

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE  
Muruvet Esra Yildirim, M.A.

## SARAY VE OTESİ [THE PALACE AND BEYOND]

### HALİT ZİYA UŞAKLIGİL

This book recounts the memories of Halit Ziya, who was appointed as the first secretary of the Imperial Chamberlain's Quarters [*Mâbeyn-i Hümâyun*] after Abdulhamid was deposed and replaced by Sultan Reşat, about the events that took place in the palace and its surroundings from 1909 to the middle of 1912.

#### Important Terms

The Sublime Porte	The palace of grand vizier/the central government of the Ottoman Empire.
Imperial Chamberlain's Quarters	It is where state affairs take place in the sultan's palace, known as <i>Mâbeyn-i Hümâyun</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> .
Heyet-i Vükelâ	The Council of Ministers.
Bey	It is an honorific for men, equals to Mr. in English.
Regié	A parastatal company established to regulate the cultivation and processing of tobacco for the foreign debts of the Ottoman Empire.

#### People

Lütfi Simavi	The first chamberlain
Tevfik Bey	The second chamberlain
Bekir Bey	Director of imperial kitchen
Hacı Âkif Bey	Director of furnishings
Sabit Bey	Senior valet
Enver Agha	The senior companion of Sultan Reşat
Hıfzı Agha	The companion of Sultan Reşat
Nuri Bey	Minister of the Privy Purse
Yusuf İzzettin	Son of Abdulaziz, the heir apparent
Vahdettin	Son of Abdulmecid, brother of Abdulhamid and Sultan Reşat
Ahmet Rıza	Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies
Damat Ferit Pasha	The husband of Mediha Sultan, sister of Abdulhamid
Hakkı Pasha	Former ambassador to Rome and grand vizier
Enver Bey minister of war	One of the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress, later served as
Talât Bey minister of interior affairs	One of the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress, later served as

#### Events

##### *Alone with the Sultan*

Halit Ziya begins to tell his memories by talking about a rumor about Abdulaziz. While Abdulaziz was spending time in front of the windows of the Dolmabahçe Palace, one day he saw a shabby bagel seller on the street and called his officials in the palace and asked them, "Isn't that guy what they call

the nation?" After this tale, he tells how he was full of excitement from the moment he entered the Dolmabahçe to meet Sultan Reşat. He heard many rumors about Sultan Reşat; he was cunning, insidious, selfish, and spiteful.

Waiting to appear before the sultan, he tries to find the most appropriate way to go into his room and talk to him. Finally, he decides to act like any well-mannered man. He enters the room with a decorous salaam, touching his right hand to his foot. The sultan is waiting for him, standing in his redingote buttoned up to the top. When he shows the place to sit with a smile, Halit Ziya greets the sultan again, raising his right hand to the chin level, bringing it to his 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 managing with a small amount and asks him to agree with the chamberlain Lütfi 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. They need maintenance. The mansions allocated for the chief chamberlain and first secretary in Nişantaşı became unusable during the reign of Abdulhamid. Therefore, Halit Ziya and the First Chamberlain Lütfi Simavi will 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 Reşat 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 Reşat and goes down the stairs, he sees Lütfi Simavi coming to the Palace and immediately shares the conversation with him. First of all, Lütfi Simavi offers to visit 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 he and Lütfi Simavi laugh when they see the trays waiting on the floor. Halit Ziya decides that one of the things that need to be handled first is place setting. Because the flatware is simple and 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 at any time. Medhi, who is a chief of the Grand Vizier in the Sublime Porte, becomes a clerk in the Palace. Halit Ziya takes Scribe Hakkı Bey, who worked in the Privy Purse Office but was left unemployed when the Yıldız Palace was dissolved. Recai Bey of the Privy Purse Office becomes the palace manager. The next day, Tevfik Bey was appointed as the second chamberlain by the Committee of Union and Progress.

In the following days, when Halit Ziya and other palace employees sit down and make calculations with the Privy Purse Office, they are convinced that the palace kitchen, is a greedy monster. The numbers they hear are so great that they silently dream of the kitchen monster that swallowed hundreds of sheep, chickens, turkeys, fruits, and vegetables that entered the palace kitchen every day while people were suffering from hunger and cold. In the reign of Abdulhamid, the Yıldız 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 for a low fee. Halit Ziya became aware of the palace kitchen's corrupt order when he learned that a wealthy but stingy acquaintance, who came to Istanbul, settled in Beşiktaş instead of beautiful summer resorts. He settled in Beşiktaş because he made a great profit thanks to the food he bought from the Palace for a small amount. When the sultanate moved to the Dolmabahçe Palace, hundreds of the Yıldız Palace employees are appointed to other positions, and some go to their hometown or other places spontaneously. Thus, the budget of the new Palace is a little relieved.

