takes off his fez and wipes sweat from his head, complaining about the man's talkativeness. Halit Ziya asks him whether he is tired or not, and then he laughs and says that he was about to collapse.

The Committee of Union and Progress

Although constitutionalism, reenacted with the principles of freedom, brotherhood, and equality, impresses people for a short time, then it starts to collapse. Halit Ziya attributes this failure to the lack of a common center of attraction for each ethnic community in the empire. He even says that he feels unwell whenever he goes to the Chamber of Deputies due to disunity between the Unionists.

One day, while he is under the influence of what he saw in the parliament, Doctor Nâzim comes to visit him and asks for information about the routine of the Palace. He asks whether they are afraid of the reactionary sheiks who visit the sultan. Halit Ziya states that it is impossible to prevent them and when they are in the Palace, not the sultan but the third chamberlain or the sultan's in-laws host them. Moreover, if they want to reach the sultan, they can access him through women or his companions. This time, Nâzim Bey asks why the grand vizier often comes to the Palace and what he talks to the sultan. Halit Ziya says that these visits have been customary since the reign of Abdulhamid, and it is impossible to know what they talk about. After citing this speech, he notes that people always see him as the puppet of the Committee of Union and Progress, but it is not correct.

Hüseyin Hilmi Pasha's Resignation

One night, Halit Ziya wakes up with a phone call at home. First, he thinks there is a fire. The voice on the phone says that he is expected from the Palace and that a landau is about to arrive to take him. He goes to the window and looks for a sign of fire but cannot see anything.

When he goes to the Palace, he finds Grand Vizier Huseyin Hilmi Pasha and Sabit Bey in his room. The grand vizier insists that his resignation be notified to the sultan immediately. Halit Ziya is surprised and tries to resist, but Huseyin Hilmi Pasha silences him, stating that it is his final decision. At that moment, Halit Ziya establishes a link between the visit of Doctor Nâzim and this resignation, and he condemns the Committee's intervention in politics.

It takes half an hour to inform Sultan Resat, and then Halit Ziya is taken to his bedroom. The sultan consults him on what to do in such a situation. Halit Ziya says that he will offend the Union and Progress if he does not accept the resignation. But the sultan does not look like he is dealing with something unexpected. He accepts the resignation. When Huseyin Hilmi Pasha hears this, he stands up without saying anything and leaves by greeting Halit Ziya.

After a while, the phone rings again in the middle of a night, and it's Huseyin Hilmi Pasha. He says that he should see him immediately, and if he comes to his house, he will be pleased. Halit Ziya gets ready and goes on foot from Nisantasi to Sisli. After Huseyin Hilmi Pasha welcomes him, he tells how much he loves and appreciates him. While Halit Ziya thinks that all these nice expressions serve as a basis for something, Huseyin Hilmi Pasha says that some names in the Committee of Union and Progress plan to replace him with another person, Hacı Âdil. As Halit Ziya walks to his house, he thinks that Huseyin Hilmi Pasha tries to avenge his resignation. In the morning, he immediately goes to Talat Pasha's house. Talat Pasha listens to him and then says that Huseyin Hilmi Pasha is trying to play him off against the Union and Progress because he did not bring the answer he hoped for the night he resigned. Hearing this, Halit Ziya leaves his house relieved.

Journalists

Halit Ziya states that most of what foreign journalists write about the country is inaccurate and ridiculously oppositional. Thus, Lutfi Bey has invented a procedure to prevent foreign journalists from writing negative things after interviewing a sultan who spent his whole life in seclusion. Foreign journalists is first to obtain approval from their embassies and then apply to the Foreign Affairs to interview. If the Foreign Affairs deems appropriate, they will notify the Palace, and if the sultan accepts, an interview will take place.

When Lutfi Bey is on a trip, Halit Ziya fills in for him. One day, the janitor enters his room and leaves a card on his desk. Immediately after that, a man and a woman come and sit on the chairs opposite to him. When Halit Ziya reads Delarue Mardrus and Lucie Delature Mardrus on the card, he thinks they are Syrian or Palestinian. Despite their unconstrained demeanor, he decides to behave kindly and orders coffee, and then asks why they visit. The woman, by lighting her cigarette, reports that they came to see the sultan. When Halit Ziya asks for the document taken from the Foreign Affairs, she is surprised. Halit Ziya says that they need this permission to see the sultan. She exclaims, "Par exemple!" to mean "This cannot be!" Halit Ziya takes this phrase literally, and after repeating "Par exemple," he explains that they should do something like what they need to do to interview the president of France. The woman interrupts him to say that this is a complicated thing, gets up without waiting for the coffee, and goes out with the man.

The Inheritance

When Resat Efendi's mother died shortly after the birth, Servet Seza, one of Abdulmecid's wives, who had never given birth to a child, adopted Resat Efendi and took care of him as her own child. After her death, her jewelry was inherited by Resat Efendi. Abdulhamid kept the jewelry in the Yildiz Palace without touching it. When he was dethroned, his jewels were taken from the Yildiz Palace and sent to Paris to be sold, and Resat Efendi's jewels are among them. The Palace demands these jewels from the government. As the bag full of jewels is emptied, except the sultan, everyone is dazzled by diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and pearls.

Guests

One day, Minister of Foreign Affairs Rifat Pasha visits Halit Ziya to inform him that the Bulgarian king and his queen and then the Serbian king will come to Istanbul for a few days. Halit Ziya thinks they can host them and their entourage in the Yildiz Palace, but they have no budget. Therefore, they find a way to get the fifty thousand liras allocated to the sultan annually without delay.

They greet King Ferdinand and his queen with a procession in Sirkeci, then the king and the queen make a return visit to the Dolmabahce Palace after settling in the Yildiz Palace. While the king meets the sultan, the queen spends time in the Imperial Harem. Sultan Resat has a concubine besides his three wives. The queen meets only with the sultan's oldest wife. The niece of First Chamberlain Lutfi Bey and the daughter of Halit Ziya attend the meeting as translators.

A parade is prepared for the guests. The Ministry of War takes care of the ceremony, assuming that the king's country may become an enemy one day. Yet after the 31 March Incident, most of the battalions in Istanbul were sent to other places. Therefore, the ceremony is not held as desired. Imperial tents are set up on Hurriyet Hill for the king and his entourage. Two regiments are prepared, one to take the sultan and his entourage from the Dolmabahce Palace and the other to take the king and queen with their entourage from the Yildiz Palace. When Lutfi Bey and Halit Ziya come before everyone else to check the tents, they find a gypsy woman in the tent with a baby in her arms. Halit

Ziya is astonished. He perceives this as a sign of how the ceremony will take place. And nobody stops at the site reserved for him at the ceremony. They stand up wherever they think they can see the ceremony well. During the ceremony, the king says something to the Bulgarian minister of war; Halit Ziya feels that he criticizes the ceremony.

