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FALLING LEAVES / YAPRAK DOKUMU (1930)

RESAT NURI GUNTEKIN (1889 – 1956)

Apropos

It is the ninth novel written by the author, who personally witnessed the last periods of the Ottoman Empire and establishment of the Republic, and according to many literary critics, Resat Nuri's maturity period in novel writing begins with this work. Initially serialized in a newspaper in 1930, *Falling Leaves* was later published as a book by Muallim Ahmet Halit Bookstore in 1941. As the industrial revolution and monetarist economic system began to dominate the whole world, the dynamics that constituted the Ottoman subjects also underwent radical changes. Resat Nuri Guntekin focuses on the old-new conflict through Mr. Ali Riza, whom he presents to the reader as the protagonist. The fact that meta and capital have become more valuable than human values is criticized with a realistic perspective. It is seen that the real time of the narrative is between the Constitutional Monarchy period and WWI. The most important real space in which the narrative takes place is Uskudar-Baglarbasi. In the following chapters, the narrative also takes place in Syria, Adapazari and Taksim. The storyline is narrated by the omniscient narrator and the focalization is zero. Narration, flashback, summarization and dialogue techniques are used. Events generally unfold synchronically.

Synopsis

Mr. Ali Riza, who had served as a mutessarif for many years in various provinces of the country, settled in Istanbul with his family upon finding a job at Golden Leaf Tobacco Corporation. After working in various governmental positions in different parts of Anatolia, he starts working as a translator for a private company. Before he retired, he was the biggest authority in the family, but he started to lose his authority as he lost his financial power and the expectations of the children increased as they grew older. He resigns due to the embarrassment he feels when he learns that Leman, whom he helped to get into company as a typist, is pregnant by the boss. On the same day, Shaukat passes an exam and starts working at the bank. From that day on Shaukat becomes the head of the house. After a while, it turns out that Shaukat is having an affair with a married typist at the bank and this is known by everyone. Mr. Ali Riza agrees to Shaukat's marriage to his typist girlfriend upon Mrs. Hayriye's insistence and pressure. With the marriage of Farkhunda and Shaukat, a new era begins at home. Leila and Najla, who are curious about the outside world and want to immerse themselves in it, start attending invitations, soirees and various entertainments with Farkhunda. Mr. Ali Riza, who tried to protect his family from the changing world by closing his house to the outside world, loses control day by day. Eventually, Shaukat is forced to steal due to his current debts and ends up in prison. Unable to accept the change in the house, Fikrat marries an older man and settles in Adapazari. Farkhunda leaves home due to the poverty the family falls into. Mr. Ali Riza, who wants to get rid of his financial and moral problems, tries to marry off his daughters. Eventually Leila becomes the mistress of a wealthy lawyer. Unable to resist the change, Mr. Ali Riza settles in Leila's house in Taksim. In this way, he gets rid of his troubles. But he betrayed all the values he believed in and defended.

People

<i>Ali Riza</i>	Protagonist of the narrative. Head of the family. A former mutessarif.
<i>Shaukat</i>	Son of Ali Riza and Hayriye. A banker.
<i>Farkhunda</i>	Typist at the bank where Shaukat works. She marries with him.
<i>Hayriye</i>	Ali Riza's wife.
<i>Leila</i>	The middle daughter of the couple. She likes to have fun and show off.
<i>Najla</i>	The middle daughter of the couple. She is younger than Leila.
<i>Fikrat</i>	The eldest daughter of the couple. Envious her father. Loves to read and write.
<i>Aisha</i>	The youngest daughter of the couple.
<i>Leman</i>	Typist conceived by the boss of Golden Leaf Corp.

<i>Mozaffar</i>	Owner of Golden Leaf Tobacco Corp.
<i>Tahsin</i>	Fikrat's husband whom she married in Adapazari.
<i>Tahsin</i>	Broker who aspires to marry one of the girls.
<i>Nazmi</i>	Young doctor. Wants to marry Leila.
<i>Abd al-Wahhab</i>	Narrative character who is supposed to be a rich Syrian. Marries Najla.

The names of other narrative characters in the narrative are as follows: Fiscal Director of the District, Principal Clerk, Governor Mr. Sarmat, Lawyer, Major, Director of Correspondence, etc.

Extended Storyline

Turning the Employee into a smuggler An employee working as an accounting clerk at Golden Leaf Corporation had to quit his job because he could not support his two younger siblings and his sick mother with sixty-two lira salary he received. The employee, who did not receive a positive response from the workplaces he applied for a job, remained unemployed for a while. Seeing that state institutions and private companies are corrupt and that no one receives fair compensation for their labor, the narrative character starts smuggling goods through customs the broker in Havyar Han. In this way, the narrative character begins to earn relatively large sums of money and live a better life. One day, the narrative character visits his former workplace during lunch break and begins to tell his former coworkers about his new job and his life as they eat the food they brought from home because they could not earn enough money to eat out. He tells them that when he was an employee of the company, he could not support his family the wages he received despite working all day, but thanks to smuggling, he earned very good sums of money with his only job.

Ali Riza argues with the smuggler Mr. Ali Riza, one of the most hardworking and experienced employees of the corporation, feels the need to intervene with the narrative character even though he is not a very talkative. Mr. Ali Riza tells the smuggler that it is not right to try to seduce the corporation employees with promises of earning more money by working less. Because even though the smuggler earns good money, what he does is illegal. But the smuggler tells Mr. Ali Riza that all human values have changed after WWI, that no one is satisfied with what they have and that they always want more. For Mr. Ali Riza, an old Ottoman gentleman, human values are more important than material things. However, with WWI, a new era has begun and old understandings have been completely destroyed. Mr. Ali Riza, who accepts that humanity and the world has changed with it, wants to protect himself against the outside world.