When Halit Ziya wants to replace trays with table d'hôtes, Furnishing Director Hacı Âkif tells him that he can choose a room in the Palace, and they will turn this room into a dining room in a week. However, he adds that no items can be provided to the new sultan's Palace without completing the proceedings with the belongings of Abdulhamid. The first chamberlain assumes the responsibility to make necessary applications regarding this. But Halit Ziya asks him where to apply because no department has yet been determined since the management changed.

After the meeting is over, he learns that Mahmut Şevket 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 Şevket Pasha says that he will order the things he needs to be brought from Yıldız and asks what the best way would be 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 Lütfi Bey enters the hall to inform Mahmut Şevket Pasha that Sultan Reşat is waiting for him, he goes out, telling Halit Ziya that he wants to meet with him again. After a short while, he comes to Halit Ziya again. One of the new scribes is Halit Ziya's wife's brother, and one is Hakkı Bey from Abdulhamid's Palace. Pasha is uncomfortable with both of them. Halit Ziya informs him that Medhi was sent there by chance, and he hired Hakkı 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 Reşat, whether he is a difficult person to manage or not. After Halit Ziya shares his good impressions, he says that they sent Sultan Reşat's personal attendants with Abdulhamid to Salonika, but Sultan Reşat wants his men back. The Yıldız Palace is filled with informant letters, and some are from those who served Sultan Reşat during his life in seclusion. As the Pasha identifies these letters, he plans to send them to the sultan so that he can decide whichever of those men he still wants back. But there is a man the sultan 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 Reşat Efendi and then send them to Abdulhamid. After Halit Ziya listens to what has been told and expresses his positive thoughts about Sabit Bey, Mahmut Şevket Pasha leaves the Palace complaining about countless informant letters.

Shortly after that, Halit Ziya's wife's brother Medhi returns to his previous job. Hakkı 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 prison life, 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 the sultan.

#### *Visiting Abdulhamid's Children*

After Halit Ziya Sultan Reşat, he gradually began to know other people in the dynasty. But he says that to the dynasty, all state officials, starting from the grand vizier, are no different from a tool. As members of the dynasty, they continue to consider themselves superior to everyone, despite the Constitutional Monarchy. Halit Ziya states that he saw this tendency most in the children of the deposed Sultan Abdulhamid and that all of them were outrageous people just like their fathers. With Suleyman Efendi's death, the elder brother of Sultan Reşat, Yusuf Izzettin Efendi, son of Abdulaziz, becomes the heir apparent. Vahdettin comes after Yusuf Izzettin. 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 came to see their uncle Reşat. Sultan Reşat asks Halit Ziya to take one of his personal attendants with him and visit all his children in order of age and ask them if they need anything. Halit Ziya first starts with Selim Efendi. Selim Efendi sees him in the anteroom on his mansion's top floor after having him waited for a long time. Abdulkadir and Ahmet Efendi similarly host him. After Halit Ziya says what he has 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, but they all have mansions, cars, entourage, and income provided by their fathers. Only Burhanettin Efendi leaves a different impression on Halit Ziya. Halit Ziya already heard about him because he plays piano, paints, speaks different languages, and is Abdulhamid's most beloved child. He feels comfortable and has a good time sitting face-to-face with him in his mansion in Nişantaşı. When leaving, Burhanettin Efendi thanks him and expresses his gratitude.

The hardest part of these visits is the sultans. 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 sultan's mansion in Kuruçeşme. As he expects, none of

the sultans accept 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 sultan when he is sent to Şadiye Sultan by Sultan Reşat. He visits her with Enver Agha about her prospective marriage. Şadiye Sultan talks to them behind a partition with her eunuch. The government prevented 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 Reşat, but Şadiye Sultan marries Fahir Bey, Galip Pasha's grandson.

After Halit Ziya visits Abduhamid's children, Sultan Reşat introduces Lütfi Bey and Halit Ziya to his children. They heard of Ziyaettin Efendi as a person who is fond of dressing, traveling, and a little flirtatious. Halit Ziya confirms what he heard when he meets him. Ömer 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. Necmettin Efendi dies after a while due to his obesity. However, on the day they meet, he advises Lütfi Bey and Halit Ziya to avoid his uncle, Vahdettin.