After the ceremony, people walk in masses and block the roads. Because of the Friday Procession, Lutfi Bey and Halit Ziya, covered with dust, arrive at the Tesvikiye Mosque, where the prayer will be performed. When Halit Ziya enters the mosque, he finds one of the aides, Refet Bey covering his face with his hands. He passes him by, thinking that he is crying because everything went horribly wrong.

The first big banquet is given in the Dolmabahce Palace for the king. The carpenters prepare a big table in the hall known as Zulvecheyn. In the evening, everyone welcomes the guests in their official uniforms. Only the speaker of the assembly wears a frock coat. The banquet goes well enough to surprise the king. In return, he invites the sultan to lunch in the Yildiz Palace.

On the second day of the visit, an aide informs Halit Ziya that the king wants to see him. Halit Ziya goes to the Yildiz Palace with curiosity. The king expresses his embarrassment telling that he overturned and broke the breakfast set in the morning. Halit Ziya says that Turks attribute such things to good luck and leaves the hall with a smile. On his way out, he encounters the young man serving breakfast to the king. The young man hugs Halit Ziya and tells him that he made the accident, and the king protects him. Halit Ziya calms him down and then tells the sultan what happened. The sultan just smiles.

On the day the king leaves Istanbul, the sultan asks Halit Ziya to prepare a gift. Halit Ziya presents a carpet woven in the Privy Purse Office's manufacturing facility in Hereke. When the king sees the carpet, he says in surprise that it is not a carpet but a shawl and asks where it was made. Afterward, he says that he will hang it on the wall.

After the Bulgarian king, the Serbian King Pierre Karageorgevitch visits Istanbul, but he is a simpler personality than the Bulgarian king. However, the same ceremonies are held for him as well. This time the parade goes better. However, on the evening of the banquet, the Serbian minister of foreign affairs asks Halit Ziya why the uniforms of the Palace employees wear the same color as the king's clothing, as both the king and the employees are dressed in red and white. Halit Ziya states that those colors were chosen after Sultan Resat's ascension to the throne and that this is just a coincidence. Both Lutfi Bey and Halit Ziya are awarded medals by the Bulgarian and the Serbian kings.

Ferit Pasha the Groom

Damat Ferit Pasha, after marrying Abdulhamid's sister Mediha Sultan, cannot achieve the things he hoped for during the reign of Abdulhamid. Thus, he attempts to approach the Committee of Union and Progress, but the Committee disfavors him. As he fails to reach his expectations, he joins Vahdettin and becomes the head of the Freedom and Accord Party.

One day, ten people under his leadership come to the Dolmabahce Palace to meet the sultan. Lutfi Bey informs them that it was necessary to notify the Imperial Chancery before their visit and allows only Ferit Pasha to see the sultan. Ferit Pasha does not show his anger before other people but threatens Lutfi Bey while going upstairs. When Lutfi Bey tells the situation to the sultan later, the sultan tells Lutfi Bey that he has done the right thing because he does not like Ferit Pasha. However, when Lutfi Bey conveys what happened to Talat Pasha, Talat Pasha becomes upset, saying that he would have understood what they intended to communicate to the sultan.

According to Halit Ziya, Ferit Pasha is a loyal man to his hatred. Years later, when Sultan Resat dies, he meets Lutfi Bey in Berlin in the last days of World War I. Lutfi Bey asks for his opinion on a telegram offering him the position of the first chamberlain in the reign of Vahdettin. Halit Ziya says it is appropriate to accept and go to Istanbul. But when Lutfi Bey goes to Istanbul and becomes the first chamberlain again, Ferit Pasha becomes the grand vizier and fires him.

Dissidents before the Sultan

One day, Talat Pasha calls the Palace to inform that a delegation of deputies from the Freedom and Accord Party will come to the Palace and demands that they be accepted. Lutfi Bey and Halit Ziya attend the meeting, too. There are religious leaders and Greeks in this group of at least twenty people.

Sultan Resat asks, "Do you have something to say?" Ismail Bey from Komotini comes forward and asks the first chamberlain and the first secretary to go out before speaking. Everyone becomes uncomfortable with this attitude. The sultan, first, states that none of his men will go out, then angrily walks up to Ismail and grabs him by his collar. He says "If you want to talk to me alone, let's go inside," pointing to a small room. Sabri Hodja intervenes and apologizes, and then the committee complains about the despotism of the Committee of Union and Progress. The sultan ends the meeting by telling them that they can speak in the parliament as they wish.

One day, the Sublime Porte informs the Palace about a visit; the Greek patriarch demands to see the sultan with his staff and a few Greek deputies. In the meeting, the Greek patriarch states that he is afraid that the patriarchate's privileges will be harmed. The sultan declares that he supports the continuation of the privileges granted by his ancestors. Thus, the guests leave with satisfaction.

Ramadan

In Ramadan, the religious atmosphere is more intense than usual in the Palace. Breakfasts and lunches are avoided, dinners are turned into iftaar, and suhoor is prepared at night. The sultan invites the presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and Assembly of Notables and deputies for iftaar in the first ten days of Ramadan. The table gets richer in those evenings. After the iftaar, accompanied by the grand vizier, guests are served coffee, cigarettes, and gifts are distributed. Before the constitutional monarchy, donations were made to those who came to the Palace for iftaar, yet Sultan Resat considers it appropriate to distribute gifts instead. While the gifts are being distributed, none can hide his joy. After drinking sherbet, all guests leave. Generally, their departure coincides with the night prayer time, and prayer rugs are laid on the floor in the Zülvecheyn Hall. But since nobody has the intention of performing the taraweeh prayer, everybody says goodbye in a hurry.

A procession is also held on the fifteenth day of Ramadan. Before the procession, Yusuf Izzettin comes to the Palace, and Sultan Resat asks Halit Ziya to demand Yusuf Izzettin be together with Vahdettin in the procession. However, Yusuf Izzettin says that he cannot be together with Vahdettin, and they stand separately in the procession.