Mr. Ali Riza's professional life and settling in Istanbul with his family Mr. Ali Riza, a civil servant from Sublime Porte's upbringing, worked in one of the registry department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs until age of thirty and was appointed as a qaimaqam to a district in Syria after the death of his sister and mother two months apart. Shortly after his appointment as qaimaqam, he decides to get married upon the suggestion of a friend. He marries Mrs. Hayriye, who he was told that she was twenty years old, but it turned out that she was actually twenty-five years old. With their marriage, the newlywed couple had four children in succession. At the age of fifty, Mr. Ali Riza's fifth child is born. While working in one of the sanjaks of Trabzon, he is dismissed from his job as a creditor of the state. Unemployed, Mr. Ali Riza is deeply worried about the future of his family. However, Mr. Ali Riza encounters Mozaffar, whom he had taught history lessons by substituting for a sick teacher in the past, and learns that he is a member of the parliamentary administration and the general manager of Golden Leaf Corp. Knowing that his former teacher is fluent in Arabic, Farsi, French and English, Mozaffar offers him a job with a very high monthly salary. Happy to have found a job that would allow him to provide for his family and settle in Istanbul, Mr. Ali Riza accepts the offer and begins working as an interpreter for a company that trades with both Egypt and England.

Ali Riza starts working at Golden Leaf Corp. and gets Leman to join the corporation Mr. Ali Riza starts working as a clerk at Golden Leaf Corp. and gains the respect of everyone with his hard work, honesty and experience. He also feels very lucky and comfortable because he works as an interpreter, a kind of ambassador. Mr. Ali Riza, who wants to make his family comfortable and be recognized as an honest worker, completely closes himself off to the outside world and focuses only on his work. But one day, he meets Leman, the daughter of an acquaintance of his who was the director of forestry in one of the sanjaks where he worked. Desperate, Leman tells Mr. Ali Riza about her situation and begs for a job, but despite not having good education, she is hired by Golden Leaf Corp. as typist. Leman starts to embarrass Mr. Ali Riza by making inappropriate jokes to the

employees since the day she started working. Mr. Ali Riza tells Leman that she should communicate with the employees in a level-headed manner and not make inappropriate jokes. But Leman does not listen to Mr. Ali Riza. She had already forgotten the favor shown to her and had immersed herself in the dynamics of the period.

Leman's relationship with Mozaffar is revealed and Ali Riza resigns After a while, Mr. Ali Riza is visited by Leman's mother, whom he has never had the chance to meet. The woman dressed in a black chador meets Mr. Ali Riza in private. Leman's mother tells Mr. Ali Riza that Leman has been seeing Mozaffar, the general manager of the company, for a while, that she got pregnant by him and had the baby aborted. Because Leman, who had left home with the excuse that she was going to visit her friends for two or three days, came home looking pale and confessed that she had an abortion. The woman blames Mr. Ali Riza for what happened to her daughter and asks him to fix this situation. Ali Riza, who thinks that Mozaffar should marry Leman, waits until the evening hours to have a chance to talk to him. Ali Riza, who finally gets the opportunity to meet Mozaffar, tells him about Leman's situation and tells him that he should marry her. But Mozaffar tells Mr. Ali Riza that Leman is seeing other men and that she only wants to marry him because he is rich. According to Mozaffar, it is not even certain that Leman is pregnant by himself. In response to what he heard, Mr. Ali Riza decides to quit his job at the risk of condemning his family to starvation. He says that in such situation, he would even disown his own son and therefore he cannot accept Mozaffar's favor anymore.

Shaukat starts a job at a bank After leaving work, Mr. Ali Riza heads towards his house in Uskudar and realizes that the prices of the products sold in the market in the evening have dropped by half. Even though the products on the stalls are of low quality, the prices have been halved. Therefore, Mr. Ali Riza decides to go shopping in the evenings from now on. Arriving home in a thoughtful and pessimistic mood, Mr. Ali Riza sees Mrs. Hayriye waiting for him at the door. Having never seen a family member at the door before, Good news is given to Mr. Ali Riza who arrives at the door. Shaukat passed the exam he entered and was accepted for a job at the bank with a salary of one hundred liras. Mr. Ali Riza, who sees it as a twist of fate that his son gets a job on the day he resigned, is very happy. Mr. Ali Riza, who had raised and indoctrinated his son as the second head of the family, cries and hugs his children for the first time. He is confident that Shaukat will take care of his house and protect it from external dangers.

Ali Riza hands over his position to Shaukat Shaukat, now twenty years old, was raised by Mr. Ali Riza to be the new head of the family in the near future. The father endeavored to instill the truths he knew in his eldest son and succeeded in his goal. Although Shaukat did not study at higher schools, he received a good education and learned many languages thanks to his father. In this way, in the exam he participated in, he was able to get ahead of people with a much higher degree of education than him and was entitled to work as a clerk in the bank. Having promised his family a turkey feast when he gets a job, Shaukat keeps his promise. During the dinner, Mr. Ali Riza sits Shaukat in his seat and tells him that he is now the head of the family. Even though he had been suggesting to his family and himself that Shaukat would one day take responsibility for the family, it is difficult for Mr. Ali Riza to step aside and live a retired life. But there is nothing else he can do.