### *Reorganizing the Palace*

Halit Ziya and other officials in the Palace spend a whole day seeing every corner of the Dolmabahçe 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 in the Palace. Mansions in Nişantaşı are also repaired. But for Halit Ziya, the most important place is the Imperial Chamberlain's Quarters' 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. Thus, the table style becomes a thing of the past for, at least, the Imperial Chamberlain's Quarters. However, those in the Imperial Harem and subsidiary structures of the Palace and the *Ağavat Ocağı*, where the eunuchs reside, continue to use trays instead of table d'hôte. Since restricting the meals served here exposes the Imperial Chamberlain's Quarters' employees to the attack of the residents of the Imperial Harem, an order in this direction is demanded and obtained from Sultan Reşat through his personal attendants.

### *A Gift from the Sultan*

While the repair of the mansions in Nişantaşı continues, Halit Ziya starts to stay in the Palace every other day at the request of Sultan Reşat. 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 Reşat. 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 the 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 Reşat is a man who is also 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 Reşat is more than twenty years older than Halit Ziya, 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 Reşat 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 Reşat 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's words, who speaks without looking at him. Halit Ziya imagines himself with a beard and feels alienated from himself. As he thinks about this, everyone around him is looking at him both mercifully and mockingly. Halit Ziya thinks about 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. Regardless of why, 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 Hüseyin Hilmi Pasha with a more neutral name, Tevfik Pasha, after the 31 March Incident. However, after Sultan Reşat took the seat of the sultanate, the Committee of Union and Progress brings Hüseyin Hilmi Pasha, who is affiliated with the Committee, back to the office to show its power. Sultan Reşat, 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 Beşiktaş to Sirkeci by sea to get on the horses waiting for them. Surrounded by the aides, they slowly climb the slope of Bâbüâli with the first secretary, the new grand vizier, and the changed or remaining 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 Reşat 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 Chamberlain's Quarters will attend; the first chamberlain, the first secretary, and the head aid. A wooden table is set up in the Zülvecheyn 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 Lütfi Simavi is the person responsible for it in the palace.

### *The Budget*

One day, the Minister of Education, 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 Reşat. 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, 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 Reşat is eager to save and states that it is more appropriate to do it independently, and then asks Halit Ziya to write a license. When they are out of the Sultan's room, Nuri Bey's face is red, and Lütfi Bey is biting his lips. Halit Ziya laughs up his sleeve because the sultan is far from understanding the importance of 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 Chamberlain's Quarters. Each time Halit Ziya sees him wandering around the large halls of the palace, he feels something unexpected awaits this nervous man. One day, he comes and

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 this resignation. Halit Ziya asks him 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 option, Nuri Bey interrupts his speech and says that he will not give up on this idea and that his resignation should be conveyed to Sultan Reşat.

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 Reşat's Personal Attendants*

Halit Ziya states that those in the personal service of Sultan Reşat 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 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 Reşat, 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 Reşat'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 Reşat Efendi's attendants since his youth; he studied at Galatasaray High School for a few years and improved himself as much as possible with palace training. But after losing his son Necdet, he lives in grief until he dies.

During his years of seclusion, Sultan Reşat made promises to everyone in his service, and Sabit Bey has expected to be the first secretary for years. Halit Ziya says that Sabit Bey's resentment at Sultan Reşat'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 Reşat demands that the ceremony be held in Fatih, Beylerbeyi, Ortaköy, Sultanselim, Beyazıt, and Eyüp to show the troops to the whole city. However, Sinanpaşa Mosque in Beşiktaş and the mosque in the Dolmabahçe 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 the entourage. 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 Lütfi 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 Reşat 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 Reşat, 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 what this rush job is 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 arrived 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 and carefully. 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, thinking that men will be executed that night. Halit Ziya stops by his mansion in Nişantaşı to inform his family that he will spend the night in the Palace, and then goes down to the Palace, and the approved execution orders are sent to the Sublime Porte.

Halit Ziya, feeling tragic as he thinks that he has an involvement in someone's death, goes to the Second Chamberlain Tevfik Bey's room as he always does whenever he gets bored. 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 Tepebaşı 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 Chamberlain's Quarters 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 Chamberlain's Quarters. He contemplates why the sultan keeps him in the Palace. After a while, he can't stand and leaves his room to go to the bedroom. The Palace is in deep silence. Only the guards walk around. One of those who see that he is about to go to his room offers to help 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 there is a tray full of various cookies and fruits on the table. Halit Ziya puts his elbows on this table and bursts into tears.

