

# THE TEACHER

## (ÖĞRETMEN)

(A play in two acts)

by  
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### **CAST**

HASAN	Teacher. Around 50 years old
AYSE	His wife. Around 40 years old
ILKER	Older son. Around 20 years old
TANER	Younger son. Around 17 years old
ALI	Hasan’s younger brother. Merchant. Around 45 years old
MERAL	Hasan’s younger sister. Around 40 years old
NECATI	Meral’s husband. Retired. Around 55 years old
INSPECTOR	Omer Uysal. Around 50 years old.

**PLACE:** Somewhere in the province, later on in Ankara.

### **SCENE:**

Teacher Hasan’s wooden home out in the province.

**The Living Room:** There’s a rug on the floor, and nothing on the walls. Except a clock on the wall, a sofa, an older china cabinet. Old, beat up couches, chairs. A table and a radio.

**The Room:** The room shared by Ilker and Taner. A bunk bed. Pictures of soccer players on the wall. A picture of Taner with a team jersey. A small bookshelves and study desk.

**An Apartment Flat in Ankara**

**The Living Room:** The furniture is the same.

**Principal's Room:** The Principal's room at the elementary school where Teacher Hasan is employed out in the province.

*This has been staged for the first time in Ankara, at State Theaters Altındağ Setting on April 24 1973.*

## PART 1

### Teacher Hasan's home out in the province.

*(Ayse has sat down in front of the window and cleaning (Separating the stones from) the rice. The clock on the wall rings six times)*

AYSE : *(To herself)* Where did she go? She'll get in trouble. My dear! My baby! Oh God. *(She drops everything and looks into the children's room as well as her own room. She searches and calls out "Meral, dear". She goes to the kitchen. She hadn't found her. So she continues with her work)*

HASAN : *(From outside)* "Honeeey!"  
*(Ayse comes out. They come back together. Both of Hasan's hands are full. A loaf of bread, a bottle of raki and so on)*

AYSE : You've bought only one loaf.

HASAN : *(Getting undressed)* I've bought two.

AYSE : Where, there's only one here?

HASAN : I gave one to that lonely man. He was standing by the door again...

AYSE : Boy, he really got use to it. He always keeps coming out when you come from shopping.

HASAN : *(Harshly)* I gave him some cheese too.

AYSE : You should've given him a glass of raki too. *(She grumbles)* He has children of his own.

HASAN : But they don't take care of him for God's sake. Is humanity dead?

AYSE : How much is a pound of cheese? Don't you have a household?

HASAN : *(Harshly)* Don't stick your nose into my business! Bring my sleepers.

AYSE : *(As if she doesn't know)* What is it with you?

HASAN : Nothing... I'm just hungry.

AYSE : The soup is ready. I wanted to cook some rice too.

HASAN : Where are the boys?

AYSE : They didn't come yet. Your brother was asking for you...

HASAN : When? Did he come here?

AYSE : Yes.

HASAN : Why did he come anyway? *(Goes to kitchen)*

AYSE : I don't know, he said he would come again.

HASAN : *(Returns with a towel in his hand)* When will he come?

AYSE : Tonight.

HASAN : The water is boiling for no reason in there.

AYSE : *(As she is carrying the tray to the kitchen)* I've told you that I was gonna cook some rice. *(From inside)* The girl is not here again.

HASAN : So what!

AYSE : *(From inside)* What kind of reaction is that? You couldn't make that girl feel at home. What does she eat anyway?

AYSE : *(Heart-rending cry of a cat from the kitchen)* Were you here my girl? My dear baby. *(Comes to living room with a cat in her arms)* She was here, see. My girl...  
*(Hasan tries to open the raki bottle by wrapping the towel around the lid)*

AYSE : I guess you'll drink again.

HASAN : I'm not drinking your dad's money.

AYSE : I'm just saying it for your own good Hasan. Otherwise why do I care?

HASAN : Why did this guy come here anyway?

AYSE : How should I know?

HASAN : *(He opened the lid)* Bring some cheese, pastrami or something.

AYSE : Didn't you say you were hungry?

HASAN : For God's sake woman, prepare something!

AYSE : There's no pastrami left.

HASAN : If you finish it, then there won't be any left! They always eat! You bring it, they eat it. *(Takes out two glasses from the china cabinet and holds them to light to see if they have dust on them)* And let go of that cat from your hands. Hey, everything we eat and drink has hair woman...

AYSE : Come here my sweet girl... Your daddy doesn't want you. *(Goes to kitchen)*

HASAN : God, give me some patience. It wasn't enough and now I've become her daddy.

AYSE : *(Returns with a plate of cheese)* Are the glasses clean?

HASAN : They are. Where on earth are they again? Will I never see these kids at home during dinner time

AYSE : They'll be here.

HASAN : Yeah right. One is chasing a ball, the other one is reading books and wondering around for a year.

AYSE : Oh, cut it out.

HASAN : What are you saying?

AYSE : You must have quarrel with somebody... For all these years we've never had a quite day.

HASAN : Bring some water! *(Pours some raki into his glass. Takes the water-pitcher that his wife had brought, and fills the glasses)* Look now. You put yourself in my shoes. You've entered the classroom. You ask the kids, "What did you eat this morning son? What did you eat little girl?" "Bread and soup, olives and bread my teacher" That's the majority. Then you take a look at Cansiz's daughter. She doesn't wear one thing twice. She has gold earrings on her ears and bracelets on her arm...

AYSE : They probably have somewhere around thirty trucks. Maybe even fifty. They transport all the cement to all four corners of the country. If she won't wear them, who will?

HASAN : But that is an elementary school student.

AYSE : I bet you stung her all over.

HASAN : A bee stings only the ones he gets mad at.

AYSE : You'll get us in trouble again. What is it to you from someone else's child?

HASAN : But that is a school woman!

AYSE : So what's her fault in this? You should've called in her parents.

HASAN : I did.

AYSE : You should have told them.  
HASAN : They didn't come.  
AYSE : So then you took it out of the poor child. When did this happen?  
HASAN : This morning. And since then, she hasn't returned to school. Actually the incident started a couple of days ago.  
AYSE : The incident?  
HASAN : They are my children. I never discriminate one from the other. Can we discriminate our own children? What if they ask you to choose Ilker or Taner?

Do you know how many I've educated? How many came and kissed my hand at the end? *(Drinks)* But I had to do it to her. I had to do it for the sake of the other children. I won't let anyone say, "See, they are wealthy, he separates her from us.

AYSE : You had done the same thing to Ilker. Your son was your student. The village kids who had taken their report cards were coming out happy from the school. Yet our son had come home in tears. Why? Because his dad had given him a bad grade on one of the courses. Was he an untalented and lazy boy enough to deserve a bad grade?

HASAN : He was only five years old.

AYSE : He could read and write.

HASAN : He wasn't even registered student.

AYSE : But he knew two plus two equaled to four. At least just like the rest of them.

HASAN : The report card wasn't real anyways.

AYSE : If the report card wasn't real, then why did you give him a bad grade? So that no one could say, "Mr. Hasan is watching out for his own son", isn't it? You always lived in suspicion of what others might say, even though that in turn would hurt us. So what are the consequences? Here, a roof to put our heads under from your father. On the other hand, take a look at your brother. He started with a small shop. But in ten years, he became the owner of flour factories... His homes, vineyards... He even has a car...