Ali Riza notices the change in the family for the first time Mr. Ali Riza has serious doubts and problems in his mind about the maintenance of the family. But Shaukat asks Mr. Ali Riza to trust him and says that he will do everything necessary for the family. Ali Riza shamefully recounts the incident that caused him to quit his job. Although Shaukat agrees with Mr. Ali Riza, Mrs. Hayriye remains silent without giving any response. Realizing that his wife treats him coldly, Mr. Ali Riza tries to find out the reason. Mrs. Hayriye accuses her husband of irresponsibility for quitting his job because of a matter of honor that concerns someone else. Mrs. Hayriye says that being an honorable person is important, but any person who cannot provide for their basic needs and is doomed to starvation can be dragged into dishonesty. Mr. Ali Riza, who had previously heard similar phrases from the smuggler he knew at Golden Leaf Corp., is astonished that his wife was so quickly affected by the changing world order. While Mr. Ali Riza prioritizes being an honorable person above everything else, Mrs. Hayriye says that bread and butter is more important. Because girls are no longer children. It used to be quite easy to make them happy. But now the children have grown up and their expectations and desires for the future have also increased. Mrs. Hayriye warns Mr. Ali Riza about the changes in the family and adds that he left his job at a bad time.

Daughters through the eyes of Mr. Ali Riza

Fikrat, the eldest daughter of the family, is now nineteen years old. Although she is less beautiful than the other girls in the family, she surpasses them in many respects by being well-read and virtuous. During a period when they were in Anatolia, it was not possible to get Fikrat treated, who had an eye problem. Because of this, the problem in her eye became permanent. Due to the fact that she reads a lot of novels, his observations about people make Mr. Ali Riza very proud. Leila and Najla are more materialistic than Fikrat and care more about appearances. Mr. Ali Riza is confident that his two daughters with beautiful eyes can easily find spouses and will not have to worry about life. However, Mr. Ali Riza worries about Fikrat's future. Even though Aisha is still very young, she is as beautiful as her two older sisters. He is sure that she will grow up under her brother's care and become a moral woman.

Mr. Ali Riza observes the changes in the social class he belongs to

Seeing that he is disapproved of by his wife and has fallen out of favor during his retirement, Mr. Ali Riza concludes that he was loved and respected because he worked and had financial means. While Mr. Ali Riza sees Mrs. Hayriye as a comrade-in-arms with whom he fights against difficulties, Mrs. Hayriye sees Mr. Ali Riza as a head of the family who is victim of his own mistakes. Mr. Ali Riza, who does not enjoy the books he reads and gardening as much as he used to, starts to walk in parks and then goes to coffeehouses, which he disgusts and looks at with prejudice. He makes friends at the coffeehouse, where he initially goes only to read the newspaper and observe events. He is convinced that men who have retired from the civil service escape to coffeehouses, because they are constantly fighting at home due to poverty. He empathizes with the people in the coffeehouse and accepts that he is in the same situation as them. Mr. Ali Riza begins to establish intimacy with eight or ten people he meets in the coffeehouse and sees his friend, a former city manager, being pushed and shoved by the stallholder with whom he is haggling for zucchini in the bazaar. Due to the embarrassment he experiences, Mr. Ali Riza decides never to shop with any of his friends again. The former fiscal director also talks about the difficulties he experienced after his retirement. There is talk that the well-dressed and well-groomed daughters of the former governor are trying to prey on rich men and are constantly seeing different men. Mr. Ali Riza thinks that a father would not knowingly turn a blind eye to this. The people in the coffeehouse think that Mr. Ali Riza is a naive man who is blind to the realities of the world.

Girls are divided into two groups

After quitting his job, Mr. Ali Riza loses his authority at home and the girls start to quarrel with each other. According to Mr. Ali Riza, the best thing that can be done for the girls from now on is to protect them from the evils of the outside world and to prevent them from meeting with the daughters of frivolous families. The girls in the house are divided into two groups. Fikrat and Aisha from one side of the conflict, while Leila and Najla from the other. Feeling lonely because Aisha is still young, Fikrat tries to get Ali Riza and Shaukat on her side. Shaukat says that he will take care of Leila and Najla if he deems it necessary. Mr. Ali Riza, on the other hand, does not want to get into an argument that he thinks he cannot win against his two daughters. Because he thinks that he is now only a scarecrow in the house.

The Farkhunda Affair

After Mr. Ali Riza loses his authority at home, the arguments at home begin to deepen with each passing day. Leila and Najla start to express for the first time that they do not want to be confined in the house and that they want to live as they wish. They say that the house is turning into a hell for them day by day. It is learned that Shaukat, who has been coming home in despair for a while and has lost his old cheerfulness, has been having an affair with a married typist working at the bank, which is discovered by her husband and he throws her out of the house. Mrs. Hayriye, who has been cold to her husband since the day he quit his job, enters the room where he spends time alone in the middle of the night and approaches him with a tenderness she has not shown for a long time. Mr. Ali Riza realizes that Mrs. Hayriye will ask for a great sacrifice from him. Because when Mrs. Hayriye decided to fire the maids they had employed, during their financially stable times, she had treated them very well before the day she fired them. After sewing the rips in her husband's clothes and making him comfortable, Mrs. Hayriye tells him about the forbidden love Shaukat had and tells him that he wants to marry her. Mr. Ali Riza does not accept a woman who has been unfaithful to her husband to marry Shaukat and says that he will leave the house if Shaukat marries her. Shaukat, who loves and respects Mr. Ali Riza, gives up on marrying Farkhunda. However, Mrs. Fahriye tells Mr. Ali Riza that Shaukat put Farkhunda in a difficult situation and that they are now responsible for her honor. Mr. Ali Riza agrees with Mrs. Hayriye and agrees to Shaukat marrying Farkhunda.