### *The Yıldız Palace*

Sultan Reşat sends a delegation consisting of First Secretary Halit Ziya, First Chamberlain Lütfi Bey, and Senior Valet Sabit Bey to examine the Yıldız Palace. While visiting the Yıldız 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 parts close to him, 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 Reşat. Sultan Reşat gifts this table to Halit Ziya. Halit Ziya sees it more appropriate to keep this table in the Imperial Chamberlain's Quarters than to take it home. While visiting the Palace's museum, Sait Bey, one of the museum's organizers, points Halit Ziya to a cube and then puts his hand into the cube and pulls out a paper. This paper is one of the informant letters Abdulhamid hid all over the house. In the museum, there are also many artifacts brought from 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 Reşat. Thus, many pieces are returned to their place.

There is also a stage in the Yıldız Palace. Abdulhamid hired some of the Italian opera artists, who stopped by Beyoğlu, 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 Reşat. 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 Yıldız 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 Reşat 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 Rıza requests Halit Ziya to ask the sultan to donate land to a hospital. There is a French hospital in Şişli run by nuns. This 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. Ahmet Rıza agrees to Halit Ziya.

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, women, sultans, 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 Damat Ferit Pasha often visits the Sultan. However, he intends to annoy Sultan Reşat 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 Reşat's time, all marriages are arranged in the Dolmabahçe 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 Reşat, and Vahdettin do not like Abdulaziz's sons Yusuf İzzettin, Mecit, and Seyfettin Efendi. However, he adds that the siblings do not like each other either.

Abdulhamid thought of marrying Reşat Efendi's son Ziyaettin Efendi and one of his daughters because he considered marriage among family members suitable for politics. As Reşat Efendi did not look favorably upon this, Abdulhamid planned to marry his son Abdurrahim Efendi and his brother Süleyman Efendi's daughter Naciye Sultan. This marriage plan is transferred to Sultan Reşat's period. However, one day, Halit Ziya finds Sultan Reşat in anger with a paper in his hand. It is a letter written to Naciye Sultan's brother, Abdülhalim Efendi, asking how come he allows his sister to marry the son of a cruel sultan. Sultan Reşat orders the letter to be given to the Ministry of War for investigation, and this marriage deal is thus closed.

However, one day Enver Bey, who is not yet a pasha, aspires to Naciye Sultan. 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 "Freedom Fighter" enough and dreamed of being "the sultan's son-in-law," too. He even adds that those who know that shyness and timidity are a sign of excessive arrogance, greed, and ambition wondered what was hidden under Enver's face as they see his constantly blushing face in public.

When it comes to marriage, Ismail Bey, someone Süleyman 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 possible and tells what the sultan could do to marry other sultans 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 Chamberlain's Quarters know that the grandchildren of Mahmud II, from his sons, Abdulaziz and Abdulmecid, wake up every morning asking how many of them died that night. After the death of Sultan Reşat's brother Süleyman Efendi, the sultanate will pass to Yusuf İzzettin, son of Abdulaziz, to Vahdettin, son of Abdulmecid, to Salâhattin, son of Murat IV, and to Mecid Efendi, son of Abdulaziz. As Yusuf İzzettin 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 Reşat will continue to live as they find the sultan healthy. But Yusuf İzzettin is in a state of insanity because his biggest fear is that Vahdettin agrees with his brother Sultan Reşat and dismisses him. Every time he visits the Palace, he fishes for information and leaves Sultan Reşat 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 İzzettin, the heir apparent is only himself, whereas, for Vahdettin, he is the second heir apparent. Vahdettin claims that Yusuf İzzettin 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 İzzettin 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 İzzettin in a procession as the second heir apparent. Halit Ziya hesitantly conveys this request to Yusuf İzzettin, but Yusuf İzzettin states that

it is impossible to be in the same car with Vahdettin; he will not join the procession. Thereupon, Halit Ziya offers 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 Reşat to Edirne and prove that they will never be in harmony. Yusuf İzzettin 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 Lütfi Bey hardly tolerate these moments. His favorite subject is money; when he leaves the sultan's room, the sultan says Halit Ziya and Lütfi 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 Lütfi 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 Reşat ascends the throne, Fahrettin Agha becomes the chief harem eunuch. However, the sultan's promises to Fahrettin Agha during his time in seclusion will not come true. Fahrettin Agha can neither be a vizier nor be such an influential figure in the Palace. Thus, Sultan Reşat 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 Reşat wonders what Mahmut Şevket 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, the sultan orders to change the wheels of his car with tires.