Lessons in the Presence of Sultan

Lessons in the presence of sultan are the essential activity of the Palace during Ramadan. The chief religious official sends a group of lecturers and respondents, who change every day, to the Palace. Lecturers wear black robes while respondents are in blue robes. Before coming to the Palace, they gather at the Dolmabahçe Mosque and rehearse the day's lesson. While a lecturer interprets the verse, the respondent next to him asks a question; when the lecturer gives a decisive answer, the second respondent asks another question. When this is answered, there is usually no time for the third respondent to ask any questions. And other respondents wait quietly until the end of the lesson. The rehearsal consists of these questions and answers. After the afternoon prayer is performed, they slowly walk to the Palace and sit in the Zülvecheyn Hall upon the sultan's order. While the sultan sits on a sofa, people from the dynasty and the employees of the Imperial Chancery sit with legs bent under them on the floor. Thus, they have difficulty walking when the lesson is finished.

Since the meaning of only two or three verses is explained in each lesson, only one-tenth of the Quran has been interpreted for centuries. Halit Ziya, knowing that in those years, pastors in Protestant countries such as Switzerland, England, and Germany give innovative sermons with moral implications inspired by the Torah and the Bible and expects such sermons from the preachers of Islam in front of the sultan and the caliph. However, he is disappointed. The preachers are not inspired by the Quran. Instead, they make speeches based on the hadith book, *Sahih al-Bukhari*. They even tell many irrational stories.

Usually, when Halit Ziya comes across such lecturers, who even deny the spherical shape of the world, he escapes from them in mosques. Still, it is not possible to escape here, and he has to listen with patience. One day, his beloved deputy Hodja Asim Efendi comes as the lecturer, the beginning of the speech goes well, but as he keeps talking, Halit Ziya is astonished by his ignorance. One day, Faik Efendi, who has a lovely appearance, is the lecturer, but suddenly, he begins to condemn painting. Halit Ziya finds it inappropriate because schools provide art classes in the country, there are paintings in many parts of the Palace, and moreover, Sultan Resat has his portrait. But these lessons continue like this throughout the entire Ramadan.

Eid Celebration in the Palace

When it comes to feast time, the Ceremonial Hall is prepared for celebration. The custom is that when the sultan returns from the eid procession and prayer, he rests and then walks toward the gilded throne, put in the hall for the ceremony. Meanwhile, persons charged with applause applaud, and the Resadiye Anthem, which Halit Ziya finds ridiculous, composed by Italo Selvelli, is played. When the sultan installs on the throne, everyone passes in front of him one by one and kisses the throne sash held by the first chamberlain, standing on the right side. When officials are lined up in circles, various spiritual leaders, especially the Greek patriarch, come to the middle of the hall, the patriarch reads his speech, the translation is repeated by the patriarch's interpreter, and the ceremony ends.

Halit Ziya says that when he sees this ceremony for the first time, his curiosity prevents him from noticing ridiculous things. Although he gets used to all of them in time, he continues to find something strange. Before the feast, many people from the Chamber of Deputies and Assembly of Notables demand that kissing the throne sash is against human dignity and should be abandoned. However, Sultan Resat, who is compromising in many matters, insists on this custom. Thus, a division occurs between those who kiss the throne sash during the ceremony and those who do not. Halit Ziya criticizes the sultan, who does not give up on this custom, both for causing this division and tiring the first chamberlain out.

A Trip to Rumelia

There is a frequently repeated expression after the reinstallation of constitutional monarchy; unity of the ethnic elements. The government investigates what it takes to achieve this unity but always resorts to temporary solutions and demonstrations. The biggest of these demonstrations is a trip to Rumelia. The government decides to organize a trip to soften the atmosphere in Rumelia, especially Albania that is ready to explode. The main purpose is to gather Albanians in Kosovo behind the caliph in a Friday prayer. When the sultan is informed about the decision, he happily accepts it.

First, it is decided who will participate in the trip. Then, the places where the sultan and his entourage will stay during the trip are determined and furnished by the Furnishing Administration. The director of the Palace kitchen undertakes the preparation of meals at each destination. Landaus are sent by train for the processions to be held. When the gifts to be given to the officers on the route are chosen, preparations are finished.

During this period of preparation in the Palace, the European press is interested in this trip. The ambassadors of France, Italy, and Austria visit the Palace to get information. Halit Ziya remains more of a listener because Lutfi Bey has experience in foreign affairs.

When the day of departure arrives, all envoys see them off, and Halit Ziya begins his journey in the sultan's battleship. But this journey is not very comfortable because the room given to him is just a hole. The most comfortable passengers are those on the ship named *Gulcemal*. Still, Halit Ziya enjoys being on a battleship for the first time.

Ignorance of Princes

While sailing toward Thessaloniki, one of the young princes asks Halit Ziya whether they will have entered the Marmara after exiting the Dardanelles Strait. Halit Ziya, trying not to laugh, explains that they will pass the Dardanelles Strait and enter the Marmara, returning from Thessaloniki. A few princes have improved themselves, but most of them are even behind elementary school children. Halit Ziya finds fault with the lifestyle in the Palace. For, beyond the Palace, there is nothing for the princes. Similarly, during another trip, an older prince asks him if the Maritsa River mixes with the Euphrates, and Halit Ziya laughs, thinking the prince is joking.

Meeting Abdulhamid

When they arrive in Thessaloniki, Sultan Resat asks Halit Ziya to visit his brother, Abdulhamid, to tell him that this trip is not designed against him and get his approval. Halit Ziya finds himself on the way to Villa Allatini with Hâdi Pasha. He thinks about what to say and how to say along the way. Since he freezes at some point in memorized speeches, he gives up preparing a speech manuscript in his mind. But then, he is confused about how to address Abdulhamid. Just when he is going to ask Hâdi Pasha how he will address Abdulhamid, he decides to call him "your imperial personality."

Halit Ziya states that he is used to being in the presence of a sultan; that is why meeting a deposed sultan should not excite him. But he cannot restrain his excitement because of the very reason that he tries to figure out how to address the deposed sultan, who intimidated him throughout his childhood and teenage years.

When they enter the mansion, they find Abdulhamid at the top of the stairs waiting for them. They follow him into the room. Halit Ziya sits to his right and says that his brother, Sultan Resat, is waiting for his approval. While talking, he examines his face. He finds Abdulhamid brighter than he thought. His eyes are also blue-green. But his hair and beard are so clumsily dyed that his jacket's collar is full of dye stains. After listening to Halit Ziya, he expresses his good wishes for his brother Sultan Resat.

Meanwhile, Halit Ziya senses that a woman is waiting behind the door and listening to them. He asks if he has a request from the sultan. Abdulhamid says that his son, Âbit Efendi needs to attend a school in Thessaloniki, and he is his only son with no property. Thus, he asks whether the Maslak Mansion can be granted to him. Halit Ziya states that this is possible, overriding his authority. Abdulhamid, increasing his voice, replies, "You will submit it." Then he says that while leaving the Yildiz Palace, his first wife forgot her bag and demand that it be found. Halit Ziya believes that the woman behind the door has something to do with this bag. When the conversation is over, Abdulhamid accompanies them to where he meets them and attempts to shake Halit Ziya's hands. But Halit Ziya bends down and kisses Abdulhamid's hand to compensate for the mistake he just made.