*(Ilker enters quietly)*

HASAN : Hey lady, don't compare me to him...

AYSE : He's letting his wife enjoy it...

HASAN : He hid the sugar, iron, cement and all in his backyard. And the flour, cheese and coffee in these rooms... Could I do these?

AYSE : You can't manage it anyway...

ILKER : *(Hopeless)* Fighting again?

AYSE : *(With compassion)* Aren't you hungry yet? C'mon sit down here.  
*(Hasan wants to pour some more raki)*

AYSE : You've had enough. *(Takes the bottle to the kitchen)*

ILKER : You can't sleep at night dad.

HASAN : Haven't you seen Taner?

ILKER : Yeah, he had a game today.

HASAN : He won't be anything. He's trying to put a ball through two goal posts... He doesn't have any brains, so to sit down and study his lessons. He even got an F from music. *(With a terrible voice)* Dooo... Reee... Miii... Sool... Laaa... Dooo...

AYSE : Well maybe you should get into the music class instead of him.

HASAN : Are you pulling my leg?

AYSE : Even one glass is becoming too much now... He's feeling good again...

HASAN : I'm fine, just fine..

ILKER : Hush mom!

HASAN : Straighten up your act like me, so you'll be fine too..

AYSE : (*Quietly*) He has straighten up his act...

ILKER : Shut up mom, shut up...

HASAN : You must be honorable all the time. Why should you be honorable? Because a man with dignity and honor should have nothing to fear about... All the cowards are actually dishonest... Because if they didn't have dishonesty, they wouldn't be cowards...

(*He gets up in hurry, it's obvious he's going to the bathroom*)

AYSE : He drank with an empty stomach.

ILKER : Well, you shouldn't let him.

AYSE : Does he listen to me? He said he got all over Cansiz's daughter today.

ILKER : Why?

AYSE : Because she was wearing earrings... What if he gets us in trouble?

ILKER : What else can happen?

AYSE : Don't say that son... Good or bad, we are making a living. If she wants, let her come to school with a new hairdo. The cement factory works for them... They have connections everywhere... What if they appoint him to a village all of a sudden? They've come to your uncle... The Cansizs that is... They've said, "Don't let him pick on our daughter, we'll make you crawled in the villages!"

ILKER : Who did you hear that from?

AYSE : From your uncle Ali... He'll be here soon...

ILKER : So there'll be arguing again...

HASAN : (*Enters, walks around*) You're not doing anything, are you? First, you will consult with your conscience... I wonder if I am right? If you believe you are right...

AYSE : It's same thing every night.

HASAN : Stay out of this woman. Listen to me son. Where were we?

ILKER : You were talking about conscience dad...

HASAN : Bring me another glass of drink...

ILKER : We were doing just fine dad.

HASAN : Do you mean I'll be bitter, if I drink another glass?

ILKER : You'll fall asleep...

HASAN : (*Thinks*) Okay, alright. (*Keeps silent*) You're not offended are you?

ILKER : I didn't get that, why?

HASAN : For giving you a bad grade...

ILKER : (*Laughs*) Where do you come up with these?

HASAN : (*To Ayse*) Why do you make me recall these?

ILKER : (*Sharply*) Hey mom, why don't you make coffee for my dad!

HASAN : There you go son...

(*Ayse leaves*)

HASAN : Do you know what I did today?

ILKER : You nailed Cansiz's daughter.

HASAN : Your so called mother have told you that, right? (*Keeps silent*) Poor child left crying.

ILKER : So are you afraid?

HASAN : (*Jumps up as if he was stuck by a needle*) Your father is not afraid of anybody. And he never was... Have you ever seen me detour from the

pathway, which I believe is correct? They gave sticks in the hands of the villagers and let them attack me. They let them shower my home with bullets. You were an infant then. The bullets were buzzing on the walls... Skipping, hitting... Your mom had covered you and hid you under the window. I couldn't let that rotten bastard use the schoolyard as an arable field... I open the door and went out. *(Shouts)* You deceived sons of bitches! You bastards!

AYSE : *(Brings the coffee)* Is he on a roll again?

HASAN : They dispersed one by one into the darkness of the night... And to show the that I wasn't afraid of them, I let the students run over the schoolyard next day... I got use to be fearless, by fighting against these scum bags without bending backwards... My distress is not that... I just can't bear to see any child cry...

AYSE : Well, at least we should eat. I think Taner will be late...  
*(She goes to kitchen. From now on every time she comes, she's carrying bread, plates or things like that)*

HASAN : There's no news about the entry tests yet.

ILKER : I'm waiting dad...

HASAN : You sat around here for the whole year because of one lousy course...

ILKER : What can I do? It's bad luck.

HASAN : This has nothing to do with bad luck. You didn't study.

ILKER : Yes I did.

HASAN : If you've studied, you would've pass it last year. Your friends have made it to the second semester in the faculty... You lost one whole year. You are son of a teacher but yet you can't succeed... Why, because you're not studying. What are you missing? If it's room, you got a room. If it's books, you got books. If it need be, I'll sell the jacket of my back and continue your education. I don't want you to be oppressed.

ILKER : I graduated high school dad.

HASAN : So, what good is a high school diploma?

ILKER : Dad, I will get a higher education.

HASAN : If I were you, I wouldn't waste a minute. I would study like hell and graduate from the best faculties... My possibilities were limited...

ILKER : Do I have too many possibilities? You've looked to barrow some money to send me to University enrollment tests. As an unwanted person at uncle Necati's house... Don't remind me all of these. *(Calms down)* Maybe I just can't do better than this dad...

AYSE : Aren't you gonna eat?

HASAN : Take this cup away.

AYSE : Won't you eat?

*(Starts to eat)*

HASAN : *(Sorry)* Don't brush aside what I've said son.

AYSE : Let's eat our dinner.

HASAN : Shut up woman! *(To ILKER)* You're our first love and joy son. After you were born, I use to come home to see you even in between my classes.

AYSE : Then the second one was also a boy.

HASAN : Real man makes boys.

AYSE : On the other hand, I should say I'm happy not to have a girl. Just take a look at this girl, what she's doing to us.

HASAN : Whatever we eat and drink has hair, woman... Ignorant!

AYSE : Well, I was going to school... But you forcefully took me out of school... I was the daughter of a mighty head of provincial treasury.

HASAN : Your dad wasn't the head of provincial treasury. He was just a small time officer there

ILKER : Will you please cut this out?  
(*TANER comes in. He's full of energy, can't stand still*)

TANER : Hey, hey, what's this silence all about? How are you mom? I scored a goal today, damn! I saved the team again dad.

HASAN : Wash your hands and come to the table.

TANER : The managers took us to dinner after the game. I could've put up another ninety minutes. But what a goal that was. There's just a little bit left to end the game, and it's one all. The side scores the goal, will grab the game and the cup. Then there's a cross into the middle from right field. I got airborne, a header. The ball drops in front of rightwing Rifki. He passes to me again. And I'm right on the penalty box... I had curled around so that two of the backs fell on their asses. I touched the ball so deliberately, as if I was touching it with my hand. The ball is on our Tall Hakki's head... He lowers it in front of me again... It's the last minute of the game... The referee is checking his watch, and looking at the line judge. I started to dribble the ball...

AYSE : Dribble where?

