

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
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GOLDEN OLDIE / ESKI SARKI (1971)

RESAT NURI GUNTEKIN (1889 – 1956)

Apropos

Golden Oldie is a theatrical play written by Resat Nuri Guntekin adapted for the stage in 1951 from his novel *Eski Hastalik* (eng. Old Illness), which he wrote in 1938, the year coincided with his maturity as a writer. The literary work, which consists of three acts and a prologue, is approximately 117 pages long and was first published by the National Education Ministry Press in 1971 together with *Falling Leaves*. The first act of the play, which was staged at Istanbul City Theaters and Ankara State Conservatory, consists of eight scenes and two tables. The second act consists of five scenes and the third act consists of two tables. The play ends with the last act. The plot of the play, which takes place on an island off the coast of Southern Anatolia that has been devastated by wars for fifteen years, is as follows: The social situation is conveyed to the reader/audience through the marriage of Zuleika, who was raised in an affluent family in Istanbul and educated at American College, and Joseph, an landlord and soldier from Southern Anatolia, and conflicts experienced by the two characters belonging to different social segments. Criticized by theater critics as having some problems in term of techniques, *Golden Oldie* could not achieve the success of *Falling Leaves*. It can be said that the real time in the play is 1928, and the duration of the action is fifteen days. It is a contemporary literary work written at a time when Turkish theater and Turkish society were undergoing a radical change.

Synopsis

Joseph, one of the landlords in Southern Anatolia, fought against the French in the Taurus Mountains for years under the command of Colonel Omer Beg and played a significant role in the guerilla organization. After the end of the war, Colonel Omer Beg wants to marry this young man, for whom he feels admiration and is gratitude, to his daughter Zuleika, who is staying with her uncle in Istanbul and was educated at American College. Zuleika, who was brought to Silifke on the occasion of attending a wedding, meets Joseph and marries him. After a while, Mr. Omer passes away. Zuleika and Joseph are very happy and contented in the early stages of their marriage. But Zuleika, who has a libertarian and egalitarian worldview, sees that she is oppressed and intimidated by a traditionalist landlord. Then Zuleika, feels strange from Joseph. However, Zuleika, who loves Joseph, sometimes humorously tells him that she wants a divorce. Taking Zuleika's statement seriously, Joseph files for divorce and the court decides on the final divorce will take place one year later, anticipating that the couple may regret this intention. Thereupon Zuleika returns to her uncle's house in Istanbul, where she meets a young embassy clerk during a party and goes out with him. The two have a traffic accident on their way home and the incident is reported by the newspapers. After the news of this incident spreads, rumors start that Zuleika is an evil woman and these rumors spread everywhere. During Zuleika's hospitalization, her estranged husband visits her and takes her, on a ferry trip. During the ferry trip, they stay on an island for a short time. In the meantime, the two confront their pasts and make some confessions to each other. At the end of the play, Zuleika and Joseph sacrifice love for the sake of their pride.

People

<i>Zuleika</i>	Protagonist of the play is an urbanite and well-educated woman with feminist values.
<i>Joseph</i>	An important landlord of Southern Anatolia and a war hero.
<i>Aisha</i>	Zuleika's friend from American College. An urbanite married to a provincial official.
<i>Qaimaqam</i>	The district governor of the island. Aisha's husband. His real name is Nihat.
<i>Father</i>	A fisherman immigrated to the island from Crete. A guerilla fought against the Greeks.
<i>Zahra</i>	Father's daughter-in-law works in a hotel. Her husband, a fisherman, died at sea.
<i>Sea Captain</i>	The person who runs the ferry between the island and the land. Joseph's former comrade-in-arms.
<i>Mr. Omar Beg</i>	Commander fought against the French in Taurus Mountains. Zuleika's father.
<i>Little Ahmad</i>	Zahra's son.

Musharraf Zahra's fourteen-year-old daughter.
Hajar The last daughter of Father. She was molested by a wealthy man from Söke.
Colonel Vaso The Greek colonel whom Father fought against in Crete.

The names of the other narrative characters who took part in the play are as follows: Lighthouse Keeper, Fisherman, Gendarmerie Clerk, Kemancha Player, Doctor, Gendarmerie Commander, Little Ali, Railway Official, two peasants, three crewmen, etc.

Elaborative Storyline

General view of Father and the islanders The events take place on a small island off the coast of Southern Anatolia which has been devastated by successive battles for fifteen years. In Scene I of Act I, Joseph, Qaimaqam, Father, Zuleika, Aisha, Lighthouse Keeper, Zahra, Hajar, Musharraf, Little Ahmad, Fisherman and three crewmen are seen interacting in the garden of the abandoned hotel of the harbor on the island. Father tells the Fisherman docking at the harbor and unloading cargo to be careful. He guides them with his directives. He does not want them to fall into the sea. He tries to take the creel of one of the fishermen landing in the harbor and tells them not to spill the things in the creel. Because the only source of living of the people on the island is the things in the creel. Little Ahmad, sitting on a wall, makes a remark to Father. Father gets angry with Little Ahmad and tells him to come down. Little Ahmad threatens Father with throwing a stone at his head. Then Joseph and Qaimaqam are seen wandering around the island. Father complains to Qaimaqam about the children and says that the state should teach them manners and that one of the main duties of the state is to establish justice. Joseph tells Qaimaqam that when Father went to Antalya in the hope of returning to Crete during the population exchange and saw Atatürk, who was there, he called out, "Long live the Sultan". He tells him that Father thinks he is still living in a country ruled by a monarchy.