#### *Visitors*

While the Yıldız Palace was full of crowded visitors during the reign of Abdulhamid, the Dolmabahçe 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 the Yıldız Palace, is the grand vizier. The Grand Vizier comes to the Palace for lunch two days a week. Apart from that, Ahmet Rıza comes to the Palace whenever possible. In the beginning, the sultan is pleased by his visits, but later on, Ahmet Rıza'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 Rıza 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 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 Rıza warns Halit Ziya not to be kind to those opponents.

When Sultan Reşat 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 Reşat 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. Because 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, forming a circle in front of the sultan, 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 Kamil Pasha are among the people Sultan Reşat 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 Abdülhak Hamit, Köse Raif Pasha and Abdurrahman Şeref. The sultan appoints Abdurrahman Şeref 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 Lütfi Bey listen to him for hours while working in the Palace. However, because these long talks disturb Sultan Reşat, one day, Lütfi Bey warns him to get up and leave whenever the sultan moves in his seat. 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. When Halit Ziya asks him whether he is tired or not, 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, it started to collapse over time. 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 Nâzım 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, Nâzım 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 at his mansion. He goes to the window and looks for a sign of fire but cannot find it.

When he goes to the Palace, he finds Grand Vizier Hüseyin 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 Hüseyin Hilmi Pasha silences him, stating that it is his final decision. At that moment, Halit Ziya establishes a link between the visit of Doctor Nâzım and this resignation, and he condemns the Union and Progress' intervention in politics.

It takes half an hour to inform Sultan Reşat, and then Halit Ziya is taken to the 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 Hüseyin 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 the night, and it's Hüseyin 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 Nişantaşı to Şişli. After Hüseyin 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, Hüseyin 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 Hüseyin 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 Hüseyin Hilmi Pasha is trying to play him 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 are inaccurate and ridiculously oppositional. Thus, Lütfi Bey has invented a procedure to prevent foreign journalists from writing negative things after interviewing a sultan who spent his life in seclusion. Foreign journalists will first 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 Lütfi Bey is on a trip, Halit Ziya takes care of his affairs; 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 sofa 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.

### *Inheritance*

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

### *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 Yıldız Palace, but they have no money. 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 Dolmabahçe after settling in the Yıldız Palace. While the king meets the sultan, the queen spends time in the Imperial Harem. Sultan Reşat has a concubine besides his three wives. The queen meets only with the sultan's oldest wife. The niece of First Chamberlain Lütfi 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 Hürriyet Hill for the king and his entourage and the ambassadors and deputies. Two regiments are prepared, one to take the sultan and his entourage from the Dolmabahçe and the other to take the king and queen with their entourage from Yıldız. When Lütfi 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 close the roads. Since the Friday Procession will be held, Lütfi Bey and Halit Ziya, covered with dust, barely reach the Teşvikiye 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.

For the king, the first big banquet is given in the Dolmabahçe Palace. The carpenters prepare a big table in the hall known as Zülvecheyn. In the evening, everyone welcomes the guests in their official

uniforms. Only the speaker of the general assembly wears a frock coat. The banquet goes well enough to surprise the king. In return, he invites the sultan to lunch in Yıldız.

On the second day of the visit, an aide informs Halit Ziya that the king wants to see him. Halit Ziya goes to Yıldız 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 himself, 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. Because both the king and the employees are dressed in red and white. Halit Ziya states that those colors were chosen after Sultan Reşat's ascension to the throne and that this is just a coincidence. Both Lütfi Bey and Halit Ziya are awarded medals by the Bulgarian and the Serbian kings.

#### *Damat Ferit Pasha*

Damat Ferit Pasha, after marrying Abdulhamid's sister Mediha Sultan, cannot achieve many 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. Halit Ziya says that it is like torture to speak with him because of his arrogance. When he fails to reach his expectations, he joins Vahdettin and becomes the Freedom and Accord Party head. One day, ten people under his leadership come to the Dolmabahçe Palace to meet the sultan. Lütfi Bey informs them that it was necessary to notify the Imperial Chamberlain's Quarters before their visit and allows only Ferit Pasha to see the sultan. Ferit Pasha does not show his anger before other people but threatens Lütfi Bey while going upstairs. When Lütfi Bey tells the situation to the sultan later, the sultan tells Lütfi Bey that he has done the right thing because he does not like Ferit Pasha. However, when Lütfi Bey conveys what happened to Talat Pasha, Talat Pasha becomes upset, saying that he would have understood what they intended to communicate with the sultan.