Upon this meeting, Halit Ziya states that he is happy because he is not a historian and judge because even though the public lives of the oppressors cause hatred there can always be mitigating factors in their private lives. For him, it is therefore impossible to distinguish the responsibility of the oppressors and other people in what has happened. That is valid for Abdulhamid, too. Halit Ziya internally accuses but cannot acquit him. He says that he cannot be the one to judge him.

Two Mistakes

Throughout the trip, hundreds of people are hosted in the best possible way. Tables are set up as in the Palace that even ice cream and nuts are not missing. Wherever they go, Lutfi Bey and Halit Ziya find everything ready, including the water and lemonade beside their beds. Processions are held in Thessaloniki, Skopje, Pristina, and Bitola, as the eid processions in Istanbul. Banquets are given to delegations from Bulgaria and Serbia as if they were in Istanbul.

Different delegations visit the high school allocated to the sultan's residence in Skopje, and processions are held in front of the building. Children of different ethnicities parade arm in arm. A group of them is brought to the presence of the sultan. The sultan loves them, saying, "Always act like this, as brothers, and I am your father." He leaves a substantial amount of money to be distributed to the poor.

However, afterward, two serious mistakes are made. The most important ceremony of the trip is to be held where Murat I was martyred in Kosovo. Considering that many people died by being crushed during the coronation ceremony of the Tsar of Russia, the Internal Affairs issues an order to prevent such a stampede in the Friday procession in Kosovo.

For this reason, the people trying to make their way to the Tomb of Sultan Murat are prevented. Thus, Friday procession and prayer take place with the participation of a smaller number of people. The grand vizier makes a speech to the immediate crowd; however, when a member of the Assembly of Notables, Ismail Hakki Bey from Bitola, who was brought for this speech's translation, says that he does not speak Albanian, the grand vizier's speech is deemed unspoken.

Hakki Pasha

One day, Grand Vizier Hakki Pasha comes to Halit Ziya's room and asks whether he wants to be the minister of education. If he accepts, he will both become the minister and continue to work as the first secretary. Halit Ziya says that the person who undertakes this job will either leave everything as it is and continue with the existing order or detect many errors and make corrections. Thus, if he accepts this offer, it is not possible to continue as the first secretary. Moreover, he tells that he considers resignation rudeness to the sultan. So, he does not accept the offer indirectly. This time, Hakki Pasha asks him to suggest a name. Halit Ziya recommends Abdurrahman Seref Bey. After getting the

approval of the grand vizier, he invites Abdurrahman Seref Bey to the Palace and makes an offer on behalf of the grand vizier. Abdurrahman Seref accepts the offer.

Since Hakki Pasha becomes the grand vizier after serving in the embassy in Rome, he has a sincere relationship with the Italian ambassador. One day, the Italian ambassador calls Halit Ziya to invite him to dinner, explaining that Hakki Pasha will come too, and they plan to play bridge after dinner. Halit Ziya does not think about the reason for this invitation. Yet, in the political climate that emerges after a while, he starts to look for other intentions behind it.

Twenty-Four Hours

One day, an aide from the Sublime Porte comes to the Palace to ask Halit Ziya to prevent the sultan from returning to the harem until Grand Vizier Hakki Pasha arrives. Halit Ziya does what is asked; after a while, the grand vizier comes to the Palace with a few deputies. He tells Halit Ziya that Italy issued a twenty-four-hour ultimatum to annex Tripoli and demands Abdulhamid's experienced Grand Vizier Said Pasha be invited to the Palace by the sultan. After Halit Ziya appears before the sultan and informs him about the situation, the sultan invites Said Pasha.

While waiting for him, the sultan's men and Grand Vizier Hakki Pasha frequently checks whether Said Pasha came or not. After a long wait, old Said Pasha slowly enters the Palace, leaning on his walking stick. When two grand viziers sit face to face, Halit Ziya attempts to leave the room, but they both stop him. First, Hakki Pasha informs Said Pasha about the ultimatum and then asks his advice. Halit Ziya reports that Said Pasha withdraws himself despite Hakki Pasha's pleading state and reminds him that he is not the grand vizier on duty. After a while, Hakki Pasha leaves the room in an offended manner. As he leaves, he draws Halit Ziya to his side to put Said Pasha in touch with the sultan, thinking that at least he might give a piece of advice to the sultan. Sultan Resat is already waiting to see him. While they are in a meeting, Hakki Pasha discusses the situation with his friends and finally resigns. When Said Pasha leaves the Palace, Halit Ziya informs the sultan of the decision. Upon that, Sultan Resat orders him to go to Said Pasha's mansion in the morning and offer him the position of the grand vizier.

In the morning, Halit Ziya goes to Said Pasha's mansion; Said Pasha meets him in his nightgown in order not to keep him waiting and apologizes for this. Halit Ziya transmits the sultan's offer but cannot figure out what Said Pasha thinks. When he returns to the Palace and tells the sultan that it would be more appropriate to make the offer himself, the sultan invites Said Pasha, makes the offer himself, and Said Pasha accepts it. The Council of Ministers is rebuilt. However, neither the measure to be taken against Italy is decided nor Tripoli is retained.

For National Honor

Nothing changes when Said Pasha becomes the grand vizier. Going to war means leaving all beaches open to bombardment. The battlefield should be narrowed down, but there are no soldiers in the area either. Italy, on the other hand, has mobilized many ships for Tripoli. Since it is impossible to resist this, only one thing remains; at least to save the national honor. Violent articles against Italy appear in newspapers, rallies are held, and a short-term boycott is organized.

In the end, because the Italians' settlement in Tripoli disturbs the French in Tunisia, the British in Egypt, the Committee of Union and Progress, believing that the French and British soldiers would back them up, agreed with the natives of Tripoli to carry out gang activity for a fee. Enver Bey, Mustafa Kemal, and Osman Fuat Efendi, grandson of Murat IV, lead these gangs. Halit Ziya says that Enver Bey is not reliable because of his crazy personality. Nevertheless, Mustafa Kemal, who stands out with his success in organizing people in those days, makes a significant contribution. But eventually, an agreement is signed in Ouchy, as it is necessary to come to terms with the Italians.