The situation of Father's family on the island Father, who had tried to resist Colonel Vaso in Crete with a hundred men he had personally hired, left the place where he was born and raised after the defeat and came to this small island and settled here by establishing a casino and a hotel. Very few people are left from his family. Musharraf and Little Ahmad are fighting among themselves. When no one is around, Little Ahmad enters the room and tries to steal Musharraf's candies and is caught red-handed. The two siblings then start to fight and their mother Zahra intervenes and separates them. Zahra, who lost her husband at sea, rebels against her bad fate because she has to take care of her children alone. Little Ahmad tells Zahra that he stole her candies because his candies were stolen by Musharraf.

Joseph and Zuleika start to stay on the island In Scene II; Joseph, Qaimaqam, Zuleika and Aisha take part. Joseph congratulates Qaimaqam for the marbles he has extracted from the quarries on the island and admires the marbles. The settlers living on the island are struggling with serious financial difficulties. They have no source of income other than goat's meat, goat milk, olives and fishing. According to Qaimaqam's admission, a large part of this income is taken from the taxpayers as tax. Joseph congratulates Qaimaqam for his island planning and the marble quarry he has established. Having worked in the eastern provinces for a long time, Qaimaqam was finally appointed to the island. His wife, who was raised in Istanbul and studied at American College, has also become accustomed to this life and the places they visit. Joseph tells Qaimaqam that he has observed that living on the island has various financial difficulties. Qaimaqam tells Joseph that he is right, but adds that the salary of a civil servant is quite valuable on the island. Joseph, who is the mayor of Silifke, is travelling with his wife Zuleika when the steamer they are traveling on breaks down and they have to anchor on the island. On this occasion, Joseph and Zuleika had the chance to meet the Qaimaqam and Aisha. Joseph-Zuleika, who was very pleased with the friendship of the Qaimaqam-Aisha, decided to wait for the ferry to be repaired instead of returning to Silifke on another ferry. Aisha, who goes to the harbor every day to greet the people getting off the ships, found the friendship she was looking for in Zuleika. Zahra reproaches her misbehaving children and her grumpy father. Joseph wants to carry Zuleika in his arms from the platform and take her to the hotel. But Zuleika rejects the offer by rebuffing Joseph.

Reunion of former comrades in arms In Scene III, Father, who has fallen into the sea because he has difficulty standing due to old age, is brought ashore. While Father is being taken to Zahra, Qaimaqam wants to express his wish to die rather than grow old and become the laughing stock of children, but Aisha does not allow him to speak in this way. Sea Captain docks his ship at

the harbor brings some of Zuleika's needs and delivers them to Joseph. Sea Captain, who has also brought a few lambs for the crew working on the ship, says that there will be entertainment on the beach in the evening. He states that dancing and having fun will be good for the crew. Sea Captain and Joseph fought side by side against the enemy during the War of Independence in the Taurus Mountains under the command of Colonel Omar, Zuleika's father. Father criticizes the entertainment organized by the seamen. He says that during these entertainments people can get out of control and young girls are subjected to undesirable behavior. In the recent past, a customs officer from Söke lost his self-control during the entertainment and bit Hajar, leaving a scar on her body.

The bad fate of women on the island In Scene IV; Zuleika, Aisha and Zahra take care of Hajar who burst into tears. They tell Hajar that the bite mark on her face should be healed by now and ask her to remove the bandage. After the incident, Hajar has turned into an introvert and has started to speak quietly when she spoke. After the incident, Hajar's suitor, an olive farmer with three children from Tepe village, also gave up on marrying her. Hajar's older sister, who was more beautiful than her, went to Antalya in the hope of finding a good fortune, but ended up in bars. She was eventually murdered in Mersin. Zahra and the other women do not want Hajar to suffer the same fate.

Aisha and Zuleika's friendship history In Scene II of Table I; the focus is on the table prepared for Aisha and Zuleika in the same setting. Little Ali, the ferry's child waiter and Qaimaqam accompany them during the scene. Seeing Aisha and Zuleika sitting and chatting, Qaimaqam jokingly teases his wife. Then he goes to the table he has prepared for Joseph. Aisha and Zuleika are old friends from American College. Zuleika, who is in a higher grade than Aisha, is a successful enough student to converse with her teachers in English. While it was hoped that she would go to USA and get a good education, she married Joseph at her father's request. As soon as Aisha's father went to Sivas during the War of Independence, he participated in the battle in Sakarya and was martyred, and Qaimaqam rescued his family who were left behind. Zuleika, who says that she had a similar marriage to Aisha's, begins to explain why and how she married Joseph. Zuleika, who had come to Silifke with her family to celebrate a bairam, was asked to marry Joseph, her father's former aid-de-camp and a war hero. The names of the two also make the marriage inevitable.