TANER : To attack... Well you wouldn't understand... So I started the variety show... Curling here, twisting there, another fake, I swear I broke the back of Butcher Tahir...

AYSE : Is that our butcher?

TANER : Nooo mom... Tahir is the other team's fullback. He earned the nickname Butcher because he is so ruthless. Whatever, I'm one on one with the goalkeeper... Who's the goalie? Cafer the Cat... Don't just call him Cat. I've seen one of his games in Samsun. Wow, that son of a bitch. He didn't let anyone score on him for ninety minutes. All that with the home fan's intense attack by way of cussing and bottles. So anyway, that's the type of goalie Cat is and I'm facing right to him... I glanced at the referee like this, he's about to take the whistle to his mouth and about to whistle... And what the hell is that? Cat throws out a punch.

AYSE : Oh my poor baby.

TANER : Not to me, to the ball... Actually the truth is, he tried to punch it. But I had calculated so that I stepped on the ball, pulled it back. Cat is on the ground like a young buffalo calf, and the net is empty. (*He pauses for a moment, continues like a matador*) I took a look at the spectators... Then I nailed the ball... Gooooo! I looked at the referee as to say, "now you can blow the whistle". The game has finished and the cuuuup! You should've seen how I played.

ILKER : I was at the game.

TANER : Why didn't you shout at me? I would've salute you from the field. I'm just thinking for the future... Boy what give-n-goes I can do... In Ankara, in Istanbul... Thousands of spectators... You wait and see, I'll be a great soccer player... Even the national team... Transfers... Maybe to Italy... Money, cars, girls, things...

HASAN : So you got an F from music.

TANER : Dad I won't be a singer, I'll be a soccer player. Did that stupid musician tell you?

HASAN : Look at the word that he is using for his teacher.  
TANER : I will make all of them kneel down in front of me. They will ask for an autographed picture of mine, but no way! They are not giving me any grades, so I won't give them autographed pictures either. I call these legs.

HASAN : As if his brain is not on his head but on the legs.  
TANER : *(Extends the newspaper)* Read it.  
AYSE : *(Reads it)* "Voice of the Nation" Hey! I swear that's you!  
TANER : Read it out loud so they can hear...

AYSE : Taner, pay attention to this name. The new bold and cunning player of our fields. His father is a teacher.  
TANER : See, they even mention you. All because of me okay...  
AYSE : His mother is a housewife... He has an older brother... A happy family. The only thing Taner is missing is conditioning.

HASAN : Brains, he is missing brains!  
AYSE : But if he ends up with a good trainer, he can be the star of tomorrow. He has all the abilities that a good soccer player must have. He has powerful legs, and dominant head.

HASAN : Gee wiz! Look at the one that has dominant head...  
AYSE : With his well-behaved conduct this year, he has learned how to erase the negative image he portrayed last year by chasing the referee on the field. At the same time he is a student at Teachers School. But his grades...

TANER : Skip pass that part... Skip it, skip it, go on, skip it... There!  
AYSE : From here?  
HASAN : You should read those parts especially.  
TANER : From here.  
AYSE : Future star Taner says, "My only aim is to be star player. To wear the national team jersey and get in the race to score on the foreigner goals is my utmost desire. My father who says, "It would be better if you become a star player instead of a teacher" is my biggest supporter".

HASAN : What, I haven't said anything like that.  
TANER : Dad, cover it up... These Press people write baloney like this.  
HASAN : My career's honor!  
TANER : Never mind the career's honor dad... Everybody is doing the thing, and you still...

HASAN : I will deny this! I will send a correction!  
TANER : Dad, try to be more understanding. *(Sure of himself)* Should I tell you something, you'll benefit too... You're not gonna suffer poverty... Mom, you'll even have a mink coat. I will make you live in the best apartment suites. I'll even hire a maid for you. From than on, no more kitchen, no more dish washing. You'll be a lady. I have good things in mind for my brother also. I should open up a big store for you. A Bookstore... A mighty store... Stationery, magazines, newspapers, books... What do you say? *(Pulls a piece of paper from his pocket)* They call me from Ankara... They say, they'd like to try me out... Although I have some pain in this knee, it should go away by then.

AYSE : *(Bends toward her son's knee, and examines it after rolling up his trouser leg)* Oh my poor baby! How did they kick you? I hope they break their legs!  
TANER : Soccer is a man's sport mom...



HASAN : I'm afraid you'll end up injured one day. Finish your Teachers School and earn your career... Become a brilliant teacher...

TANER : This is gonna be my career dad... You can't be a teacher and a soccer player at the same time...

AYSE : See how bruised it is?

TANER : One day I'll be coming home by a car...

HASAN : As long as it's not an ambulance...

TANER : Can you give me an allowance?

AYSE : What are you gonna do dear?

TANER : We'll go to a movie with friends

AYSE : Now?

TANER : Yeah...

HASAN : Where did you get the permission from?

TANER : Guys are waiting dad.

HASAN : Are we shit-heads here? Sit your ass down and study!

ILKER : *(Softly)* Sit down...

TANER : But they are waiting...

HASAN : Don't you think about my pride?

TANER : My friends are waiting...

AYSE : *(Quietly)* Sit down son. Your brother will tell your friends... He's grouchy today anyway...

HASAN : Study more so that you can become a brilliant teacher.

TANER : Like you?

HASAN : *(To AYSE)* These are all your words.

AYSE : What if he doesn't have money?

TANER : That's right huh, you count today as the end of the month. But he finds it for raki...

HASAN : You son of a bitch!

TANER : The clothes that I'm wearing were yours and altered for me... The pocket of my jacket is constantly on the right side... Because of constant altering it inside out... You were gonna make us enjoy life after paying off the loan on this house, where is it?

HASAN : I'll disown you, I'll cut you off!

TANER : This way, you'd prevent me from the inheritance which you don't have.

HASAN : *(Walks onto him, slaps him)* I'll...

TANER : Don't hit me anymore, stop it!  
*(ILKER and AYSE grab HASAN)*

TANER : *(With persistence)* I don't want to suffer like you! We couldn't have anything up until now. You only thought of your pleasure! And you never thought of me especially. Don't you see the condition of the teachers? They write, "because of need" on a sentence and spread left and right... They get despised, beat up, and suffer... Why did you sign me to Teachers School? Isn't that to get rid of me in an easy way?

HASAN : *(Softens up)* Are you saying these to me?

TANER : Yeah, I'm saying them to you.

ILKER : You're crossing the line!

TANER : *(He blows up to his brother)* Stay out of this asshole! *(ILKER walks onto his brother and punches him. TANER falls down)*

TANER : *(Gets up in furry. He wants to hit ILKER but decides not to. Punches the table instead)* You were always jealous of me, ever since we were little.  
*(Goes to his room and cries quietly)*  
*(Silence)*

AYSE : You should have just showed him.

HASAN : *(Pulls money from his wallet)* Here, give it to him.

AYSE : *(Takes it)* What do you have against your brother? *(Goes next to TANER)*  
Here you go son.

TANER : I hate both of them... Especially him.

AYSE : Don't break my heart... C'mon take it...

TANER : He hit me... Someday I'll mess up his face.

AYSE : Now what a bad thing to say. To lift up a hand against an older brother is unseen in our family.

TANER : I don't want to enter this house.