Farkhunda takes over Considering the financial situation of the family, Mr. Ali Riza wants a low-key wedding. Also, considering that the upcoming marriage is not a regular one, he does not want drums and zurna to be played. However, Shaukat spends more than he earns for a flashy wedding and Mrs. Hayriye supports her son. Watching the wedding from a hill beyond the house, Mr. Ali Riza looks like a man whose house is on fire. Because he does not like Farkhunda at all and is convinced that she is a very tactless and selfish woman. Farkhunda, who moves into the house after the wedding, immediately notices the inactivity in the house and is disturbed by it. Leila and Najla think that Farkhunda will bring some liveliness to the house. Farkhunda supports the two sisters and takes control of the house. After the wedding, invitations are organized at the house at least two nights a week and three nights a week they go to invitations at other houses. Mr. Ali Riza, who feels in his bones that he has lost all his power due to the invitations organized at home, the renewed wallpaper and his inability to control his daughters in any way, dresses up nicely and goes to see Mr. Mozaffar in the hope of getting his job back.

Invitations are organized at home – Ali Riza moves into the attic Mr. Ali Riza, who goes to Golden Leaf Corp., nervously approaches the door of Mr. Mozaffar's office. While he is preparing himself to enter, Mr. Mozaffar opens the door of the room. After asking a few cursory questions, Mr. Mozaffar tells Mr. Ali Riza that he has urgent business and asks him to come back another time and leaves. The parties and invitations organized at the house continue unabated. Mr. Ali Riza wonders how Shaukat can afford all these expenses and suspects that he is in debt. Taking refuge in an attic room, Mr. Ali Riza spends time alone reading books and listening to music on the gramophone. He begins to rebel and get angry at himself as he sees his home turning into hell and losing his family day by day. After a while, the source of the expenditures is cut off and the creditors come to the door. Shaukat asks his family members to tell the creditors that he is not at home. The money Shaukat earns is not enough to meet even the most basic needs. Because of this, the number and intensity of fights in the house increases and everyone starts to eat the food they have hidden in a corner secretly. Mrs. Hayriye asks Mr. Ali Riza to look at the men who come to see the girls and choose a suitable groom candidate.

Fikrat gets married and Ali Riza tries to marry off his other two daughters Although he knows that the main purpose of the parties organized at the house is not to find suitable groom candidates for the girls, Mr. Ali Riza decides to find suitable groom candidates for Leila and Najla. This is the only way to isolate Farkhunda and take the reins from her hands. Fikrat, disturbed by the radical change at home, decides to marry a fifty-year-old widower living in Adapazari. She shares this intention with her father. Fikrat, who is very angry with the women in the house, thinks that this is the only way out of the hell he is in. Mr. Ali Riza, who had dreamed of a bright future for his daughter, reluctantly gives his approval for her to marry. Fikrat leaves the house without hugging either her sisters or her mother. She tells her father that he can come to Adapazari whenever he wants. She gets on a train and sets out to get married. Mr. Ali Riza, who investigates, inquires and collects information about some men he knows at the invitations organized, intends to marry Leila and Najla as soon as possible. If he thought that Broker Mr. Tahsin, whom he had set his sights on, was a decent man, he soon learned that he owed money to many places. The post office clerk, to whom he plans to marry off Najla, is spending money of his rich sixty-year-old mistress.

Shaukat gets in debt as expenses increase When it is realized that the selected groom candidates are not suitable, Mr. Ali Riza continues to look for other candidates for his two daughters, Leila and Najla. Although Mr. Ali Riza initially finds it strange to see his daughters intimate with other men, getting close to them and even sitting on their laps during the parties and soirees organized at home, he accepts this situation in time. It is very important for the family's financial future that at least his two daughters get married as soon as possible. For this reason, Mr. Ali Riza begins to attend the parties and make observations, which he initially finds strange. It is observed that the guests, who are cautious towards Mr. Ali Riza, start to joke and make fun of him over time. Mrs. Hayriye comes to Mr. Ali Riza's room one night and softens her husband by displaying positive behaviors. Then she tells him that Shaukat owes many people to cover the expenses of the house and that they can pay off a significant part of the debts by mortgaging the house. Mr. Ali Riza does not want to let the house be mortgaged and lost. However, he foresees that there will be intrigues against him if he opposes this request, and since he does not have the power to deal with them, he accepts his wife's proposal.

Impoverishment and despair of the family With the money obtained through mortgaging the house, some of the urgent debts are paid off. The rest of the money is quickly spent on the

clothes, fake jewelries, perfumes and cosmetics that were purchased. With the arrival of winter, heating and nutrition problems arise. Mrs. Hayriye takes some winter clothes out of the trunk that she had kept during her thrifty periods and these clothes are immediately snapped up by the women in the house. Due to lack of heating in the house, everyone takes turns getting sick and the illness haunts the family members. Thereupon, Mr. Ali Riza decides to cut down some of the trees he had grown in the garden and care for and burn the woods to heat the house. Even though the plan was to spend at least the winter with the money obtained by mortgaging the house, the creditors start knocking on the door one by one. Shaukat, who does not have the luxury of rest even though he is sick, goes to work. Mrs. Hayriye tries to earn money by selling some of the items in the house and some of the dishes she cooks at home, but it is not enough. When there is nothing left to sell in the house, Mrs. Hayriye offers Mr. Ali Riza to ask Fikrat for help. The family's problems were also heard in Adapazari and because of this, Fikrat was almost unable to go out. Therefore, Mr. Ali Riza gets very angry at Mrs. Hayriye for her suggestion and tells her to leave Fikrat alone.