The marriage and divorce of Zuleika and Joseph The first period of their marriage went very well and they were happy with their relationship. Zuleika, an open-minded and free-spirited woman, especially mentions the happiness and pleasure she feels from her sexual experiences with Joseph. However, Joseph, the son of an overlord and raised in a traditional way, wanted to take over Zuleika not only physically but also spiritually. The norms of the society he lived in forced him to behave in this way. Zuleika, who is against the norms imposed on women by the patriarchal order, does not allow Joseph to do this and feels deep anger inside at those who prevented her from going to USA. She tells her that the feeling called love is just a song from a bygone era and that the current era has a completely different reality. She and Aisha disagree about the role of women in society and the relationship between men and women. Zuleika and Joseph divorced a while ago. Zuleika, who said that she wanted to divorce her husband just to anger him when she was grumpy, learned a few days later that a divorce case has been filed by Joseph. She says that Eastern men have a meaningless and exaggerated pride.

Former soldiers getting together to reminisce about the past In Table I; people are drinking rakee gathered around the table at the foot of the rampart. Joseph, Qaimaqam, Father, Aisha and Zuleika take part in the table. The crew dances and drinks at the musical entertainment organized on the beach. Joseph tells Sea Captain that he is afraid that the seamen might bite one of the girls. Sea Captain says that if such a thing happens, the perpetrator will be punished immediately. Father, who overhears the conversation, says that in their guerilla days, if his men or Colonel Vaso's men did such thing, they would be severely punished. Then the memories of the battle are told. Sea Captain tells how he deceived the British while pirating near Chios Island. Then Lighthouse Keeper tells how he drank for the first time on the battleship Hifzi Rahman under the pressure of his friends and how he was bastinadoed by his commander for refusing to get up for the dawn prayer because he was drunk. Zuleika asks gendarmerie private where his wife and children are. Gendarmerie private's wife and children lost their lives in the war. Hearing the sound of the kemancha, Joseph asks Sea Captain if he remembers how they escaped from the French during the war thanks to the sound of the kemancha. While carrying their commander, who had been wounded during the struggle against the French in the mountains, on a donkey, the French, hearing the sound of the kemancha played by other guerillas, headed in the direction of the sound and their lives were saved. Joseph and Sea Captain cannot

accept that Colonel Omar died before them. Because Colonel Omar told his soldiers who called him "commander" during the war, that no one was their commander and that they would eventually die side by side. But Colonel Omar died before his soldiers.

How Zuleika sees her father Mr. Omar Zuleika, Aisha, Qaimaqam and Joseph take part in Scene II. Zuleika's childhood was spent in her uncle's house in Bebek. Her uncle wanted to recruit Mr. Omar as the military attaché in Berlin by using his connections in the palace, but Mr. Omar rejected the offer and went to Anatolia. Towards the end of the war, Mr. Omar went to Adana and was later joined by Zuleika. Although he was wounded in various parts during the war, he never lost his modesty. During his garden walks with his daughter, he confesses that he could learn a lot from her. Having received such a compliment from her father, Zuleika falls in love with him that day. Mr. Omar wanted to marry Zuleika to Joseph. During his stay in Adana, he wanted to personally capture a bandit who was hiding near his house. As a sign of power and masculinity, the people of the region expect Mr. Omar to personally deal with the bandit.

Zuleika keeps Joseph away from herself In Scene III, Joseph comes to Zuleika and notices that she is shivering. Joseph asks her if she is ill and wants to do something for her. But Zuleika says that she only wants to go to bed and starts walking towards the hotel. Even though Joseph wants to help her, Zuleika does not allow him to help her.

Characters on the island get closer to each other In Scene I of Second Act; Qaimaqam, Joseph, Sea Captain, Zahra, Zuleika, Aisha, Hajar and Musharraf take part. The décor is the same as in Table I in Act I. Qaimaqam and Joseph are covered in dust when they enter. Sea Captain, who sees them through binoculars from the ship, gets into his boat and row ashore. The two call out to their wives but do not receive any response. Sea Captain comes to the two. The two tells that they stayed in Tepe village for two days and examined the marbles. Joseph shows Sea Captain the samples he carried in his bag. The two ask if their wives have boarded the ship. Sea Captain gives them a negative answer. Father is heard shouting. Plums have stolen from his trees for several nights. Then Zuleika, Aisha and Zahra enter the stage. After going to the sea, they picked plums from the trees. Joseph is surprised that his wife, whom he had carried in his arms when they first set foot on the island due to her illness, swims and climbs the plum tree. Qaimaqam is also surprised that Aisha has gone swimming and has changed her headscarf. Zuleika admits that she took Aisha to the sea, but says that she did not interfere with her headscarf and cannot take responsibility for it. Thinking that he is thought to be a reactionary bigot, Qaimaqam says that it was the provincial and district administrator who liberated women from the chador and danced with them for the first time during the revolution. Father apologizes for shouting at the women. Father thought they were thieves. Then the female characters leave the stage.