AYSE : Don't make your friends wait.  
*(She comes out upon seeing that he hadn't taken it. Puts the money on the table. ILKER takes the money and goes next to his brother)*

ILKER : Why don't you take it! *(He wants to do something, so he takes off his watch)*  
You didn't have a watch...

TANER : I'll buy better watches

ILKER : *(Wants to wipe his nose with the handkerchief)* Our dad's had a little problem today. I've told you to sit down... What can we do, that's the way he is. He's our father... He gets mad at me, yells at me too. Should we rebel against him?

HASAN : *(Enters in)* My rude Taner... Take this money and don't make your friends wait anymore. You go too Ilker.

ILKER : I don't feel like going dad...

HASAN : *(To TANER)* Do you have keys?

TANER : Yes...  
*(TANER slowly goes out)*

HASAN : He sees a glass of drink too much for me.  
*(ILKER and HASAN enter the living room.)*  
*Silence.*  
*Outside, noise of a car approaching and stopping by the house. ILKER opens the door. HASAN's brother ALI comes in)*

ALI : Good evening to you all... I hope you'll have lots of hand kissers too Ilker.

AYSE : Welcome.

ALI : Hi Ayse...

HASAN : *(Half heartedly)* Hello, welcome.

ALI : Hi Hasan... How are you my dear nephew?

ILKER : I'm fine thanks, uncle Ali...

AYSE : You should've sit by here...

ALI : Oh no, no, I'm fine...

AYSE : How is Nazmiye?

ALI : She's fine... She said "hi"...

AYSE : You should have brought her too... We haven't seen her for six months.

ALI : Maybe another time...

HASAN : You've been looking for me.

ALI : I just stopped by...

HASAN : What happened, is something wrong?

(*ILKER goes to his room*)

AYSE : How would you like your coffee?  
 ALI : I'd like it with extra sugar...  
 (*AYSE exits*)

ALI : I've come to talk to you Hasan... I wanted to talk to you like two friends... Even though you push me aside with the back of your hand, you're still my brother... I don't want any harm to come upon you... Cansiz came by my shop at noon.

HASAN : You didn't come here for nothing.  
 ALI : Hasan they say, you have cussed at Cansiz's daughter.  
 HASAN : How about that...  
 ALI : That's what they said.  
 HASAN : I didn't cuss at her.  
 ALI : Whatever, you did or did not, that's what they are saying. You know Cansiz, they are good with the government... Administrative minister is their own relative. If they send out the news from here, what would be the end of this thing? You're my brother and I don't want anything bad happen to you. Forget about you, I worry about Ayse and the boys.

HASAN : This subject doesn't concern you.  
 ALI : How can it not concern me? You know I haven't dropped the iron or cement business. It wouldn't do me any good to be on bad terms with the Cansizs. Because of you, my businesses will be affected too Hasan. They can reach everywhere; they are people to be afraid of. Although I have my men too, but they are more powerful... At least some fuss will come out. Did you understand?

HASAN : You were able to explain!  
 ALI : (*Takes the coffee that AYSE had brought*) Thank you Ayse...  
 (*AYSE goes by ILKER*)

ALI : So what I'm trying to say is, it's not worth to get into a dogfight with these people.

HASAN : What do you want me to do then?  
 ALI : As the saying goes, 'A mouth won't be worn out by kissing hands'. So go to them tomorrow and apologize... Tell them there's been a misunderstanding, and put an end to this...

HASAN : Should I kiss their hands too?  
 ALI : I just said it for the hell of it.  
 HASAN : There's regulations in the middle of this. No student would come to school with earrings on her ears and bracelets on her arms...

ALI : What is the so called regulations... Just a piece of written paper... Pretend not to see it a little...

HASAN : Well since you say it's possible not to see it, then why do they put up those regulations?  
 ALI : Don't ask me that? I wouldn't understand these things...  
 HASAN : If you don't understand then stay out of this.. We have to see it. If you don't, then the school principal will get in trouble...

ALI : No actually he'll be in trouble if you see it... Besides forget about the school principal. Who cares who gets in trouble, as long as you don't. Whereas I could hardly hold the Cansizs back... I said "Wait a while, let's talk and get the truth" and only then they hold back...

HASAN : Let them go ahead. Let them play whatever they've got in their cards... There are regulations that must be complied with...

ALI : Okay brother, since there are regulations that must be complied with, then what are you? You, you?

HASAN : What do you mean?

ALI : You're an elementary school teacher... In other words state employee... But Cansizs say, you are involved in politics...

HASAN : I'm not registered anywhere...

ALI : You're being canny Hasan... Everyone knows it... You make propaganda everywhere.

HASAN : I'm just doing my job.

ALI : *(Gets agitated)* It's not up to you to defend the opposition.

HASAN : I'm not defending the opposition, just the democracy.

ALI : No, you're defending the opposition, not democracy! You're trying to riot the people!  
*(ILKER and AYSE come in)*

HASAN : That's a lie!

AYSE : Don't!

ILKER : Dad!

HASAN : Stay out of this woman!

ALI : What the hell is this?

HASAN : Something more than you can handle!

ALI : Don't get involve in these things!

HASAN : You can't order me!

ALI : All you are is a small time teacher. Go apologize tomorrow.

HASAN : You cheat!

ALI : Did you call me that?

HASAN : Is there another cheat among us?

AYSE : What is this you two are doing?

ALI : You don't even understand from a favor. Since when those who can think clear called cheat?

HASAN : Where are you hiding the cement and the iron? Bring it to our backyard again... Black marketer!

ALI : Gets drunk and lays down the law about honesty on people...

HASAN : Go on you say it to me too. Call me a thief, call me a cheat, call me a black marketer... Come on...

ALI : Don't forget that you land on this house because of me...

HASAN : Tell me, do I owe you anything?

ALI : You paid for the house in nine years! The payments...

HASAN : If I was a crook like you, I would've paid it off in one day. Your account isn't closed yet... Didn't you seize the safe of the store before even my dad's body was buried? You thief! *(Prevents him from talking)* Look, if any slightest word comes out of your mouth, I'll open the window and yell out! You disgrace me! I'm ashamed of you! I am a respectful teacher! And I don't apologize from nobody!  
*(ILKER and AYSE are trying to shut him up)*

AYSE : We'll be disgraced Hasan...

ILKER : Dad!  
*(ALI leaves as if he is escaping)*

HASAN : *(Behind him)* Say hello to Cansizs from me... Don't let them hold back anything!

## II

*(AYSE is preparing food as usual. ILKER enters)*

ILKER : Did the mailman come yet?

AYSE : What's wrong, you have a long face... Or?

ILKER : It must be from too much excitement.

AYSE : Your father was going to call your aunt...

ILKER : He called this morning, but couldn't find her... I guess I didn't win any place.

AYSE : How do you know?

ILKER : Results of the tests have started to arrive. All of my friends won some places... And most of them have gone to register...

AYSE : I'm sure you'll win too son. Don't worry...

ILKER : I don't think I won...

AYSE : How would you know?

ILKER : Wouldn't my aunt call if I'd won?

AYSE : Maybe she did call... Let's just wait and see until your father gets here. Plus so what if you don't win? It's okay son. Don't trouble yourself. Is it more important than your life? As the saying goes, "Moisture breaks down a wall, worries break down an individual". Don't worry yourself.

ILKER : I hear my uncle had called me

AYSE : When?

ILKER : At noon time.

AYSE : Why? Is it because?