According to Halit Ziya, Damat Ferit Pasha is a loyal man to his hatred. Years later, when Sultan Reşat dies, and he and Lütfi Bey meet in Berlin in the last days of World War I, Lütfi 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 Lütfi Bey goes to Istanbul and becomes the first chamberlain again, Damat Ferit Pasha becomes the grand vizier and fires Lütfi Bey.

#### *Dissidents before the Sultan*

One day, Talat Pasha calls to inform them that a delegation of deputies from the Freedom and Accord Party will come to the palace and demands that they be accepted to appear before the sultan. Lütfi Bey and Halit Ziya attend the meeting, too. There are religious leaders and Greeks in this group of at least twenty people. Sultan asks, "Do you have something to say?" Ismail 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 them 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*

When Ramadan comes, 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 distributed. Before the Constitutional Monarchy, donations were made to those who came to the Palace for iftaar, yet Sultan Reşat considers it appropriate to give gifts instead. While the gifts are being distributed, none can hide his joy. After drinking sherbet, the 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 Reşat 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, as he said.

## *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 Chamberlain's Quarters 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 Asım 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 Reşat has his portrait... Peace lessons continue like this throughout the entire Ramadan.

## *Lesser 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 Reşadiye 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 lasts for hours, ends.

Halit Ziya says that when he sees this ceremony for the first time, his curiosity prevents him from seeing ridiculous things. Although he gets used to all of them later, 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 Reşat, 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 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 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 palace kitchens 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 in the face of their questions because Lütfi Bey has experience in foreign affairs.

When the day of departure arrives, all the envoys see them off, and Halit Ziya begins his journey in the sultan's battleship. But this journey is not very comfortable because he says that the room given to him is just a hole. The most comfortable passengers are those on the ship named Gülcemal. 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; 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 the previous Edirne trip, an older prince asked him if the Maritsa River mixes with the Euphrates, and Halit Ziya laughed, thinking the prince was joking.

#### *Meeting Abdulhamid*

When they arrive in Thessaloniki, Sultan Reşat 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 Alâtini Mansion 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 this time, he thinks about how to address Abdulhamid. Just when he is going to ask Hâdi Pasha how he will address Abdulhamid, it comes to his mind 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 Reşat, 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 Reşat.

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, crossing the borders of his position. Abdulhamid, increasing his voice, replies, "You will submit it." Then he says that while leaving the Yıldız 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 arise 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, Lütfi Bey and Halit Ziya find everything ready, including the water and lemonade beside their beds. Processions are held in Thessaloniki, Skopje, Prishtina, 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." When leaving, 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 Hakkı 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.

### *Hakkı Pasha*

One day, Grand Vizier Hakkı 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. However, he declares that he considers resignation rudeness to the sultan. So, he does not accept the offer indirectly. This time, Hakkı Pasha asks him to suggest a name. Halit Ziya recommends Abdurrahman Şeref Bey. After getting the approval of the grand vizier, he invites Abdurrahman Şeref Bey to the Palace and makes an offer on behalf of the grand vizier. Abdurrahman Şeref accepts the offer.

Since Hakkı 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 Hakkı Pasha will come too, and they 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 Hakkı 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 or Grand Vizier Hakkı 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, Hakkı Pasha informs Said Pasha about the ultimatum and then asks his advice. Halit Ziya reports that Said Pasha withdraws himself despite Hakkı Pasha's pleading state and reminds him that he is not the grand vizier on duty. After a while, he says that Hakkı 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 Reşat is already waiting to see him. While they are in a meeting, Hakkı 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 Reşat 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 understand what Said Pasha thinks. When he goes 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 applied. 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, are also at the head of 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 Reşat 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 asks Doctor Cemil Pasha, who examines the sultan because of the trouble in his bladder. 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 the 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 Reşat 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 the 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 his 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 titled "Are we smuggling

goods from the fire?" in the newspaper. Its author, Lütfi 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 Rıza and Talât 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 Reşat 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 between the two tasks, but he cannot decide which one to sacrifice until Ahmet Rıza invites him to his home for an evening. When Halit Ziya goes to Ahmet Rıza'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 Rıza 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, that in the first months of Sultan Reşat, 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 Yıldız Palace*

When Halit Ziya has a crisis at home one night due to liver disease, his doctor recommends a long rest. At the end of this rest, he receives some news. The first is that the Tsar Nicholas II of Russia intends to come to Istanbul, and the second is that Sultan Reşat wants to spend the summer in the Yıldız Palace. The Yıldız Palace cheers everyone up after the Dolmabahçe Palace, which does not retain heat in winter and does not allow escaping from the sunshine in the summer.