Zahra realizes that the Zuleika and Joseph are on bad terms In Scene II; Aisha, Zahra, Zuleika and Hajar take part. Zahra tells Aisha that she knows that Joseph and Zuleika are beautiful and kind couple, but that there is a serious problem between them. She wishes that her husband and the men of the island were as kind a beautiful as Joseph. But Zahra knows that by her nature she cannot be with anyone but her own husband and she wants to be with him no matter what. Aisha tries to pretend that she doesn't understand what Zahra is saying, but Zahra is aware that Aisha knows everything. Zahra, who is looked after the hotel, says that she saw Zuleika sleeping alone in the room and that she saw the couple acting quite distant from each other. In addition, when Zahra sees Zuleika sleeping alone with her top uncovered while the room door is open in the middle of the night, she tries to cover her but she is prevented from doing so. Because Zuleika thought that Joseph was the one who touched her during sleep. Having experienced similar situations with her deceased husband, Zahra realized from the very beginning that there was a problem between Zuleika and Joseph. She says that Joseph loves Zuleika, but there is a problem between the two that she does not understand the reason for.

Zuleika tells her secret to Aisha After the conversation, Zuleika joins the couple. Zahra implies with her words that she knows what happened between the couple and leaves. Zuleika then tells Aisha a secret that she had kept from her but which had been reported in the newspapers a while ago. Zuleika, who had returned to her uncle's house as a free woman after her divorce from Joseph, tells Aisha that she met a young man who worked as a clerk in one of the embassies in European countries at one of the invitations she attended and that she drove with him from Suadiye Casino to Alemdağı, where they drank and spent time together. On their way back, they hit a military truck near Dudullu

and were hospitalized. Zuleika stays in the hospital for forty-five days. During this time, the incident is reported in the newspapers and rumors spread about an affair between Zuleika and the young clerk. Due to the news reports, Zuleika, who has become known as a bad woman by everyone, is in difficult situation. Days later Joseph comes to visit Zuleika in the hospital. Contrary to popular belief, Joseph does not accuse Zuleika of anything and takes a close interest in her. Once Zuleika regains her health, they go on a ferry trip. Their final destination becomes the island where they are. Zuleika struggles to understand why Joseph shows interest in her after the incident and why she is not asked anything about the incident. Aisha tells Zuleika that Joseph loves her, but Zuleika disagrees with her. Zuleika thinks that Joseph is showing off patriarchal masculinity or is caught up in a meaningless conscience. Aisha asks Zuleika what really happened between her and young clerk and says that she does not believe what is written in the newspapers. Zuleika says that she will not answer to anyone, especially Joseph, and that she sees this as a weakness and that her womanly pride will be damaged. Qaimaqam enters the room and sees Aisha crying. Zuleika tells him that she is the one who made Aisha cry and that she told her a novel. Zuleika asks Aisha to tell the novel she told to Qaimaqam in the future.

The couple seen outside at night is intervened Then Sea Captain and Joseph appear at the foot of the lighthouse. Joseph wants to sit and chat with Sea Captain but he says he is tired. Joseph asks Sea Captain why he interfered with the couple he saw at night and says that he caused them to run away. Although Sea Captain says that he is some kind of *custos morum*, Joseph knows how fond he is of women. In particular, he implies that he knows that he likes Zahra. Sea Captain confesses that he likes Zahra and says that the woman he saw at night could not be Zahra. Sea Captain expresses that he suspects Hajar. Even though he had a bitter experience in the past, he goes to sleep after saying that women like her are dark horses.

Joseph suggests Hajar to marry customs officer from Söke Scene III takes place between Joseph and Hajar. Joseph intends to sit on the rocks and have a drink, but instead he takes out a peach and starts eating it when he hears a noise. He calls out in the direction of the sound and sees Hajar coming. Thinking that Hajar is meeting someone at night, he puts pressure on her with questions. But when Hajar starts to cry, he backs down. Joseph asks Hajar if she knows the man who bit her and if they had a relationship in the past. Having learned that the man lives in Söke and is a wealthy man, Joseph offers to marry Hajar to him and organize their wedding. He does not want her to share the same fate as her elder sister. Joseph also says that he will take care of her and protect her. Hajar accepts Joseph's offer and leaves.

Joseph and Zuleika get closer In Scene IV; Joseph and Zuleika take part. When the candle in the lantern runs out, Joseph climbs up on the rocks and starts to look at the sea and after a while he sees that there is something in the sea and starts to call out. It is understood that Zuleika is lying on the rocks in the sea. Joseph wants to take Zuleika from there. Zuleika asks for the steamer or boat to be sent, but the Sea Captain has recently left the island. So, Joseph swims to the rocks and takes Zuleika from there and brings her to the island. He sits her on a place at the foot of the lighthouse. It is seen that the couple becomes close and united with each other for the first time. However, after a period of intimacy, Zuleika exclaims "No, no!" and leaves Joseph and goes to the hotel. Upon this reaction, Joseph rooted to the spot.

Women prepare Hajar for the wedding In Act III, Table III and Scene I; Zuleika, Aisha and Zahra take part. Hajar is wearing a wedding dress. Zahra and Zuleika are preparing Hajar for the wedding. The wedding dress belongs to Zuleika and was brought by her mother-in-law from Mersin to Silifke. Zahra says that Joseph will be sad when he sees the wedding dress. Zuleika says that Joseph will not remember it and there is nothing to worry about. Then Zahra tells Hajar that she is afraid that the groom will bite her again. Because the groom from Söke is remembered by the islanders as a very rude person. Hajar starts to cry upon Zahra's words. Zuleika tells Zahra that she has upset Hajar with her words on this happy day. Zahra, who does not intend to upset Hajar, leaves after Aisha tells her that Musharraf does not behave well. Zuleika tells Hajar that she has been observing the groom, that he is a very good person and that she will be happy with him. Hajar tells Zuleika that she is crying because she is leaving her family.