Shaukat gets arrested Shaukat has not come home for the last two days. While Farkhunda thinks that Shaukat has not come home because he is being stubborn with her, Mr. Ali Riza thinks that he has taken his own life. That's why he can't sleep and every crunch or sound he hears makes him think that Shaukat has come home. One day, someone comes home with the news that Shaukat has been taken into custody. Mr. Ali Riza is overjoyed that his son is in good health and without waiting any time, he leaves the house and goes to the custodial prison where his son is being held. At the police station, Mr. Ali Riza meets an old correspondence clerk friend, and manages to meet his son by asking him for a favor. Seeing his son sleeping alone in the custodial prison, Mr. Ali Riza feels both joy and sadness. First of all, Shaukat expresses great regret that he has disappointed his father. He feels ashamed for not being able to take care his father, mother and siblings in his father's old age. He confesses that he had taken money from the bank without any legal notification to cover the expenses of the house and that the inspection revealed that he had taken money from the bank without permission. Mr. Ali Riza feels very sorry for Shaukat for the situation he is in. Because he is definitely convinced that he is a good person.

Farkhunda leaves home and suitable suitors are sought for the girls As a result of the trial, Shaukat is sentenced to a year and a half in prison. Although the parents think that a year and a half will pass in the blink of an eye, Mr. Ali Riza knows that Shaukat will not be able to find a job after his release and will always live with this stain. Realizing that he will not be able to support his family with his thirty-five-lira pension, Mr. Ali Riza decides to marry off his daughters as soon as possible, regardless of any conditions. A draper in his forties suits Leila. Leila faints on the day of the engagement and says that it is unfair for her to marry an older man and that she deserves a better husband. Mr. Ali Riza agrees with Leila and the search for new groom candidates continues. Farkhunda, who becomes increasingly irritable and rude, starts to come home late at night. One day she leaves the house under the pretext of visiting a relative living in Bosphorus, leaving behind a letter. Mr. Ali Riza, who blames Farkhunda for all the misfortunes, is quite happy that she is gone. Mrs. Hayriye, Leila and Najla agree with Mr. Ali Riza for the first time. Mr. Ali Riza cautiously informs Shaukat that Farkhunda has left the house. Shaukat is very happy about the news he received. At first, Shaukat married Farkhunda because he loved her, but as time went on and he saw her true nature, he realized that he stayed married to her not because he loved her, but because he took responsibility for her. Saying that a burden has been lifted off his shoulders, Shaukat says that he has seen no benefit of being a sensitive and responsible person and that he will no longer care about anything other than his family.

Leila and Najla compete to marry Abd al-Wahhab After Farkhunda leaves the house, Mr. Ali Riza considerably reestablishes his authority at home. He prevents his daughters from going out and spending time with strange men as much as he can. Leila is suited by a young doctor named Mr. Nazmi. Leila and Nazmi meet for a while and decide to get married. However, Mr. Nazmi returns to his hometown Izmir and sends a letter to Leila saying that he has given up on marrying her. Because Mr. Nazmi's father did not consent to his son marrying a girl whose older brother is in prison. After a while, a tax officer wants to marry Leila. However, when the relationship does not progress with this person either, Abd al-Wahhab, who is supposed to be a rich businessman, suits Leila. Family elders see Mr. Abd al-Wahhab as a way out of the difficult situation they are in. With Leila's willing consent to the marriage, the two begin to go out for a while as engaged couples. Leila, who has hidden her true character from Mr. Abd al-Wahhab, who is a religious man, tries not to be seen by her close friends and tries to stay away from them. However, one day Leila comes across with some of her friends and

has to talk to them, and argues with Mr. Abd al-Wahhab because of the dialog between them. After returning to his hometown and not communicating with the family for two weeks, one day, Abd al-Wahhab sends a letter to the family. He gave up on marrying Leila and decided to marry Najla. Mr. Ali Riza becomes very angry at this situation. However, Najla, who is jealous of her sister Leila from Mr. Abd al-Wahhab and does not want to miss the opportunity to marry a rich man, accepts his proposal. Mr. Ali Riza, overwhelmed by his daughters' immorality and tired of financial difficulties, silently accepts Najla's marriage to Abd al-Wahhab. Thereupon, Najla marries Mr. Abd al-Wahhab and moves in with him.

Najla is deceived and Leila starts seeing someone Due to financial difficulties, the family sells their house in Baglarbasi and moves to a shabby house on Dolap Street, but they cannot get used to their new home. Feeling cheated and deceived, Leila fall ill and falls into bed. After recovering over time, Leila starts coming home late at night. At first, Mr. Ali Riza ignores Leila's irresponsibility and recklessness. Najla, who had moved to Beirut, started to live in poverty in a house with two partners. Mr. Abd al-Wahhab, whose occupation is unknown, is not a rich man as he is thought to be. Although she is not proud to return home after the injustices she has done to her family and her sister, she expresses her desire to return home in her letters to her family. Because Najla cannot get her husband to do anything she wants. Mr. Ali Riza does not want Najla to return home. However, after his daughter tells him that she will commit suicide, he agrees to her return. One day when he goes to the coffeehouse, Mr. Ali Riza learns from the retired major that Leila was seen getting into a man's car at night. Mr. Ali Riza is devastated when he finally realizes that what he feared has happened to him and that he is facing a matter of honor.

Leila becomes a lawyer's mistress Mr. Ali Riza sits in a dark corner of the house until late at night, waiting for Leila's return. Leila enters the house in a hurry and finds Mrs. Hayriye and Mr. Ali Riza in front of her. Leila tells them that she went to a tailor in Haydarpasa and was driven home by a friend she met there. But Mr. Ali Riza, knowing that his daughter is lying, tells what he knows. Leila, who despises her father and pities him, says cruel and thoughtless words and leaves the house. With Leila's expulsion from the house, Mr. Ali Riza and Mrs. Hayriye experience a psychological crisis. The psychological crisis also affects Mr. Ali Riza physiologically and he feels that some of his limbs start to get numb. Days later, Mr. Ali Riza goes to the coffeehouse and no one mentions Leila. This is because it is believed that Mr. Ali Riza did the right thing by kicking Leila out of the house because she had defiled the family's honor. Especially Mrs. Hayriye misses Leila and tries to convince Mr. Ali Riza to let her come back home. Leila, who has an adulterous relationship with a lawyer, moves into an apartment in Taksim. Mrs. Hayriye brings Leila home and wants her to reconcile with Mr. Ali Riza. Leila falls at Mr. Ali Riza's feet and asks for forgiveness. But Mr. Ali Riza does not forgive Leila. Because it is impossible for him to accept what Leila has done.