ILKER : There's nothing to worry about... He just asked me where would I stay in Ankara, if won the faculty.

AYSE : What is it to him? Is he the one that will send you to school, or us?

ILKER : He mentioned that I can't stay with my aunt... How tiny their home is and all...

AYSE : Don't mention these to your dad... Otherwise there'll be trouble again. Besides why does he care?

ILKER : Maybe my aunt had told him. Their biggest fear is that I would stay with them during the course of my education...

AYSE : If I need to, I'll eat dried onions here but don't make you depend on others... Neither would your father.

ILKER : Anyway, they couldn't even put up with me for three months when I went to the course... *(Imitating Necat's voice)* "A person stays in another person's house as a guest, one week at the most! Why don't you eat your meal son, I didn't say that for you"... I can't stay at my aunts' mom... It wouldn't be right anyway... But where am I gonna stay?

*(Silence. ILKER goes to his room, closes the door and lights up a cigarette. Doorbell rings, AYSE goes to open it. ILKER puts out his cigarette, tries to send the smoke out from the window)*

HASAN : *(Enters. Puts the things he had on his hands on the table)* Is there any news?

AYSE : No, Anything from you?  
HASAN : I've been on the phone since this morning... I tried to let them connect me so many times... But nobody answers...  
AYSE : I wonder if something is wrong with their telephone.  
HASAN : It would be obvious if something was wrong with their phone... They are just not answering... Didn't Ilker come yet?  
AYSE : He's in there... In his room...  
HASAN : *(Opens the door and goes in by ILKER. He is as much excited as his son, but trying not to show it)* Didn't get any news. So what are you reading?  
ILKER : I'm reading a novel dad.  
HASAN : *(Takes it)* Don't fill up your brain with baloney like these... Most of these are vain, lies. Why don't they write about our lives? *(He thinks, and remembers)* "Keep quiet and be patient a little. There'll be one day and you'll see it with your own eyes how respectful this profession is. Tell me is there anything more pleasant in the world than beating your enemy?"  
ILKER : I didn't get it dad...  
HASAN : *(He quiets his son as to say I'm not done yet)* I'm sure there's none. *(Brings his voice to natural)* Have you read Don Kisot?  
ILKER : Yes I have...  
HASAN : Good... Did you like it?  
ILKER : Yeah...  
HASAN : What is Don Kisot telling?  
ILKER : *(Thinks)* He tells the collapsing of feudalism. Hopeless struggle of a man who couldn't see this collapse... None of those ridiculous things would have happened to him, if he could see all those things change...  
HASAN : A person should be selective of the book he's going to read... There are hundreds of thousands of books written... Is lifespan of an individual enough to read all of these?  
*(The apartment's door rings rapidly. AYSE goes to the door)*  
AYSE : *(Her voice)* Heeey?  
MERAL : Aysee!  
*(AYSE and MERAL come inside)*  
MERAL : *(With her garrulous look she resembles more of painted chickens)* Brotheer! Ilkeeer!  
HASAN : Well hello!  
AYSE : I was surprised all of a sudden.  
MERAL : *(She smiles and looks at each one of them as if to say "I have a good news")* Are you going to be a engineer my dear Ilker?  
HASAN : Whaat?  
AYSE : How is that?  
ILKER : Are you saying...?  
MERAL : Our son... *(Enjoying the moment)* won the Faculty of Agriculture!  
ILKER : What are you saying auntie?  
HASAN : Is it true?  
AYSE : Thank God.  
HASAN : Is that right Meral?  
MERAL : I swear to God, he won it brother... See, look! *(Pulls a paper from her bag and gives it)* This morning... Before noon... I got in touch with my guy... He

said “Let’s call and inform them”... There’s no need for telephone, it’s not that far anyway... So I get on the bus and...

- HASAN : My wonderful sister... Come here my dear son. (*Kisses his son*) You didn’t embarrass me
- AYSE : Why don’t you sit down...
- HASAN : Now we can drink to this. Honey bring out my raki.
- AYSE : Boy, should you drink?
- HASAN : If not now, when would I drink?
- AYSE : (*Happy*) You always find a reason to drink anyway... If he couldn’t win, then you’d drink saying, because he lost it.
- MERAL : I came directly here... How’s Ali?
- HASAN : Forget about him.
- MERAL : (*As if she doesn’t know*) What happened this time?
- AYSE : They fought.
- HASAN : He tried to tell me what to do. What, am I wrong?
- AYSE : Nobody had said you’re wrong... Actually it’s not important whether you’re right or wrong.
- HASAN : Then what is important?
- MERAL : Hasan... You never got tired of this.
- HASAN : That cheat can’t tell me what to do!
- MERAL : (*She’s gotten sad*) He’s your brother. Would a brother want the other’s death?
- HASAN : Well a brother wouldn’t want this either... Especially a brother like me...
- MERAL : Isn’t Taner here?
- HASAN : No, he’s got a bag in his hand, goes around soccer fields. (*He looks at his son from time to time and feels proud*) How’s Necati?
- MERAL : Oh well he’s working, you know.
- HASAN : Where? Did he find a job?
- MERAL : When I said working I didn’t mean at a job. I meant at home with flowerpots and balcony. And now he’s bringing on a coop as if we had nothing else. He says he wants to build a coop on the corner of our apartment’s backyard. But the others didn’t give permission. So because of that we don’t talk with each other. They are not wrong either, they say this is not a village we won’t let a coop build here. Yet Necati is right too, he just can’t get use to retirement.
- HASAN : I guess it’s not easy.
- AYSE : But he wanted the retirement.
- MERAL : (*Gets angry*) Just at an age when he should have worked. (*Imitates him*) “Dear, dear, I’m gonna retire and open up a store, I’ll be rich”. Yeah right... His bonus flew off from our hands. What would a state employee understand from trading? Let’s say he buys merchandise today, but by the time he takes that to the store and puts it on the shelf, the prices change/go up. But he doesn’t know it. What happens if he sells it from the old price? He realizes it when he goes to get new merchandise, but it’s too late then. Bankruptcy was unavoidable and he did. Good thing that I had spared few bucks, so that we don’t depend on his retirement pension all together.
- AYSE : At least you have a home.
- MERAL : But it doesn’t just end there... Coast of living is high... It’s hard to make living. You know, sometimes it really gets to me... Get out, go on and go out a little. Go to a movie, theatre or a game...
- HASAN : He’s domestic, he won’t go out.

MERAL : *(Troubled by her husband)* We can't even go for house visits anymore. Because wherever we go he wants to arm wrestle with the men in that house... He almost broke the arm of our doorman a few days ago.

AYSE : God forbid.

MERAL : There's nothing to forbid. We have an old man on the floor above us, Mr. Tahsin... Poor man is diabetic... He wasn't feeling well again, so we went upstairs... He even tried to arm wrestle with him. Mr. Tahsin got carried away too, and started to shout at Necati from top of his lungs, "Nobody has ever pinned my arm down, you think you can? Let's go to the table"... What would we do if something happens to the man? I pulled Necati out... I was so upset that I was pushing and shoving him downstairs... And Mr. Tahsin grabs two medals in his hand, yells behind us: "I earned these in battle fields... Nobody can beat me, come here if you're man enough"...

AYSE : Oh dear, may God give you patience.