Father's farewell with Hajar In Scene II; it is seen that Father, Little Ali, Little Ahmad and Zahra play their roles. Father comes to the women in a drunken state, muttering. Zuleika shows his daughter Hajar to Father. Father cannot recognize Hajar because of her beauty and thanks the ladies. Zuleika

tells Father that he must kiss Hajar. Father, who is sad about being separated from his daughter, wants to kiss her, believing that they will see each other in the afterlife after she getting married and leaving the island. Father accidentally tries to kiss Zuleika but she directs him to Hajar. It is still unbelievable that Hajar will marry the man from Söke.

Marrying Musharraf off to Fisherman In Scene III; Sea Captain puts an earring on Hajar. Seeing that the other earring is missing, Zahra makes fun of Sea Captain. Sea Captain tells Zahra that he had bought the earring for another woman in the past, but that he never had the chance to put it on her and that he had lost one of the earrings over time. Then Musharraf, another young girl in a wedding dress, is forced out of the room. Because she does not like her wedding dress and thinks Hajar is more beautiful than her. At night, Musharraf meets with Fisherman and it is decided to marry her off, even though she is fourteen years old. Joseph says that they should stop arguing and join the fun. Joseph says that he has come from Tasucu and adds that he is quite tired.

Divorce of Zuleika and Joseph In Scene IV; Joseph, wearied by travelling, sits on a stair. Upon hearing the news about his mother's illness, Joseph went to Silifke. But when he learns that his mother is fine and has had a petty faint, he returns. Zuleika rejoices at Joseph's news. The reason why Joseph came to the island a few days late is that he received the news that the one-year period for the final divorce decision of the court had expired and Zuleika went to the court with her lawyer and received the notification. Upon receiving the news, Zuleika and Joseph are completely divorced. Now, it is time to separate for good. However, when asked why she had come to the island with Joseph, Zuleika replied that it was because of illness and the confusion and weakness it caused. As the time for final separation has come, Joseph wants to provide financial aid to Zuleika. Zuleika agrees to receive financial help from Joseph for a short time, until she will be financially independent. Then the two attend a party. Father asks Joseph to talk to his daughter and convince her to give up on getting married. Because Father does not want to be alone.

Parting of the ways The last act's stars are Joseph, Zuleika, Station Clerk, Villager, Sick Woman and Old Man. While waiting at the train station, a villager who takes a sick woman to the hospital in Afyon asks Joseph for a letter of reference. Joseph fulfills the villager's wish to help the patient. After her son was martyred during his military service, the land belonging to the old woman was usurped by her daughter-in-law and her brother. The old woman asks Joseph for a letter of reference for the court, but Joseph says that he cannot do so. The officer asks for a letter of reference to be assigned elsewhere. As the train's departure time approaches, the two come to the platform. Zuleika wants to know from Joseph why he brought her to the island while she was hospitalized. Joseph, who had gone to the Yuruks in the mountains out of shame and anger when he read the news in the newspapers, returned at his mother's request. His mother tells Joseph that she does not believe the news about Zuleika and that even if the news is true, they cannot leave Colonel Omar's daughter alone in this situation. Otherwise, she tells her son that she will not forgive him. Joseph agrees with his mother and goes to see Zuleika and brings her to the island. Because his feelings for her were always belittled and humiliated by Zuleika, Joseph became numb to her over time. However, during the time they spent on the island, the feeling of love has been resurrected. Upon these confessions, Zuleika tells Joseph that she had never cheated on him. Not wanting to feel degraded, Zuleika did not want to confess this. Upon receiving the information, Joseph, who learns that Zuleika respects him, finds peace of mind. Then the two part ways.

Themes

Patriarchy It is seen that patriarchal norms are dominant in the social environment of *Golden Oldie*. It is seen that the actors living in a male-dominated world are in a completely hierarchical order. In terms of actants, men are very active characters while women characters are quite passive. Even though a capitalist order has been adopted, land feudalism continues. Joseph, the last son of a former landlord, is deeply respected by those who know him. The men talk among themselves about wars and masculine issues. Especially important people like Joseph, who belong to the upper classes, try to support the poor. Zuleika, who grew up in her uncle's house in Istanbul and became the most successful student at American College, is against the patriarchal order. Married up with Joseph, a war hero and the son of a former landlord, upon the request of Colonel Omar, a veteran of the War of Independence, Zuleika feels both physically and mentally oppressed and crushed by her husband. From the moment she realizes that her humanity and femininity pride has begun to be damaged, she distances herself from her husband. Zuleika, who has a libertarian and materialist worldview, has no

room for weakness and never allows herself to be oppressed by others. In conclusion, the play's protagonist Zuleika's struggle against the patriarchal order and her conflict she faced with her husband are told.