Appointment to the Assembly of Notables

Halit Ziya explains that Sultan Resat does not want anyone to suffer from financial difficulties, so he often asks Halit Ziya how he will make ends meet when he retires. Because Halit Ziya spent most of his life working in foreign institutions, he will not receive a salary as high as the first chamberlain when he retires. Meanwhile, he suffers from liver disease caused by both stress and fatty meals of the Palace. He consults with Doctor Cemil Pasha, who examines the sultan because of the trouble in his bladder, on his health, and Cemil Pasha says that he should undergo surgery, but Halit Ziya disagrees because he believes that doctors are always fond of surgery. He starts to diet. One evening, after a

light dinner, he lies down in his bedroom in the Palace. In his sleep, the door is knocked. It is Second Chamberlain Tevfik Bey. He asks about his illness and then congratulates him, informing him that the sultan appointed him to the Assembly of Notables. Upon the death of Sami Pasha, Sultan Resat stated to Tevfik Bey that he considered appointing Halit Ziya to the Assembly to take the place of Sami Pasha. When Tevfik Bey found it appropriate, the sultan invited Grand Vizier Said Pasha for approval. As Said Pasha reminded the sultan that he was both the first secretary and a member of the Assembly of Notables during the reign of Abdulhamid, it was deemed appropriate for Halit Ziya to work as the first secretary, too.

Halit Ziya is not happy when he gets the news but appears before the sultan to thank him. Everyone at the Palace also congratulates him with joy. Later that evening, a close friend of him calls him to ask whether the news he heard is accurate. Halit Ziya, surprised by the rapid spread of the news, tells his friend that what he heard is true. But in his friend's voice, he captures a meaning implying that he did for himself what he did not do for his friend. The next day, he sees an article in the newspaper regarding the issue. Its author, Lutfi Fikri, is a close friend of the person who called the day before and is a person who has always been a dissident. He strongly criticizes the Committee of Union and Progress' placing its own man in the Assembly of Notables at the first opportunity, without mentioning Halit Ziya's name in his article. In the following days, other articles with the same criticisms appear. However, there is no defense from the Committee of Union and Progress against them. As Ahmet Riza and Talât Pasha and other people constantly call him for information, he realizes that this appointment occurred without the knowledge of the Committee of Union and Progress.

On the day he goes to the Assembly of Notables to take an oath, a paper is put in his hand. He reads the sentences in a low voice and sits down. However, after he sits down, Ferit Pasha makes a speech stating that Halit Ziya cannot legally be a member of the Assembly and the first secretary at the same time. That is his first and last day in the Assembly.

After that day, many people begin to argue whether one person can perform two tasks. Sultan Resat is embarrassed by the controversy caused by the precaution he took to comfort his first secretary during his retirement days. However, as the discussions increase, Halit Ziya's disease worsens. He thinks that he has to choose one over another, but he cannot decide until Ahmet Riza invites him to his home.

When Halit Ziya goes to Ahmet Riza's house, he finds a few people with Talât Bey. After Talât Bey says that he did not know that he was appointed to the Assembly, Halit Ziya mentions the crisis he has been through. Finally, Talât Bey asks Halit Ziya to pledge not to take any steps until he hears from the Committee. A few days later, Ahmet Riza declares that they have decided to ask him to resign from the position of the first secretary. Halit Ziya wants to remind the Committee members, who exclaim, "Old story!" whenever Said Pasha says that he was both the first secretary and a member of the Assembly of Notables, of that in the first months of Sultan Resat, Nuri Bey was both a member of the Assembly of Notables and the Minister of the Privy Purse, but he keeps his silence. He talks to his wife and resigns from the Assembly.

A Summer in the Yildiz Palace

One night, Halit Ziya has a crisis due to his liver disease, and his doctor recommends a long rest. At the end of this rest, he receives some news. The first one is that the Tsar Nicholas II of Russia intends to come to Istanbul, and the second is that Sultan Resat wants to spend the summer in the Yildiz Palace.

The Yildiz Palace cheers everyone up after the Dolmabahce Palace, which does not retain heat in winter and does not allow escaping from the sunshine in the summer. First, Omer Hilmi Efendi, son of Sultan Resat, gives a banquet. That night, people have so much fun that Halit Ziya stands up to give a speech. Later, another son of the sultan, Ziyaettin Efendi, throws a second banquet to celebrate his daughter's beginning to wear a charshaf. When Halit Ziya is asked for a speech at the end of the night, he does not know what to say; he becomes drenched in sweat and hems and haws around. With the sultan's permission, a party is organized with the Palace's musical group one night. The princes, inspired by this night, want to throw a party with alcohol. Yet, since it is not possible to do this in the Palace, it is done in the mansion in Kagithane allocated to Chief Physician Hayri Bey.

A Threat Letter and a Resignation

While all the Palace inhabitants live in a state that suppresses every anxiety, a letter is handed over to Halit Ziya one evening. The letter sent by the armed organization, Savior Officers, supporting Freedom and Accord Party, is a threat letter and demands Halit Ziya's resignation. Halit Ziya spends a couple of nights a week in the Palace, but, after a while, he restarts to go home despite everything. Years later, while working at the Regié, a former student he has always supported makes a job application, and as soon as he sees him, he remembers to whom the handwriting belongs in the letter.

Meanwhile, the Savior Officers support the uprising started in Albania. Some names in the Committee of Union and Progress argue that the government should withdraw to prevent further chaos. One night, Talât Bey and a few people come to Halit Ziya's mansion in Nisantasi. Talât Bey tells him that they demand the grand vizier to resign the next day, and it is appropriate for the sultan to replace him with anyone other than Kâmil Pasha. For the Committee of Union and Progress cannot get along with Kâmil Pasha.

When Halit Ziya goes to the Palace in the morning, he shares what he talked to Talât Bey with Lutfi Bey and Tefvik Bey. Lutfi Bey suggests that if some of the soldiers support the uprising as Savior Officers, Ahmet Muhtar Pasha, a man, who is respected by the soldiers and can establish good relations with both sides, should be the grand vizier. When the sultan goes to his private room in the Imperial Chancery, Halit Ziya, Lutfi Bey, and Tefvik Bey sit across. Then the sultan asks who should be the grand vizier. When Lutfi Bey names Ahmet Muhtar Pasha, he accepts this name without hesitation, and Ahmet Muhtar Pasha is invited to the Palace.