Mr. Ali Riza loses his last hope The next day, Mrs. Hayriye insists on Mr. Ali Riza to reconcile with Leila and forgive her, even argues with him. But Mr. Ali Riza, unable to forgive Leila, says that he will leave the house. Mr. Ali Riza decides to go to his daughter Fikrat, whom he sees as the last hope. Arriving at the house on a dark street in Adapazari, the father loses all hope when he sees Fikrat struggling with two children, spending days with a grumpy old man and taking care of her sister-in-law. Feeling like a stranger in Fikrat's house, Mr. Ali Riza returns to Istanbul after being a guest for about fifteen days.

Mr. Ali Riza is assimilated After being guest at his friends' house for a few days, he is hospitalized due to stroke. Mrs. Hayriye and Leila visit Mr. Ali Riza in the hospital and ask him to give up his stubbornness. Mr. Ali Riza, who has lost all his resistance due to illness and old age, forgives them and agrees to everything. The house on Dolap Street is rented out and the family moves into the lawyer's house in Taksim. The lawyer, who is financially well-off, takes good care of Leila and her family. He visits them when he manages to get rid of his grumpy wife. Mr. Ali Riza, who lives in a spacious and comfortable house and is well taken care of, soon recovers. He adapts to his family and starts attending invitations, soirees and parties and dancing. The only thing that bothers him now is seeing his old friends when he passes by the coffeehouse.

Theme

Tradition In his novel titled *Falling Leaves*, Resat Nuri Guntekin narrates the East-West conflict took place especially since the Constitutional Monarchy, the last period of the Ottoman Empire, as the

siblings in the family turn against each other. While Leila and Najla want to open up to the world and adapt to the new order, Mr. Ali Riza, Fikrat and Shaukat want to protect their family by completely closing the doors of the house to the outside world. However, with the changing economic and political order, the norms and dynamics of society begin to change radically. Approaching the events with a Darwinian realism, the author argues that those who adapt to the conditions will survive and the others will either assimilate or be pushed out of the system. But at the end of the narrative, everyone loses. Because, according to the author, in an environment where human values decay and become insignificant, everyone is doomed to lose. Najla and Leila fall victim to their greed, Shaukat to his weak will, Fikrat to her principles and Mr. Ali Riza to his values. Only Leila, the mistress of a wealthy lawyer, achieves the luxurious life she desires. The capitalist order destroys the traditions of societies and creates a new one. With the changing order, a family carrying the values of the past is seen to be completely destroyed.

Social Class In his novel *Falling Leaves*, Resat Nuri Guntekin sheds light on the political economic, social and educational situation of a certain segment of society, focusing on the personal life of Mr. Ali Riza, a high-ranking official in Sublime Porte, and the characters from the same social class as him. Mr. Ali Riza, a high-ranking official at the level of flag officer (sanjak beg), served as a mutessarif in various provinces of Anatolia. Mr. Ali Riza, a bureaucrat raised in Sublime Porte, appears to the readers as man from the upper classes of society. He is wealthy and lives in mansions with his family. The fact that he speaks Arabic, Persian, French and English is an indication that he has received a good education. In the work, which can also interferences about the special and general conditions of the bourgeois, the opposite class is not included. Because in the Ottoman Empire of the period, there was no class distinction similar to that the West. Especially the working class had just started to emerge and develop.

Family Having served as a mutessarif in different provinces of the country until the age of sixty, Mr. Ali Riza is aware of the radical changes in the political, economic and social spheres of the country. Mr. Ali Riza, who wishes to raise his children as Ottoman gentlemen and ladies, closes all the doors of his house to the outside world after moving to Istanbul. For him, the house is a liberated area where he protects his family against the evils of the outside world. However, Mr. Ali Riza, who started to lose his financial power after leaving the corporation he worked for, starts to lose his authority in the family in parallel. As the girls grow up and want to adapt to the outside world, the house becomes an open target for external threats. Although each member of the family has different characteristics, they are generally divided into two groups. There are those who want to be a part of the outside world and who do not want to be assimilated. However, the members of the family who cannot resist change are scattered to different places like leaves falling from a tree.

Alienation Just as Don Quixote struggles against windmills, Mr. Ali Riza tries to struggle against the norms and dynamics determined by the new economic-political order that is changing all over the world. But unlike Don Quixote, Mr. Ali Riza lacks the courage and strength to do so. Mr. Ali Riza thinks that he will protect his children and his wife from the dangers of the outside world by keeping them at home. However, when he loses his job, he also loses his financial possibilities and therefore, with the loss of his authority at home, his family members become open targets of threats from the outside world. Although Mr. Ali Riza takes some measures to protect his children, they are insufficient. Realizing that he cannot struggle with his children, he decides to get rid of them by marrying off his daughters. However, when he fails to do so and is unable to prevent his daughters from seeing other men, he gives up all the values he had cherished and protected until then. Mr. Ali Riza sinks into complete poverty and despair and begins to live with Leila, the mistress of wealthy lawyer. He becomes a part of the things he had previously looked at with disgust. Unable to resist the changing order, Mr. Ali Riza becomes alienated from his own values. He is forced to accept that commodities and capital have become more valuable than human beings.