Love The title of the theater play, *Golden Oldie*, refers to love, which is one of the emotions unique to human beings. Joseph falls in love with Zuleika, who is brought to Silifke on the pretext of a celebration at the request of Colonel Omar, and marries her. Joseph, who has intense and sincere feelings for Zuleika, cannot find a complete response to his feelings. In the early days of their marriage, Zuleika and Joseph were quite happy. Joseph expresses his feelings for Zuleika many times, but in return he is subjected to humiliation and ridicule. Because according to Zuleika, the feeling of love is specific to people of past eras or fabricated by them. The feeling of love and anything related to it are not suitable for the people of the present era. Zuleika, who has a rationalist, materialist and libertarian worldview, does not want to be attached to anything that goes beyond logic and takes away her freedom and rejects their existence. While Joseph represents the idealistic side of human beings, Zuleika represents the materialistic side. The narrative characters, who represent two different worldviews, enter into a dialectical conflict and it is not possible for them to come together.

Pride Joseph, who had worked under the command of Colonel Omar, who had been a guerilla leader against the French in the Taurus Mountains during the War of Independence, is married to Zuleika by Mr. Omar after the end of the war. Joseph, who fell in love with Zuleika the first day he saw her, gladly accepts Mr. Omar's request. Although Zuleika initially agrees to marry Joseph to fulfill her father's wish, she is quite happy with the relationship she has in the first years of the marriage. However, Zuleika, who grew up in a wealthy family and received a good education, does not want to accept the social structure, customs, traditions and understandings of the past. She removes from her environment anything that could harm her womanly pride. She never allows her womanly pride to be trampled on by either a man or a woman. Some time after her marriage, Zuleika realizes that she is being assimilated by the former landlord's son and in order to preserve and rescue her womanly pride, she distances herself from him and eventually leaves him. Zuleika, who puts her self-esteem and womanly pride above everything else, does not hesitate to abandon Joseph, who loves her very much and makes all kinds of sacrifices. She gives up on love and never backs down.

War Most of the male narrative characters who take part in the theater play are veterans. Joseph, one of the protagonists of the play, took part in guerilla activities against the French in the Taurus Mountains and became a war hero. He was in service under the command of Colonel Omar, Zuleika's father. Sea Captain is also Joseph's comrade-in-arms and has carried out piracy activities against the British navy in the Aegean Sea. Father, one of the important characters of the play, is also a Cretan immigrant. He carried out guerilla activities against Colonel Vaso with a hundred men he personally paid. However, when the armed struggle was lost, he was forced to leave the land where he was born and raised. The effects of the war are reflected in every stratum of society. After the war, it is implied that society is experiencing deep poverty and people are facing psychological problems. It is seen that the people who participated in the war were quite unselfish, loyal, self-sacrificing, helpful, sharing and friendly.

Injustice During and after the war, social injustice was evident throughout the country. Especially the poor people experienced deep poverty. The first inhabitants of the island barely made a living with their production and trade. Despite this, the state collects most of the people's earnings as taxes. Tasks cannot be assigned to officials at any agency without a letter of reference or an acquaintance. Although the war is over and a new regime has been established, women are seen to be in the second place. Women are very passive and in general have almost no power. Social injustice and corruption in government officials and institutions are one of the main themes of the play.

Character Analysis

Zuleika (Open/Social/Conscientious/Rational)

The daughter of Colonel Omar, who was a guerilla member of the National Struggle against the French in the Taurus Mountains and became a veteran, Zuleika was raised by her uncle in Istanbul and educated at American College. During her pupilage, Zuleika was a very successful student and learned English well enough to converse with her teachers and give lectures. After completing her education at the college, it was believed that she would go to America and become a very successful

woman. However, after the war, Zuleika was summoned to Silifke by her father on the occasion of a celebration and she went there and married Joseph, one of her father's soldiers, at her father's request. Although she was very happy in the first years of her marriage, Zuleika, realizing that she was wanted to be taken over intellectually as well as physically, distances herself from Joseph and seriously wants to leave him. Zuleika loves Joseph, but she cannot get used to the provincial life and peasant class in which he was born and raised. Having difficulty adapting to her new life because of the environment she was born into and grew up in, Zuleika distances herself from Joseph from the moment she feels that she is being assimilated. Zuleika, who has a libertarian worldview, does not allow her womanly pride to be trampled on by her husband, men or women. Although she loves Joseph, she has to leave him to preserve both her humanity and her womanly pride.

Narcissist While it may seem like she is fighting her husband solely to preserve her ego and pride, considering Joseph's good intentions, it is evident that Zuleika exhibits serious narcissistic behaviors: "Yes, we had many pleasant times with him, but he didn't think that was enough, he set his sights on much higher things. Like his landlord ancestors, he wanted to be the master of woman's soul as well as her body" (Guntekin 1971, 154-155).

Proud Although she actually loves Joseph, her husband, she ignores her love for him to preserve her pride: "One night, when I wanted to open an argument with him out of an incomprehensible need, a word came out of my mouth, I said we don't get along, I wish we would separate, such a random word that I didn't even know what I was saying. Suddenly he turned black and blue. He said, "Is it what you want? Very good." A week later, I was beginning to forget this meaningless incident, he bowed his head and said, "I have fulfilled your order, Zuleika, everything is ready" (Guntekin 1971, 155-156).