The New Grand Vizier

Ahmet Muhtar Pasha comes to the Dolmabahçe Palace and receives the news as if he was in a dream. The next day, the new grand vizier's Council of Ministers convenes at the Cit Pavilion in the Yıldız Palace. When Halit Ziya goes there for a declaration of will, as soon as new Minister of War Nâzim Pasha sees him, he yells at him because he is angry at being called by a telegram instead of an invitation. Halit Ziya says that he does not know how the Palace invited them; Ahmet Muhtar Pasha silences Nâzim Pasha with his hand, saying, "Pasha, leave this now. You already know, they are ...". Halit Ziya realizes that as the new grand vizier says, "You already know," he means that the current employees of the Imperial Chancery will be gone soon. He tells Lutfi Bey what happened. Lutfi Bey calms him down, saying that they are considered men of the Committee of Union and Progress and should resign or be fired when the time comes.

Leaving the Palace

Every year, as caliphs, Ottoman sultans send money, gold, and silver to be distributed to the people of Mecca and Medina before the season of pilgrimage. The Surre Regiment with valuable items loaded on a decorated camel is sent off from the Dolmabahçe Palace to Uskudar.

Halit Ziya states that he does not know how the convoy continues beyond Uskudar but says that most of those sent are distributed to the tribal chiefs to ensure the road safety of the pilgrims. After this ceremony, everyone retreats to their rooms, but Halit Ziya learns that the Council of Ministers is having a meeting. When Hakki Pasha, who came to the ceremony, walks into his room to talk to him, Sabit Bey informs him that the Council has demanded his and Lutfi Bey's resignation, but Sultan Resat opposes it. Upon this news, Hakki Pasha leaves the room without saying anything, and Halit Ziya speaks to Lutfi Bey. They make a decision together and share it with Sabit Bey. Sabit Bey says that he secretly listened to what Huseyin Hilmi Pasha, who appeared before the sultan for the third time on the issue, spoke to the sultan. The pasha told the sultan that the Savior Officers, waiting in front of the Palace, said that if the sultan opposes them, they will lynch Lutfi Bey and Halit Ziya. Halit Ziya and Lutfi Bey thank Sabit Bey for being a good colleague. Then, Halit Ziya goes to his room and starts to pack.

Meanwhile, Nâzim Pasha walks in and sits where Hakki Pasha sat before, but does not say anything. At that moment, Sabit Bey comes in to inform that the sultan will make his decision the following day and that they should go home for now. Nâzim Pasha leaves the room, greeting Halit Ziya. Halit Ziya and Lutfi Bey go to their homes.

The following day, they get on the landaus that come in front of their house and go to the Yıldız Palace and wait in Tefvik Bey's room. After a long time, Hacı Feyzi Efendi, Director of the Privy Purse Office, comes to the room with a cashier holding a silver tray. There are two pouches on the tray. Feyzi Bey

gives the pouches to them. When Halit Ziya places the pouch in his left pocket, it feels so heavy that the left side of his cloth hangs down. Afterward, Sabit Bey informs that the sultan wants to see them but does not want to talk. Halit Ziya and Lutfi Bey appear before the sultan, Sultan Resat meets them in his formal attire. However, neither he nor Halit Ziya and Lutfi Bey say anything. Walking backwards as they leave the room without speaking anything, Lutfi Bey bursts into tears. Halit Ziya cannot keep himself from crying, too.

In a month, Halit Ziya settles in his house in Yesilkoy, and one day, Sabit Bey and the senior companion of the sultan, Enver Agha, visit him. When Enver Agha walks away from them to see the garden, Sabit Bey says that the sultan has given him a pension from his budget and leaves a bag full of gold. These bags full of gold come every month until Sultan Resat's death.

[From this point on, Halit Ziya mentions some of his memories about Sultan Resat]

Sultan Resat and Foreign Visitors

Halit Ziya says that Resat Efendi should be evaluated with his virtues. He lists his good qualities that correct many of the rumors he heard about him during the reign of Abdulhamid. Sultan Resat is not a young and vigorous sultan, but he is a kind person who knows how to listen, does not talk about what he does not know, speaks well, and values formality. That's why those who meet with him usually leave him satisfied. However, he uses sarcastic language when he mentions his brother Abdulhamid's childhood.

He does not know any Western languages but speaks a little Persian and some Arabic. Although he wanted to learn French, he was unable to do so. When he asks Halit Ziya about Yusuf Izzettin's ability to speak French, Halit Ziya feels that the sultan regrets not speaking French.

When foreign visitors come, the whole Palace is alarmed. One of these foreign visitors is William Stad, the Istanbul correspondent of the Daily Mail newspaper. This reporter does not forget his fondness for Turkish people when he starts to work in Berlin. Halit Ziya notes that this reporter is among those who died on the Titanic. Among the foreigners who come to the Palace are the British Minister of Internal Affairs, Churchill and his wife, and Marshal Nogi, the triumphant Japanese commander in the Japanese-Russian war. Since the marshal comes with a sailor who speaks German, Lutfi Bey, the translator in French negotiations with foreigners, translates German, too.

In 1911, Napoleon's nephew, Napoleon III's wife Eugénie, comes to Istanbul. Sultan Resat, who saw this woman when she came to Istanbul for the first time during the reign of Abdulaziz as a child, makes the staff welcome her at the dock and hosts her with Abdulaziz's son Yusuf Izzettin.

Another foreign visitor who comes to the Palace is Pierre Loti. Halit Ziya is afraid to see him because of what he has heard about him, but this is inevitable when Loti comes to the Palace. As Halit Ziya sees him wear makeup and high-heeled shoes, he does not meet him in person not to lose the pleasure that his works give him.

One of the noteworthy visitors is Bubiya Bikûm, ruler of Bhopal, India. Halit Ziya says that none can see her face because she is a Muslim who fulfills all the requirements of Islam, but he hears that she opened her veil when she appeared before the sultan.

Candelabras in the Harem

One day, the sultan calls Halit Ziya to the harem and shows the candelabras from Paris, saying, "What a painful sight!" and asks them to be removed. There are depictions of hunting dogs attacking deer on the bases. Halit Ziya, fond of the candelabras, proposes to put them on new bases without depictions. Sultan Resat accepts this, and this is how the candelabra work is done.

Paris

While Halit Ziya spends time in his house in Yesilkoy taking care of the roses in his garden, the Balkan War breaks out; the Savior Officers and their Minister of War Nâzim Pasha cannot manage the situation, and the invading armies advance to Catalca. Upon this, Nâzim Pasha is killed during the Raid on the Sublime Porte carried out by the Unionists on January 23, 1913. The Council of Ministers

of Kâmil Pasha, who followed Ahmet Muhtar Pasha, withdraws from the government. But Istanbul is saved. Since Thessaloniki's future is uncertain, Abdulhamid is brought to Istanbul.