MERAL : Hold on, it's not over...An hour hadn't even pass by, an ambulance came... They're carrying Mr. Tahsin on a stretcher... Poor man was in diabetic coma... And Mr. Tahsin's son has seen us through the window, so he's yelling, "If something happens to my father, I won't let you live".

AYSE : I hope Mr. Tahsin was saved...

MERAL : Well he was saved alright, but his right side is paralyzed... His arm constantly keeps shaking... Boy, all the things I live through, if you'd know it...

AYSE : How is the older girl?

MERAL : Keeps fighting with her husband... She keeps coming to us here and then, but I can't say she's wrong. The only thing in this penniless man so called son in-law's mind is, women... And it doesn't even matter, beautiful or ugly, young or old. Few days ago he went after a tramp all the way to Izmir... He returned three days later...

AYSE : Don't you want to divorce them?

MERAL : Of course we do. But when it comes to divorce, my girl says "I can't live without Mustafa". So she puts up with that disgraceful man.

AYSE : How is the younger one?

MERAL : She insists saying she wants to become a model. She goes to courses and all...

HASAN : Necati must be upset...

MERAL : You know it! He was furious... But it's all empty talk... He can't face it...

HASAN : *(Pours raki into two glasses he had pulled out... Gives one to ILKER)* Okay take a sip from it Mr. Engineer.

AYSE : Are you crazy?

HASAN : Woman stay out of this. This is my son.

ILKER : I won't drink dad.

HASAN : Come on son sip it... There are no strangers here.

AYSE : Can you believe this?

HASAN : Drink it damn it. There's nothing to be shamed of. *(Thinks)* Engineer Ilker. *(Likes that)* Okay c'mon, take a sip.

ILKER : Right next to you.

HASAN : Aha, so you're not drinking because I'm here. Let's go.

ILKER : Dad, I didn't mean that...

MERAL : Hasan don't push him...Now forget about it and let's decide on what we're gonna do.

HASAN : What are we gonna do what?



MERAL : Ilker of course... He has to register right away... Let's say we've registered him, then what? This is four long years... He can't stay with us all that time...

HASAN : *(While leaving)* I'll be right back...

MERAL : *(Quietly)* That's why I came here anyway... I'll be more to the point Ayse... You either change his mind and move to Ankara, or they'll throw you to a village and you'll go there...

AYSE : To a village? God forbid, where do you come up with these?

MERAL : I stopped by my brother Ali before I came here... The Cansizs have complained to the Ministry about Hasan. This doesn't look good...

AYSE : What can I say?

MERAL : Ayse you still haven't learned your husband's temper... You can make him do anything you say unless you step on his nerves... Never mind that he looks all hyped up but he's pretty innocent. He bites the bait easily... But let's leave everything aside; will the money you'll be sending him be enough? You don't have to say everything. You'll spread the word... That's Ankara...

AYSE : I want to be with my son...

MERAL : You're a bright kid Ilker... What do you say?

ILKER : Really, where am I gonna stay? I'd like them to come along.

MERAL : You see...

AYSE : Hasan won't accept it... If...

MERAL : Leave that part up to me.

HASAN : *(Enters)* Yes my dear sister.

MERAL : Look Hasan, this boy is not yours alone... You know how much I love him... Too bad if Necati wasn't a grumpy man, so I can take Ilker with me. Let's talk openly here.

HASAN : Okay, let's talk. But we don't want to send this boy to you anyway.

MERAL : Last year you sent Ilker to us for the course... Why don't you say it Ilker, haven't I done to you all that I could?

ILKER : Thank you auntie...

MERAL : It's a shame to say it, but didn't I even buy shoes? Didn't I put your allowance in you pocket every weekend?

ILKER : Yes you did auntie...

HASAN : I had given you enough money...

MERAL : I gave him too brother... But Necati is a stranger...

HASAN : I'm not saying that he should stay with you...

MERAL : Don't misunderstand me Hasan, I'm just telling you my thoughts. I haven't forgotten the things you have done for me. You sent money from the villages when I was getting married... How can I forget it?  
*(AYSE stares at HASAN)*

HASAN : C'mon don't even mention it

MERAL : Don't say that, otherwise I was gonna go to Necati butt naked. Which brother would've done what you have done? What I'm trying to say is that, I would like him to stay with me. So what, he'll just come in and out to sleep anyway. But I can't entice Hecati. I never was able to. *(Relieved)* In other words, he's not going to stay with us... Let's say you place this guy in a dormitory, how much can you send every month?

HASAN : Sufficient enough?

MERAL : Give me a definite number.

AYSE : What's our income anyway?

MERAL : With the money you'll send, this guy will eat, drink, buy books and notebooks, ride the bus, no way! That's Ankara

HASAN : I'll send enough to meet his demand.

MERAL : Then you can't make living here. Didn't you suffered enough while paying the loan of this house? It's so hard with just one income Hasan. It's impossible. I mean let's just be honest.

HASAN : So you are saying, we shouldn't let this guy get his education?

MERAL : How can I mean that Hasan?

HASAN : Well that's what it means. If I have to, I'll sell this house and still have him get his education.

AYSE : Oh no, are we going to lose the house too?

MERAL : This can be done without selling the house also.

AYSE : Maybe my bracelets...

HASAN : This takes more than bracelets woman!

MERAL : Briefly, you have to be with this young man. You move to Ankara as a family, it'll be all taken care of...

(Silence)

HASAN : What are you saying?

AYSE : She's right... Rent us a shack of a house and send some money... At least my son can feed himself a hot meal.

HASAN : Womaaan! What about me woman?

AYSE : You can't get away from here anyway... So you go on living with your dignity.

HASAN : If you like we can go to the court too.

ILKER : Mom!

MERAL : Calm down Hasan... Ayse!

HASAN : This woman is a crazy chicken. A mad chicken who only thinks about her chicks.

MERAL : (*Slowly to AYSE*) Don't add wood to a burning fire. Hasan you'd come all together... What ties you down here anyway?

HASAN : No way...

MERAL : You'd ask to be appointed to Ankara... And if you can give this house to rent, it'll better for all of you... Whatever God provides, you will make it.

HASAN : I have circle of friends here.

MERAL : You'll have it in Ankara too...

HASAN : Everybody knows me here

MERAL : Is that all?

HASAN : What about Taner?

MERAL : There's Teachers School there too

HASAN : I hear the rents are too high.

MERAL : Aren't you gonna send money to your son? If you add the money, which will come from rent, on top of that money, you'll be fine.

AYSE : We can live in a shack of a house as long as we move there.

HASAN : I won't let anyone say, "he lives in a shack of a house in order to educate his son"!

MERAL : Okay, cut it out Ayse! You are not going to live in a shack of a house. Besides you'll live right in the heart of Kizilay. There is a two bedroom flat in the next-door apartment. The tenants are about to move out... We'll rent that right away. And we'll rent it cheap... It's on the first floor, but so what?

HASAN : What if we can't make it?

AYSE : We'll eat the same thing that we eat here.

MERAL : So to cut it short, you have to be attentive by your son, Hasan. Don't you understand, don't you hear it, that's Ankara.  
*(Silence)*

HASAN : You are saying things no woman is able to say. If someone heard you, they would think that you were knowledgeable. As if you have planned the reactions before. What if my appointing doesn't materialize?

MERAL : You are sending your child to school. They'll do it at once.

HASAN : I am sending my child to school... They'll put me in line and do it. That's right. *(Resists without hope)* What if they say, "he dropped everything and ran away"?