Unreliable She may engage in absurd behavior to make her husband jealous or to convince herself and others that she is a free woman: "With the courage taken from my state of being a free woman, a number of naggy men are walking around me. A young boy who is clerk in one of the European countries pretends to be a gangster in his newly bought car that he was come to kidnap Zuleika to the mountains. (...) In short, he's at the wheel and my head is on his shoulder, we're flying to Alemdag" (Guntekin 1971, 183).

Nonchalant Taking herself too seriously, Zuleika looks down on others: "I don't remember ever speaking to anyone in a familiar way before now, it's a matter of disposition. My nature is a bit heavy, or rather cold, I keep my distance from everyone; you know that's why I was called coldblooded at school. Don't hide it, you know it. But this is not arrogance at all" (Guntekin 1971, 148)

Pessimist Zuleika, who has an overly realistic and rational worldview, has a dark inner world and is a pessimist: "In adolescence, such an air passes through people. They think it will always be like that, until they die. They deceive each other or themselves with promises like until our hair turns white" (Guntekin 1971, 153-154).

Grumpy She show coyness to her husband who shows goodwill towards her and makes him angry with her: "Zuleika, in a dominant voice. – "No, no, if you allow me, I will walk on my own from now on" (Guntekin 1971, 134).

Talented It is believed that Zuleika, who was very successful during her student years, will have a bright future: "Aisha to Zuleika. – Don't mention it! I wasn't a person who could keep you company then either, (to her husband) the lady was in the high-classes. She used to stroll arm in arm with American teachers in the garden, always spoke English, gave lectures in the conference hall" (Guntekin 1971, 143).

Realist Zuleika, who defends the Western values of the age and adopts a critical realist worldview in this direction, criticizes the patriarchal order: "*Zuleika*. – If not, why does it pass so quickly? Remember all our acquaintances, which one of them kept this futile dream? Which of them didn't turn it into rags in a short time? Are not many handmaidens and concubines who were the joints of our old mothers, the even more disgusting kept women and mistresses of our new fathers, and I don't know what else, are they not all people who have repeated the same old song to each other in tears and trembling?" (Guntekin 1971, 153).

Joseph (Open/Social/Conscientious/Rational)

Joseph, the last child of a former landlord, is the mayor of Silifke. During the period of the National Struggle, as a soldier under the command of Colonel Omar in the Taurus Mountains, he worked as a guerilla member and clashed with the French. After the war, he marries Zuleika, the daughter of Colonel Omar, whom he considers his own father. Although he is the son of a landowner and has a very open-minded and modern worldview, Zuleika, who was educated at American College, finds him reactionary and conservative. Therefore, after the early stages of their marriage, Joseph begins to be despised and humiliated by Zuleika. Joseph, who expresses his love for Zuleika from time to time, is belittled and humiliated. Zuleika sees Joseph as a romantic and dreamy boy. In the face of this situation, Joseph begins to lose his feelings for Zuleika over time. As a mayor and landlord, Joseph likes to share his financial and spiritual means with others. He considers it his duty to be a remedy for people's troubles. He is respected by those around him for his valor and bravery in the National Struggle. He is especially loyal and faithful to his comrade-in-arms. "He is in love with his wife, but from the first day Zuleika prevents him, saying that she finds love jejune. Although he tries to keep his wife happy during the time they are married, she does not adapt to neither him nor the environment they live in. This incompatibility causes them to separate" (Peker 2019, 232).

Prescient Based on his wife, who is overwhelmed by her provincial life, he predicts that Aisha, the wife of Qaimaqam, might feel the same way: "Joseph – After all, the lady is an Istanbul girl, she went to American College. That's where she and my wife became friends. I mean, wouldn't you be afraid that one day she might become dissatisfied with her current situation and start desiring a better life, even if it's not in Istanbul?" (Guntekin 1971, 130).

Lover Joseph fell in love with Zuleika when he first saw her and did his best to make her happy: "We stood in front of the Kizkalesi (eng. Maiden Castle) and watched the camels bathing on the beach. From that day on, I had a weak spot for you. (...) And then I don't know how it happened, one night I couldn't control myself, I don't know what I said to you. Even now, when I still remind you of this, I'm afraid you'll laugh with the same smile you had that night. How could I not understand the meaning in your smile and insist on marrying you?" (Guntekin 1971, 225-226).

Sad Although he does his best to make Zuleika happy, they are poles apart. Joseph feels deep sorrow about parting from Zuleika: "Zuleika, we said that we had good days in spite of everything. Occasionally, thinking about the memories and getting lost in them is something as well. As it is for dead people. But I am compelled to reject them. You have left me nothing of them either... You are taking them all away with you" (Guntekin 1971, 225-226).

Friendly As a landlord, a war hero who has seen hardships and fought for his country, and a mayor, he is very friendly to others: "Joseph, holding a piece of marble in his hand to the light. – But these marbles of yours are wonderful Mr. Qaimaqam, these colors are so beautiful, aren't they? One feels like licking it like candy. (Pointing to the back with his hand.) There are literally buried treasures on this island, just an eye's reach away from Anatolia. My God, how could we not see it for all these centuries?... (Thinkingly.) But if you ask, we didn't have time to think about it because of the war" (Guntekin 1971, 128).

Sincere Joseph behaves very warmly towards his relatives and people who work and live honestly: "Joseph – Which position will you take up? You will be a man who will be governor of any big province" (Guntekin 1971, 130).