Greed Not being satisfied with what one has and always wanting more has become the most sacred value of the new world. Narrative characters such as Leman, Mozaffar, Farkhunda, Leila, Najla and Governor Mr. Sarmat are representatives of these and similar values. Material and spiritual exploitation has become the new sacred value of mankind. The changing order over time has divided society into two conflicting poles. The most primitive instincts of human beings such as greed, reputation, jealousy, ambition, etc. dominate human values, which are quite fragile. Therefore, the victors of the conflict in the novel are usually those who act on their primitive instincts. Farkhunda, who is fond of beer and skittles, seduces Shaukat and exploits him materially and spiritually. Because of

her greed, the family falls apart. Similarly, Leila and Najla want to marry rich men and live a luxurious life. Leila, the mistress of a wealthy lawyer, achieves this goal.

Character Analysis

Ali Riza (Closed/Social/Conscientious/Emotional)

Mr. Ali Riza, the protagonist of the narrative, is a civil servant from Sublime Porte upbringing. He worked in Internal Affairs offices until the age of thirty. He made his first marriage in his forties with Mrs. Hayriye. He has four children within seven years. When he was fifty, his last child was born. His only son and eldest child's name is Shaukat. His eldest daughter is Fikrat, his elder middle daughter is Leila, his younger middle daughter is Najla and his youngest daughter is Aisha. After the death of his mother and sister, he served as a mutessarif in various provinces of the country. While in Trabzon province, he married Mrs. Hayriye. After his dismissal, he settled in Istanbul and started to work as an interpreter at Golden Leaf Corp., as he knew Arabic and English. Mr. Ali Riza, the quintessential Ottoman intellectual, is fluent in Arabic, Farsi, French and English. He is well versed in literature, music and Eastern culture. Being a Sublime Porte upbringing and having worked as a civil servant all over the country, he has strict principles and values. Due to his strict moralistic worldview, he sees the outside world and others as a threat. Mr. Ali Riza, who is a very romantic personality, is forced to face the cruel realities of humanity with the changing times and the loss of his financial power.

Frugal When he loses his job, he starts thinking about how to save money better: "Mr. Ali Riza lingered in front of them for a while. The worst and most rotten goods remained, but the prices had also halved compared to the morning. From now on, he should do his shopping at these hours. Damn! Why hadn't he conceived these subtle calculations earlier?" (Guntekin 2002, 26).

Responsible He takes everything he undertakes seriously and has a certain work ethic: "This was Mr. Ali Riza, an ex-mutessarif in his sixties. He always worked alone and forgotten in his office in a corner of the room, like in the middle of a desert, and never spoke to anyone. Because he was a very good and decent man, everyone, old and young, respected him" (Guntekin 2002, 10).

Settled He is very organized and planned in his professional and private life: "His son used to love his morning sleep excessively. When it was time for school, Mr. Ali Riza would slowly enter his room and make a loud noise by throwing a book or two on the floor or clapping his hands together. Once he even made the boy jump lengthwise by blowing a whistle on his bedside table" (Guntekin 2002, 95).

Righteous His greatest desire is to be known as a trustworthy person: "He could not do anything for fear of doing something wrong, doing something against the law, breaking hearts. He wanted the work that would come out of his hands to be in accordance not only with the law, but also with custom, humanity and courtesy, in other words, to be perfect in every way... Those who talked about him would say: "Good man... A man like a prophet... Kiss his hand... Make him pray for you... Make him talk about science... Make him read poetry... Whatever you do... But don't ask for a job" (Guntekin 2002, 12-13).

Passive He is fatalistic and does not want to intervene in developing events: "He likened the events to a raging flood and himself to a person watching this flood from a distance. Although he was a civil servant who could have risen, he would never join this flood, he would always remain a spectator in life... In his opinion, trying to divert this flood from its eternal course was a futile endeavor. Always has been always will be" (Guntekin 2002, 13).

Disreputable In parallel with leaving his job and losing his financial power, he also loses his authority at home: "As for Mr. Ali Riza, he was well aware of the fact that he was becoming a scarecrow in his house. Getting involved in this fight would have resulted in nothing but futile confrontation with the children" (Guntekin 2002, 50).

Anxious He worries about his wife and children because of the negative developments in his private life: "Mr. Ali Riza was not a man who kept his eyes closed. This fear had haunted him several times before. But it had never appeared as such an imminent danger. Even though he was a man

without faith, even though there was nothing to be expected from heaven, he prayed: "O Lord, protect my children!" (Guntekin 2002, 12).

Wise As he loses his financial power, he begins to see his value in the eyes of his relatives: "POVERTY; What a wonderful school it was for MR. Ali Riza. He began to see everything in its true color, with its true face. No one was now going to any trouble to show themselves to this penniless old man as anything other than what they actually were. Even his children..." (Guntekin 2002, 45).

Shaukat (Closed/Social/Conscientious/Emotional)

Shaukat, raised by Mr. Ali Riza in line with his own values, is the eldest child of the family. Shaukat, whom Mr. Ali Riza raised as his own model, is a twenty-two-year-old, well-educated young man. The protagonist raises his son "according to the perfect human model of his own imagination" (p. 28). This model is a knowledgeable, cultured, moral and honest person. Although Shaukat is raised according to such a model, the event that will upset his life balance will begin when he falls in love with a married clerk named Farkhunda at the bank where he works" (Kanter 2008, 278). In an exam he takes, he gets a job in a bank, ahead of people who are much better educated than him. From that day on, Shaukat takes charge of the house. Shaukat does his best not to embarrass his father and family. However, everything is ruined when he falls in love with a married typist working at the same bank and this is revealed. After his marriage to Farkhunda, he undergoes serious changes in himself as well as in the balance in the house. Farkhunda takes control of the house as he loses his authority and will. He borrows money to cover the expenses of the parties held at home and when he cannot pay these debts, he steals money from the bank where he works. After an inspection at the bank reveals that he stole money from the safe, Shaukat is sentenced to a year and a half in prison. Shaukat regrets that he lost his will and did not stand up to Farkhunda's excesses, and finds peace after she leaves the house. However, while in prison, his worldview completely changes and he says that moral values do nothing but harm themselves.