MERAL : Who?

HASAN : Cansizs.

MERAL : Cansizs, who are they? What do you have anything to do with them?

AYSE : He's teaching Cansizs' daughter. They were at it.

HASAN : Supposedly they will get me fired from here... They'll say, he got afraid...

MERAL : Stop messing with these Cansizs... *(Praises)* Doesn't everyone know that you wouldn't be afraid of anybody? And what you call being fired, only happens in small areas... You'll go to Ankara...  
*(Silence)*

HASAN : Okay, it's done. We'll move to Ankara.  
*(Delight. Especially MERAL, as if she threw away a heavy burden)*

AYSE : Finally we'll get away from here

MERAL : If you're gonna drown, you might as well be drown in the ocean Hasan. When are we hitting the road?

AYSE : Will you leave right now?

MERAL : Oh no, we can stay overnight. We'll get on the road tomorrow morning... Three of us...

AYSE : Why is Hasan going?

MERAL : To rent the flat... It's going to be vacant next week. We'll pay for it and make a contract... I didn't tell you this, but I have already talked with the landlord. We discussed the bottom price. There's a little dampness in one of the rooms but it's no big deal... You'll rent out this place and complete the rest of it.

ILKER : If you like, I'll go and get the tickets dad...  
*(Silence. AYSE realizes that HASAN has no money, so she goes to the bedroom. Returns with a small bag in her hand)*

HASAN : *(Takes the money, while counting)* Where did you find all this money?

AYSE : I had thought of rainy days like this. I saved it.

HASAN : God knows you have a lot more than this. No wonder all the money I gave would disappear all of a sudden.

MERAL : Hasan... Everybody would like a wife this... And you got one so appreciate it.

HASAN : *(Gives the money to ILKER)* Go get three tickets... I like the seats behind the driver... For the morning charter...  
*(ILKER exits)*

HASAN : *(To AYSE)* You would tell the neighbors after we leave. Tell them it's for rent... But don't hurry... *(Thinks)* When my appointment takes place, then we'll rent it out... *(Thinks)* I had a student, Celal... He's Branch Director in our Ministry... I should go to him immediately...

AYSE : You came from the road, you must be hungry.  
MERAL : *(Half joking)* Oh Ayse, did you just realize that?  
*(AYSE and MERAL joyfully go to kitchen)*  
HASAN : *(Walks toward front with his drink glass in his hand)* If I'm moving out of this city, it's because to educate my child, not because I'm afraid... Everyone should know that!

## END OF PART ONE

## ACT TWO

### III

#### The Living room Of An Apartment Flat In Ankara

*(TANER has prepared his small bag. He puts it by the outside door in an unnoticeable manner. He rereads the letter he had written and puts it in the envelope then in his pocket. He goes by the door and starts to wait then he starts to make signs to someone)*

AYSE : *(Enters)* Aren't they here yet?  
TANER : No.  
AYSE : *(Stirs the stove with a shovel)* Where is Minnie?  
TANER : How do I know?  
AYSE : That little girl couldn't get use to here either. I'm so afraid... That she'll be run over by a car someday. The tenants don't want Minnie anyway... The people across the hall don't even say hello anymore... My girl pooped in front of their door. So what, it's an animal without a tongue... Besides I cleaned it too. *(Sees that he doesn't listen)* Who is it this time? Don't you have any shame at all? You've quit the school too. What happened, you were going to be a soccer player? Houses, cars... They don't even let you play on the team...  
TANER : It's all because of that idiot... He hooked on to me... Stupid lout, in order to make room for his nephew, he cuts me.  
AYSE : Well then you should get a real job. At least you can work until you go to military...  
TANER : *(In front of the window)* Will you give me some money?  
AYSE : I don't have any money...  
TANER : I'm sure you do mom...  
AYSE : How can I have it? You know our situation. Do I have any income?  
TANER : C'mon mom...  
AYSE : You're gonna take that girl to the patisserie shop right? Get your head together son... These girls dry up a man's money... They are use to it...  
TANER : This girl is very upright.  
AYSE : Is she upright because she is flirting you, even knowing that I'm here?  
TANER : She's not flirting with me or anything... I'm signaling her to come downstairs so we can talk, but she doesn't want to... She's extremely upright.

AYSE : Yeah right... Just take a look at her, she's looking like a uncle moon...  
 TANER : Mom don't ruin it. Don't let her see you...  
 AYSE : She's upright, baloney...  
 TANER : Come on.  
 AYSE : (*Gets jealous, looks out of window*) Just look at her, she doesn't even feel embarrassed from me... Slut! Wow you little bitch!  
 TANER : Did you like what you've done? See she ran away... Get away from here mom, don't ruin it. Man, I've kicked my ass to fix up with her.  
 AYSE : She's got a brother like a dragon... He might beat you up or something...  
 TANER : He won't even feel it, he leaves early in the morning, and doesn't come home until nine o'clock at night... Plus we don't go out on Sundays anyway.  
 AYSE : Look at her, she's becoming too friendly with me...  
 TANER : Would a mother call her daughter in-law a slut?  
 AYSE : Oh so now you have decided to marry uncle moon? We've been in Ankara for four months and I've counted, you've changed eight girls.  
 TANER : Nine.  
 AYSE : Who is the ninth girl?  
 TANER : You don't know her. She studies at the University... Philology or whatever the hell it is... Mom I swear she speaks English like a parrot...  
 AYSE : So what is she doing with you?  
 TANER : Don't underestimate me... Just take look at your son... See, look, look... I'm like a move star man...  
 AYSE : Who?  
 TANER : A move star... I walk in Kizilay and all the girls show me to each other. (*The girl must have come out again, because they start to signal each other again*) Mom please, give me some money...  
 AYSE : I said I don't have it son...  
 TANER : I tell you, one day you'll look for me and I won't be here.  
 AYSE : What does that mean? (*Looks for money in her bag*)  
 TANER : You will really miss me a lot.  
 AYSE : (*Pretends not to hear him*) Take it.  
 TANER : (*Counts it*) Give me some more mom. C'mon? We'll say our good-bye with the uncle moon.  
 AYSE : What good-bye?  
 TANER : We'll separate... We need to talk it over... C'mon please.  
 AYSE : I swear I don't have anymore son.  
 (*The doorbell rings, AYSE opens it. NECATI enters*)  
 NECATI : Where are these guys Ayse?  
 AYSE : They went to buy some clothes for Ilker...  
 NECATI : What kind of shopping is this? What, are they having it tailor-made? (*He laughs at his own words*) They've been gone since noon. (*Sees TANER*) Sooo?  
 TANER : Hi uncle Necati.  
 NECATI : Hi Taner, what are you doing there? You Casanova you. (*As if he has a lot of experience about it*) Women are like machines. You have to look at the brand when you're choosing. (*Senses that he doesn't listen so he gets upset*) First education... Then a job... And then  
 TANER : Exile...  
 NECATI : Chasing women...  
 AYSE : Why don't you sit down?

NECATI : I was at home all day anyway. *(Walks around)* Isn't there any progress about Hasan's work?

AYSE : Nooo. We've completed four months now... It doesn't work, just by coming here on weekends... He was going to call his student at the Ministry... I wonder what happened? Maybe we shouldn't have come to Ankara before his assignment...