First, Ömer Hilmi Efendi, son of Sultan Reşat, 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 the chador. 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 the possibility of assassination. 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 that 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 Nişantaşı. Talât Bey says that they have a request from him and that the grand vizier will resign the next day, and it will be appropriate for the sultan to replace him with anyone other than Kamil Pasha. For the Committee of Union and Progress cannot agree at all with Kamil Pasha. When Halit Ziya goes to the Palace in the morning, he shares what he talked to Talât Bey with Lütfi Bey and Tevfik Bey. Lütfi Bey suggests that

if some of the soldiers support the uprising as Savior Officers, Ahmet Muhtar Pasha, a man 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 Chamberlain's Quarters, Halit Ziya, Lütfi Bey, and Tefvik Bey sit across. Then the sultan asks who should be the grand vizier. When Lütfi Bey names Ahmet Muhtar Pasha, he accepts this name without hesitation, and Ahmet Muhtar Pasha is invited to the Palace.

### *The New Grand Vizier*

Halit Ziya portrays that when Ahmet Muhtar Pasha comes to the Dolmabahçe Palace, he 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 the new Minister of War Nâzım 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 Nâzım Pasha with his hand, saying, "Pasha, leave this now. You already know, these are ..." Halit Ziya realizes that as the new grand vizier says, "You already know," he means that the current employees of the Imperial Chamberlain's Quarters will be gone soon. He tells Lütfi Bey what happened. Lütfi Bey calms him down, saying that they are considered men of the Committee of Union and Progress and 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 are sent off from the Dolmabahçe Palace to Üsküdar.

Halit Ziya states that he does not know how the convoy continues beyond Üsküdar 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 Hakkı 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 Lütfi Bey's resignation, but Sultan Reşat opposes it. Upon this news, Hakkı Pasha leaves the room without saying anything, and Halit Ziya speaks to Lütfi Bey. They make a decision together and call Sabit Bey. Sabit Bey says that he secretly listened to what Hüseyin Hilmi Pasha, who appeared before the sultan for the third time, 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 this decision, they will lynch Lütfi Bey and Halit Ziya. Halit Ziya and Lütfi Bey thank Sabit Bey for being a good colleague, then Halit Ziya goes to his room and starts to pack.

Meanwhile, Nâzım Pasha walks in and sits where Hakkı 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. Nâzım Pasha leaves the room, greeting Halit Ziya. Halit Ziya and Lütfi 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 them to them. When Halit Ziya places the pouch in his left pocket, it feels so heavy that the left side of his clothing pulls down. Afterward, Sabit Bey informs that the sultan wants to see them but does not want to talk. Halit Ziya and Lütfi Bey appear before the sultan, Sultan Reşat meets them in his formal attire. However, neither he nor Halit Ziya and Lütfi Bey say anything. Walking backwards as they leave the room without speaking anything, Lütfi Bey bursts into tears. Halit Ziya cannot keep himself from crying, too.

In a month, Halit Ziya settles in his house in Yeşilköy, and one day, Sabit Bey and the Senior Companion of the sultan, Enver Agha, come to 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 purse and leaves a bag full of gold. These bags full of gold continue to come every month until Sultan Reşat's death.

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

### *Sultan Reşat and Foreign Visitors*

Halit Ziya says that Reşat Efendi should be evaluated with his virtues. He lists his good qualities by stating that he found time to correct many of the rumors he heard about him during the reign of Abdulhamid. Sultan Reşat 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 asked Halit Ziya for information 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, Lütfi 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 Reşat, 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 person 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. When 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 left in him.

One of the noteworthy visits is Bubiya Bikûm, ruler of Bhopal, India, to Istanbul. 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, offers to hold them in their places and put them on new bases without depictions. Sultan Reşat accepts this, and this is how the candelabra work is done.

### *Paris*

While Halit Ziya spends time in his house in Yeşilköy taking care of the roses in his garden, the Balkan War breaks out; the Savior Officers and their Minister of War Nâzım Pasha cannot manage the situation, and the invading armies advance to Çatalca. Nâzım Pasha is killed with 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 will come 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 directs. During the meetings, Reşit Saffet accompanies him.

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 about yourself. Your opponents are not like that ..." Halit Ziya justifies this interpretation and keeps 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, Reşit 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 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 offered by the Committee of Union and Progress. First, Mahmut Şevket 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 offer 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 job offer 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 proposes that Halit Ziya take over one. However, all plans are canceled when the year 1914 comes.