One day, a person from the headquarters of the Committee of Union and Progress comes to Halit Ziya's house and asks him to go to Paris and hold various meetings to change the thoughts against the country. Minister of Finance Mehmet Cavit plans to go to Paris to sign an important loan agreement. What is expected from Halit Ziya is to create a suitable ground for this. He corresponds with Pierre Loti, who is not in Paris at the time, and talks with the names he refers. During the meetings, Resit Saffet accompanies Halit Ziya.

When he loses himself and says, "Don't we have a right to live?" to Speaker of the Parliament Paul Deschanel, Deschanel's eyes are filled with tears. In another meeting, Henri Lavedan tells him: "We want to know, learn and love you. We know that you have embraced French customs, but that's just that. You are not doing anything to let us know more about you. Your opponents are not like that ..." Halit Ziya justifies this interpretation and remains silent.

He writes an open letter to Pierre Loti and wants to have it published in a newspaper. However, Tardieu, the editor of *Le Temps*, denies this. Gauvain, the editor of *Journal des débats*, does not hesitate to show his Turkish hostility. When they visit him in his room, Resit Saffet gets into an argument with this man, but Halit Ziya quickly leaves, thinking that it is impossible to change a thought formed over the years. The open letter is finally accepted and published by *Gil Blas*.

Halit Ziya has another task in Paris; meeting with students who have been sent to Paris to study. He says that he told them whatever is necessary to tell young people who serve their country in ten minutes. But he regrets allocating such a limited time to meet them. A few days later, one of these students writes a letter on behalf of all students to share their concerns about the country's future. When Halit Ziya returns, he writes an article based on this letter.

Other students with whom he meets are under the responsibility of one of the well-known names of Paris, Dr. Blondel. Thanks to him, Halit Ziya meets each of these students one by one but gets very upset when he realizes that most of them spend the means provided by the government for nightlife.

Halit Ziya says that he had many meetings in Paris and was kindly hosted by many names but served nothing. He thinks the reason is being Muslim and states that the Westerners hesitate to communicate when they learn that a person is from Islamic geography.

Various Duties

Between 1912 and 1914, Halit Ziya returns to his teaching job at university that he quit when he started to work as the first secretary. During these two years, various duties are assigned to him by the Committee of Union and Progress. First, Mahmut Sevket Pasha, who is both the grand vizier and the minister of war, offers the governorship of Baghdad. However, Halit Ziya does not accept.

The second assignment comes from Talât Pasha. He asks him to go to Tsarist Russia and change the mind of Tsar Nicholas II, who is an enemy of the Turks. Halit Ziya is afraid of this offer. While planning to refuse, Grand Vizier Sait Halim Pasha finds it unnecessary, and Halit Ziya is relieved in this way.

The third assignment comes from Talât Pasha again. This time, to reach an agreement with Greece, he is asked to request mediation from Romania. Halit Ziya accepts this and goes to Bucharest. Since it would not be appropriate to demand mediation openly, he examines the atmosphere. He and Ambassador Safa Bey decide that only one person can do this: Take Ionescu, a loved and respected politician in his own country and Greece. Thus, they reach an agreement.

The Committee of Union and Progress plans to establish two publishing houses in the European continent and thinks that Halit Ziya is to take over one. However, all plans are canceled when the year 1914 comes.

Travel and World War

When Rifat Pasha, the ambassador of Paris, requests a leave of absence for a while, the embassy is offered to Halit Ziya by proxy. However, when the news spread everywhere that Halit Ziya is appointed as the Paris embassy, Rifat Pasha has to keep his leave period short and return; Halit Ziya cannot

accept the offer because of his liver disease. Upon this, Sultan Resat sends Chief Physician Hayri Bey to his house. When Hayri Bey tells Halit Ziya that it would be good for him to go on a trip, Halit Ziya leaves the city on a ship.

After three weeks, he receives the news that a Serbian nationalist killed the Austrian prince Franz Ferdinand and his wife in Bosnia. Thinking that this assassination won't cause anything more significant, he continues his trip and goes to France. But when seeing its effect, he realizes that a war is about to break out and decides to return to Istanbul.

He walks alone in a crowd in Paris. For a while, he pushes his way through the crowd, but in front of the *Le Matin* newspaper, he cannot move anymore. Trying to understand what happened, he learns that Minister of Finance Joseph Caillaux's wife, Henriette Caillaux, is acquitted of killing *Le Figaro* newspaper editor Gaston Calmette. He somehow gets free of the crowd and decides that Paris is a bomb ready to explode at any moment. Approvingly, the next day, socialist politician Jean Jaurès is killed in a cafe in Paris.

As he tries to understand what is happening in the world, Germany declares war, France also prepares to avenge the war of 1870. Daily life is disrupted in Paris. He has to go to the police station as all foreigners have to obtain a residence permit, but there is a queue for a thousand people. Rather than queuing up, he goes up, introduces himself and then asks for his permit. His titles and medals show their effect, and "Excellence" is written on his passport.

When Ambassador Rifat Pasha returns to Paris, they meet and argue anxiously on whose side the empire will be. Rifat Pasha asks Halit Ziya to take sixteen officers living in various regions with him when returning to Istanbul. If the government in Istanbul enters the war with the Germans, they will be prisoners of war. Halit Ziya and these officers go to Marseille with the permission of the Ministry of War.

They settle in a hotel in Marseille. However, they attract everyone's attention, walking around the city. At a point, a French man approaches blonde and blue-eyed Sami Bey and asks something to see if he is a German, and when Sami Bey replies in Turkish, both sides are relieved. However, Halit Ziya continues to be afraid that the empire will go to war on the side of the Germans before they return to Istanbul.

Since all ships carry troops from the colonies, they have only one chance to return. It is a ship chartered by the Italian Consulate to take the Italian workers back, and it will leave the next day. However, to leave the city, they must obtain the permission of the governor. They immediately go to the provincial mansion, but when the person in charge of the delegation finds out that they are Turkish, he asks how many wives the Turks have and starts to make fun of them. Halit Ziya, thinking that they cannot deal with this delegation, directly goes to the governor's office. Yet the governor tells that he cannot allow the officers who are likely to enter the war on the side of Germany to leave. Then, Halit Ziya replies that the Ottomans have not yet chosen a side and that perhaps they will enter the war on the side of France. The governor concludes the meeting, stating that he will convey his decision to them the following day.

In the morning, an officer tells them to run to the ship immediately, adding that the Marseille government has never seen them. When Halit Ziya asks whether the soldiers will prevent them from leaving, he relieves him by stating that no one in charge will interfere.