Brave During the War of Independence, he was under the command of Colonel Omar and fought as a guerilla against the French: "Joseph – When Sea Captain learned that the wounded man next to me was the commander of the regiment that had been defeated, he took immediate action and came under his command with his seamen and weapons. They were the first nucleus of the famous volunteer regiment of Mr. Omar, which started to fight again four or five months later as the most disciplined regiment, and few of them are among those having fun on the beach again. Those were the days" (Guntekin 1971, 166).

Interested He takes a close interest in his wife who is indifferent to him and seems to not care about him: "Joseph – I think you are unwell, I told you, you didn't listen. Zuleika – No, I'm fine. Maybe it's the different weather, or maybe my old malaria flared up a little..." (Guntekin 1971, 170).

Helpful As someone who is respected by the society he lives in, he likes to help others and find solutions to their problems: "(...) let me marry you off to that man, don't think of it as a joke, I can make it happen ninety percent, you don't say anything but I think you will agree. Hajar, at least you'll have a home, you'll have a morsel of bread to eat, you'll be saved from being a complete waste like your sister, I think we have a deal" (Guntekin 1971, 196).

Aisha (Open/Social/Emotional)

"In the theatre play, Aisha is a woman character who, despite having a similar youth and receiving similar education as Zuleika, can be considered as the opposite Zuleika. Like Zuleika, she has studied at American College in Istanbul, has experienced Western culture for a while and knows that culture. However, when she marries her husband, Qaimaqam Nihat, she comes to Anatolia and becomes a sort of Anatolian. She resembles Anatolian people with her language and speech. However, she is satisfied with her husband. She does not complain about her husband Nihat's duties and his perception of woman. She has gotten used to it and accepted it. She is a character who believes in love and compassion and, unlike Zuleika, gives importance to feelings, not ideas. Since she has a sincere relationship with Nihat, an Anatolian, and believed in the spirit of the Anatolian people, she did not experience a drama like Zuleika. Zuleika, on the other hand, rejected Joseph and being Anatolian with her ideas and logic. In this respect, Resat Nuri did not neglect to present a female model to opposite Zuleika with the character Aisha in the play and thus did not completely disregard the educated and literate Stambouliote female profile" (Demir 2017, 244).

Reproachful From time to time she reproaches the chaos and inconsistent behaviors on the island: "Aisha – They are killing each other (*to father*) why are you standing there, Father? You interfere in everything, but you don't pay attention to what really matters" (Guntekin 1971, 126).

Satiated Aisha, who lived in Anatolian provinces with her husband after her marriage, adopted a modest life over time: "(...) it would be useless if you put her in Yildiz Palace now. In the evening, she searches like a bird for our stone hollow in the central village. The queen is thinking of nothing but saving a little money for her three children (*calling out to his wife*)" (Guntekin 1971, 131).

Humble She admires Zuleika's success even though she herself was educated at American College: "Aisha *to Zuleika*. - Don't mention it! I wasn't a person who could keep you company then either, (*to her husband*) the lady was in the high-classes. She used to stroll arm in arm with American teachers in the garden, always spoke English, gave lectures in the conference hall. Mrs. Zila.. Everyone remembered her as Mrs. Zila. We little ones were looking at her with admiration from a distance. They said that she would go to USA when she graduated. I was the youngest in the school. For some reason my stepmother did not want me at home. Mrs. Zuleika saw me underfoot and took pity on me, that's all" (Guntekin 1971, 146).

Loyal She is very loyal to the people from whom she sees kindness: "Aisha, *with a deep sigh*. – Not only Anatolia (*an instant silence*), I was such a baby that I couldn't comb my hair. The lady used to sit me on her knees like a child and comb me herself. I especially remember having a fiery throat infection, whenever I opened my eyes, there she was with her beautiful face in front of me.. (*she cries*)" (Guntekin 1971, 146).

Naïve She embraced human values with a childlike romanticism: "Aisha, *in a state hysterical*. – I can't believe it, you guys love each other that much. Zuleika, *as if joking with a child*. – It seems we don't love each other after all" (Guntekin 1971, 150).

Coward Unlike Zuleika, she is closed to change and change scares her: "Aisha – College made you like this. How fortunate it was that erstwhile my father... Zuleika, interrupts her with a vague irritation that touched her on the raw. – No Aisha, that's what ordinary people say this, it's not a matter of college or even education, it's the most serious issue of the changing times" (Guntekin 1971, 154).

Curious Island life made her long for people and increased her curiosity towards new people she met: "Aisha, *her suspicion has increased*. – Don't run away, I'm a curious woman, is there any formality between us? Zahra. – No, my dear, it's not that important, Mr. Joseph has been at the marble quarries for two nights, he just arrived. (*Imitating*.) They shook each other's hands saying just "Bonjour", "Bonsoir". Is that what a husband and wife do after two night apart?" (Guntekin 1971, 177).

Suspicious Although she wants to trust Zuleika who tells her secret, she still has some doubts about her: "Aisha. – You can't be guilty (*Zuleika fall silent*) you can't be guilty, can you? (*Angrily*) Tell me that you're not guilty?" (Guntekin 1971, 184).

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