#### *Treatment 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 Reşat sends Chief Physician Hayri Bey to his house. When Hayri Bey tells Halit Ziya that it will 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. When he sees its effect, he realizes that a war will break out and decides to go to Paris and return to Istanbul.

He gets into a crowd, walking down the street in Paris. For a while, he pushes his way through the crowd, and in the end, in front of the *Le Matin* newspaper, he cannot move. 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. Appropriately, 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. Halit Ziya 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 and declares his duty in the empire and asks for his permit. His titles and medals show their effect, and "Excellence" is written on his passport.

When Rifat Pasha returns to Paris, they meet and argue anxiously on whose side of the empire he will go to war. Rifat Pasha, saying that sixteen officers in various France regions for training should return to Istanbul, asks Halit Ziya to return to Istanbul with them. If the government in Istanbul enters the war with the Germans, they will be prisoners of war. Halit Ziya and the 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 handle their affairs with this delegation, directly goes to the governor's office. Yet the governor declares that he cannot allow the officers who are likely to enter the war on the side of Germany tomorrow 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 official from the governorship tells them to run to the ship immediately, adding that the Marseille government had never seen them. When Halit Ziya asks whether the soldiers will cause them difficulties, he relieves him by stating that no one in charge will interfere.

The crammed ship carries them to Genoa. Halit Ziya walks around 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, 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 come to Istanbul, Halit Ziya goes straight to his house in Yeşilköy. While walking home playing with his walking stick, he sees that the young man who has been working with them for two years is roasting coffee on the barbecue and asks him to prepare Turkish coffee for him.

### *Madness in the Black Sea*

German ships Goeben and Breslau seek refuge in Çanakkale 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 direction of German Admiral Souchon, two German ships with the Turkish flag land in the Black Sea and attack Russian ships. Thus, the government joins the alliance forces. Although it is said that the German admiral did this alone, many people judge that Enver Bey was responsible. Halit Ziya directly goes to Talat Bey's office when the news about the ship comes out and asks him how they decided on such a thing. Talat Bey replied, "Go and ask Enver."

### *Visiting Sultan Reşat*

In the first year of the war, Yusuf İzzettin commits suicide by cutting his wrists. Abdulhamid also passes away. Thus, Sultan Reşat sees the death of both his predecessor and his 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. Halit Ziya details that 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 with a sign of the sultan. Sultan Reşat dies two years after this surgery.

## *Trip to Germany*

Upon 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 Halaçyan, who is one of the government officials he came across in Berlin, he suddenly asks, "Shall we go?" Halaçyan responds positively, and they set off together. They both have two large chests besides their bags, but they cannot find them when they arrive at 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 any longer. 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 on the ground of illness. The next day, they find themselves walking through the mud in a Bulgarian town in rainy weather. From there, they go to Ruse by train and from Ruse to Sofia. After staying one night in Sofia, they arrive in Sirkeci, Istanbul, on a train.

## **Themes**

**Intra-bureaucratic Conflict** One of the fundamental dynamics of the constitutional regime is the conflict between bureaucrats. Halit Ziya states that he and Lütfi Simavi are thought to be the puppets of the Unionists at the Dolmabahçe 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, Nâzım Pasha. The new grand vizier implies, without hesitation, that Halit Ziya and Lütfi Bey will have a short time in the Palace. However, this conflict is considered normal by everyone that one of his 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. Although they change the regime, they avoid creating a revolutionary wave that will transform the society; instead, they aim for the state's survival. For this reason, in the moment of 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 moves in the Dolmabahçe Palace. Halit Ziya has to grow a beard even though he never wanted it 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 Reşat expects members of parliament to kiss the throne sash held by the first chamberlain for hours. The women of the Dynasty never go beyond the imperial harem rules.

**A Weaker Palace** Sultan Reşat is a sultan who adapts to the decisions made rather than being a decision center. For example, even though he promised his companions various positions before, the Committee of Union and Progress determines the Palace 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. Thus, the Committee's method to soften the air in the Balkans is urging Sultan Reşat to lead the 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 Reşat and Vahdettin agreed to eliminate him.

**Modernization** Halit Ziya depicts how they rearrange the taken-for-granted trivialities of daily life in the Palace. The most important of these efforts is replacing the tray with table d'hote. 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 brought to the position of 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 Reşat'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 great risk after retirement as the first secretary, he is the first to resign from the Assembly.