The cramped ship carries them to Genoa. Halit Ziya explores the city since he sees it for the first time in his life. After currency conversion, he gets on the train with the officers in the evening. However, when the train stops at an unexpected point because of the war, he decides to continue their way back from Brindisi by ship. But after a little, the British navy stops the ship to search. Considering the swords in the officers' bags, Halit Ziya asks for help from the officers on the ship, and someone collects these bags and hides them. When they finally arrive in Istanbul, Halit Ziya goes straight to his house in Yesilkoy. He finds their young servant roasting coffee on the barbecue in front of the house and asks him to prepare a cup of Turkish coffee for him.

Madness in the Black Sea

German ships Goeben and Breslau seek refuge in the Dardanelles to escape from French and British ships, and the government, to maintain its neutrality, asserts that it has bought these two ships.

However, Minister of the Naval Service Cemal Pasha signs a secret agreement with the Germans. Under the leadership of German Admiral Souchon, two German ships with Turkish flags attack Russian ships in the Black Sea. Thus, the government joins the Central Powers. Although it is said that the German admiral did this alone, many people hold Enver Bey responsible. Halit Ziya directly goes to Talat Bey's office when the news about the ship comes out and asks him how they decided to enter the war. But Talat Bey replies, "Go and ask Enver."

Visiting Sultan Resat

In the first year of the war, Yusuf Izzettin commits suicide by cutting his wrists. Abdulhamid also passes away. Thus, Sultan Resat sees the death of both his predecessor and successor. However, he has to undergo surgery due to stones in his bladder. After this operation, Halit Ziya goes to the Palace and visits Tevfik Bey. Sabit Bey informs him that the sultan, who heard that he is in the Palace, wants to see him. Halit Ziya goes to the room where he rests. Sabit Bey speaks to prevent the sultan from getting tired. The sultan smiles in pride because he dared to undergo surgery while listening to Sabit Bey. Sabit Bey shows Halit Ziya the stones removed from the sultan's bladder. And Sultan Resat dies two years after this surgery.

A Trip to Germany

At the government's request, Halit Ziya goes to Berlin with his wife and children for eight months. When the children's vacation is over, they return, but Halit Ziya continues his examination in fifty-two cities. After months, he starts to miss his country, and in the middle of a conversation with MP Bedros Halacyan, who is one of the government officials he runs into in Berlin, he suddenly asks, "Shall we go?" Halacyan responds positively, and they set off together. They both have two large chests besides their bags, but they cannot find them when they arrive in Orsova. When the station manager informs that it is necessary to wait a few days, they do not get on the ferry to Bulgaria and decide to stay there until the chests are found. They settle in a ruined hotel by the war but do not want to stay there. They are hosted on a ferry waiting at the dock the next day. After three days, their chests are found, and interestingly, the station manager does not appear. The next day, they find themselves walking through mud in a Bulgarian town. From there, they go to Ruse by train and from Ruse to Sofia. After staying one night in Sofia, they arrive in Sirkeci railway station in Istanbul.

Themes

Intra-bureaucratic Conflict One of the fundamental dynamics of the constitutional regime is the conflict between bureaucrats. Halit Ziya states that he and Lutfi Simavi are thought to be the puppets of the Unionists at the Dolmabahce Palace. We see the most obvious evidence of this conflict in the conversation between Ahmet Muhtar Pasha, the grand vizier of the Freedom and Accord Party government, and the Minister of War, Nâzim Pasha. The new grand vizier implies, without hesitation, that Halit Ziya and Lutfi Bey will have a short time in the Palace. However, this conflict is considered normal by everyone that one of Halit Ziya's friends says that he was appointed to that post upon the revolution. Therefore his dismissal is an expected result.

Survival of the State Although the Committee of Union and Progress members appoint pro-Western people to certain positions, they cannot give up on the high-level statesmen of the old regime. They change the regime, but they avoid creating a revolutionary wave transforming the society. They aim for the state's survival. For this reason, during the crisis caused by the ultimatum given by Italy regarding Tripoli, they resort to the experienced statesman of Abdulhamid's era.

Tradition Tradition coexists with the modernization efforts in the Dolmabahce Palace. Halit Ziya has to grow a beard even though he doesn't want, because the tradition requires it. He listens for hours to the clergy that he would never listen to in his private life during Ramadan. During the feasts, Sultan Resat expects members of parliament to kiss the throne sash held by the first chamberlain for hours. And the women of the dynasty never go beyond the imperial harem rules.

A Weaker Palace Sultan Resat is a sultan who adapts to the decisions made. For example, even though he promised his companions various positions before, the Committee of Union and Progress chooses the staff. For this reason, Senior Valet Sabit Bey, promised to be the first secretary, and Chief Harem Eunuch Fahrettin Agha, who dreams of being a grand vizier, are stuck with unrealized promises. As the sultan inhabits a symbolic position, he is expected to play only a

symbolic role in solving the problems within the empire. Hence the Committee's method to soften the air in the Balkans is just urging Sultan Resat to lead a Friday prayer in Rumelia.

Intra-dynastic Conflict Halit Ziya does not hesitate to tell what happens between Yusuf Izzettin and Vahdettin, who compete fiercely to be the heir to the throne, and states that Yusuf Izzettin killed himself because of his delusion that Sultan Resat and Vahdettin agreed to eliminate him.

Modernization Halit Ziya depicts how they rearrange the taken-for-granted trivialities of daily life in the Dolmabahce Palace. They replace the trays, prepared individually to wait for their owners on the floor with table d'hote, and turn a room into a dining hall. For the service, employees in uniforms of the same color are trained. Thus, they do their best to organize the Palace with specific standards.

Diplomacy The Committee of Union and Progress requests Halit Ziya to go to different countries for negotiations. He acknowledges that although he does his best to create an impression in favor of the empire each time, his visits ultimately do not change anything. And he criticizes Westerners for their unwavering judgment against the Turks.

Apoliticism Halit Ziya is not a political person with strict views, although he is appointed as the first secretary by the Committee of Union and Progress. When he faces Abdulhamid, he bends and kisses instead of shaking the hand extended to him, despite his hatred toward him. This act of Halit Ziya, who makes an effort to modernize the daily flow of the Palace and criticizes Sultan Resat's insistence on making the deputies kiss the throne sash, is both an epitome of the confusion of the constitutionalist regime and an indication of his stance toward politics.

Reliability Halit Ziya is a successful person in measuring and weighing his abilities, taking on duties accordingly, and giving up when necessary. Therefore, when he is offered the ministry of education and the governorship of Baghdad, he refuses. However, his most significant decision is resignation from the Assembly of Notables. Despite being at risk after retirement as the first secretary, he is the first to resign from the Assembly.

Bibliography

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