Regretful He regrets having married Farkhunda and blames himself for the situation the family has fallen into: "- You trusted me the most among your children. However, you got the biggest kick from me, my poor father. How I wished I could have helped you in your old age, but alas, I couldn't. Somehow, I slipped once, and I couldn't recover myself again. (...) Would you believe it, father? Even though I didn't seem to be aware of anything, I was seeing all the filth. You wouldn't know how many curses I was uttering to myself..." (Guntekin 2002, 97).

Proud He embraces the position he inherited from his father and is confident in himself: "- How can your tongue reach to say this, father? Do you doubt me? I will work in a different way, if necessary. We'll make my siblings better anyway" (Guntekin 2002, 31).

Sensitive He is a character with high emotional intelligence: "But Mr. Ali Riza's real influence was on Shaukat's heart rather than his mind. The old officer doubted everything in the world, but not his son's morality. According to him, Shaukat was a piece of diamond that no force in the world could break and defile" (Guntekin 2002, 28).

Conscientious He thinks of others more than himself and worries about their problems: "- Don't be afraid, father... I'll never disappoint your hopes... You'll see how good we'll be, how comfortable we will be in the end... First of all, we have to raise my sisters. It's easy after we take care of each other. I can make you and my mother happy anyway" (Guntekin 2002, 47).

Faithful He is very loyal to his father: "- You can't know the value of this man in my eyes and how much I love him, mom... Don't be offended... I love you very much too. But my love for him is something completely different, something like worship, he said" (Guntekin 2002, 57).

Weak-Willed Because of his weakness for Farkhunda, he turns a blind eye to the disruption of the family order: "Nothing has changed in his ideas and feelings. He is not satisfied with this course of events either. He doesn't like this way of living, nor the people who come in and out of their house; but in any case, things have gotten out of hand, he has been carried away by this terrible current because of his weakness for his wife, or for other reasons; these defenses are nothing but an excuse for this weakness" (Guntekin 2002, 68).

Peaceful When his wife leaves home, a great burden is lifted from his and his family's shoulders: "- What are you saying, father!... I've escaped from the biggest dungeon. If they had taken me out of here at this hour and sent me home with you, I wouldn't have been so pleased" (Guntekin 2002, 104).

Pessimist His negative marriage experience makes him pessimistic: "What is there to call such houses anyway? In short, trying to be a good human has brought you and me nothing but harm. Let's see, let's try being an animal!..." (Guntekin 2002, 104).

Farkhunda (Open/Asocial/Unconscientious/Emotional)

"Farkhunda, who opposes the "strict moralist" attitude of the protagonist Mr. Ali Riza, is also a tough character. As soon as this woman, who works at the bank where Mr. Ali Riza's son Shaukat works and whom he loved while she was still married to someone else, becomes the bride of the family, perception of "morality" and "modernism" undergo a change. Farkhunda likes to show off and does not care about human values. Farkhunda, whose worldview is based on hedonism, has a characteristic in which her own desires are at the forefront, not the social environment. Farkhunda, who lives under the guidance of an exploitative and hedonistic worldview, acts in line with her own interests. (...) Farkhunda, who has been acting in line with her own philosophy of life since the day she came to Mr. Ali Riza's house as a bride, also acts in the same way and exploits them. Farkhunda, whose character is the opposite of the concepts of morality and honor that Mr. Ali Riza represents in the novel, is the representation of his phobia against change. Farkhunda, after becoming the bride of the house, is smart enough to manipulate the household according to her wishes" (Kanter 2008, 280-281).

Manipulator She manipulates family members and other people for her own interests and desires: "This young woman was as deceitful and brave as she was clever. In a few days she took over and ruled alone" (Guntekin 2002, 64).

Pretentious She does not learn from her mistakes and is tactless enough to boast about them: "He thought that he would meet a shy and humble woman crying with joy for having her honor restored and being accepted into a good family. On the contrary, he found an arrogant, light-hearted, spoiled creature who was very boastful and saw in herself infinite rights" (Guntekin 2002, 61).

Lively She is a very dynamic, lively and active character: "- She said, "There is a turbeh smell in this house. In my opinion, we should open the windows and doors, change the air little. I don't know, maybe you don't smell anything because you are used to it" (Guntekin 2002, 63).

Dominant She does not hesitate to intervene in the private lives of others and takes control: "Farkhunda's saying "there are three of us" was nothing but modesty. Otherwise, she understood very well that she is the dictator of the house as of today" (Guntekin 2002, 64).

Selfish She thinks only of herself and values herself: "Except for Farkhunda, who always hidden jams and canned sardines in her cupboard, everyone was feeding themselves in different corners with olives, cheese and bacon, and in very cold weather, they were wrapped in quilts without covers" (Guntekin 2002, 69).

Materialistic "Especially Farkhunda was in rage. When she was a little bored, she would lash out at anyone who came along, and if anyone retaliated, she would go into a rage, slamming herself to the ground, saying, "Where did I fall into these beggars? They both eat my husband's bread and defy me. If it weren't for you, we would get along as a couple!" she shouted" (Guntekin 2002, 91).

Indifferent When the family becomes poor and her husband is imprisoned, she leaves home: "I've been patient for years, but I can no longer tolerate misery. I've to never return to your house again. Tell Shaukat to forgive me. I would be grateful and take care of myself if he could do me a favor and untie my legs easily... she said" (Guntekin 2002, 101).

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