NECATI : We had hard time when we first moved here too... You'll get over it... If you sell the house, all your problems will be solved.

AYSE : Can we buy a house here with the money from the other house? I don't think so... I'm afraid we'll lose that house too...

NECATI : As long as it sells... You'll buy a decent house...  
*(The doorbell rings. AYSE opens the door. HASAN, MERAL and ILKER enter. ILKER is wearing a new suit and shoes)*

NECATI : Where have you been man?

HASAN : Heyyy Necati, how are you doing?

NECATI : Well I'm fine, but what about you?

MERAL : *(Sits down)* Ohooo boy... Wowww, my feet... My feet are killing me... Give me a glass of water Ayse..

NECATI : That's a nice suit you got there... Where did you get it?

MERAL : From Ulus...

NECATI : You should've got it from Kizilay... It's closer.

MERAL : Expensive, it's expensive here...

HASAN : Is it lot less expensive in Ulus?

MERAL : Well comparing to here it is...

HASAN : The way things are going, I'll be in lots of trouble...

MERAL : Is it bad to buy it with credit brother?

HASAN : These are things I've never done before. *(To TANER)* What are you standing there for?

TANER : Ooh nothing... Can you give me some money dad?

HASAN : Go ask your teammates. *(To ILKER)* Take a walk around, let's see it...  
*(MERAL quietly ask for money from NECATI. TANER goes to the room while looking at the envelope in his pocket. MERAL enters behind him)*

HASAN : Don't put anything in your pockets besides pen, otherwise you'll sag the jacket. And put your handkerchief in this pocket...

ILKER : Okay dad.

MERAL : *(Comes back)* Necati always likes Ilker... He always says how smart and handsome he is... And especially his manners...

AYSE : You might as well have bought a shirt too...

HASAN : Don't put me in a hole.

AYSE : He has only one shirt. He would wear the new shirt when I wash the old one.

HASAN : Even I have only three shirts. When we were at their age, we'd go to school with our undershirts...

MERAL : That was then, this is now...

NECATI : You also need a tie. I'll buy you a claret red tie to fit your suit...  
*(TANER passes through them quietly, takes his bag and exits)*

AYSE : Couldn't you buy something for this boy too?

HASAN : I have no money to spend on him... He quit the school too...

NECATI : You're wrong in this one Ayse... In between us, he was signaling with someone by the window... With a girl... Everything starts with discipline. He left the school. He's chasing girls and chasing a ball, but this can't go on.

Hasan give me your permission, so that I can go to the nearest Military Branch and notify them, so I'll get him to go to the military.

AYSE : How can I send that little boy?

NECATI : The military will straighten up even the worst son of a bitch or bums or troublesome men. Let him see what's discipline... Give me permission Hasan so I'll go.

MERAL : You should have done what I've said and sign up this guy to a military school... Especially if he was to be in the Air Force, that blue would look really good on him... He would be a handsome officer...

HASAN : Do you think he would've done it? He would've come back in indebt...

AYSE : Why do you say he couldn't do it?

NECATI : The military schools are not that easy...

MERAL : And the guys in the air force are a little womanizers Ayse... He would have shaken the hearts of girls...

AYSE : Have you called the ministry?

HASAN : Yes I have. They replaced Celal... This way in that mighty ministry we have no soul to take care of our things.

NECATI : Maybe we should get going...

AYSE : What are you talking about? We'll eat whatever God gives...

MERAL : What about the girl?

HASAN : We'll call her, come on son...

NECATI : Gulay is not home...

MERAL : Where is she now?

NECATI : She was gonna go to her friends..

MERAL : And you let her... Necatiii! Necatiii! You've let that girl go astray... You blow the horn on others about discipline, but when it comes to your own daughter, you can't make her listen...

AYSE : *(Takes her son's revenge)* And her skirts are too short too, what about that?

MERAL : It's so hard to have a daughter in these days. When she's leaving, you look at it it's pretty darn long, then you see her outside it's damn short...

NECATI : *(Clarifies)* She says she pulls it up...

MERAL : *(Imitates NECATI)* She says she pulls it up...

HASAN : *(To ILKER)* Go ahead an go son... If it's arrived get it... If not... You write down that they are here and place it on the door... And be careful with your steps so your shoes don't hit and rocks. *(ILKER leaves)*

HASAN : Well Necati, should we start to warm up?

NECATI : *(Looks at MERAL hesitantly)* I... Maybe I shouldn't drink.

MERAL : He becomes a tiger when he drinks...

HASAN : Ooh come on drink tonight... Let's just chat together. See I'll be on my way again tomorrow...

NECATI : Yes, but...

AYSE : And he tries to poison other too.

HASAN : Hey woman! It's my only enjoyment.

MERAL : *(To prevent the fight about to start)* Alright, alright... Go on, drink... *(NECATI is happy... MERAL and AYSE go to the kitchen)*

HASAN : So what are we waiting for?

NECATI : I get drunk when I drink on empty stomach... Couple of days ago I had drank on empty stomach and raised hell in the apartment. Although you can't really say I was wrong. I try to build a coop in the backyard they don't let me... Like it's their own registered property...

HASAN : Cheers  
 NECATI : Cheers... I have as much right as they do, don't I?  
 HASAN : *(Offers him roasted chickpeas)* Why do you mess with coops and things? Forget about small-time acts... Now, to your health  
 NECATI : Cheers. *(He's been touched)* Actually I have big plans. But it's not the time yet...  
 HASAN : What are those big plans?  
 NECATI : *(While putting some roasted chickpeas into his mouth)* Let me tell you this... Look... How many times have you gone to the chief of neighborhood?  
 HASAN : Which neighborhood chief?  
 NECATI : Man anyone one of them... For your residence paper or copy of your I.D...  
 You can go on and on... How much have you paid?  
 HASAN : They stamp couple of seals and charge a fortune...  
 NECATI : *(Gets mad)* Yeah, but they deserve that money... Isn't that so? Let's say you'll start a job, you go to the chief of neighborhood, or you'll get married, you go to him again  
 HASAN : Those days are gone. C'mon take a sip...  
 NECATI : Actually being a chief of neighborhood is a simple job... You'll arrange a room in your house, a couple of seals and few pieces of papers...  
 HASAN : *(Understands)* Do they make just anyone the chief of neighborhood? I mean, if I wanted to become one, could I be the chief?  
 NECATI : *(Knowingly)* Government employees cannot be the chief of neighborhood...  
 HASAN : What if they retire?  
 NECATI : Okay then... But there's a way to be the chief of neighborhood... That is, you can't be a chief of neighborhood unless you win the election.  
 HASAN : So as I understand it, your big plan is to be the chief of neighborhood.  
 NECATI : How did you guess?  
 HASAN : I'm not lacking brains Necati... Okay so then?  
 NECATI : We have an extra room in our house... I put all my extra stuff there... And you can separate the entrance with a folding screen... You know, so the ones at home don't get uncomfortable... So I thought of it and decided to enter the elections...  
 ILKER : *(Enters)* It's not arrived yet... I've looked...  
 HASAN : What did you put in your inner pocket?  
 ILKER : *(Gets back)* Nothing dad...  
 HASAN : I said pull it out.  
*(HASAN pulls out a pack of cigarette from ILKER's pocket)*  
 HASAN : And a pack of cigarette huh? Did you come here to puff cigarettes or to finish the school as soon as possible? Idiot!  
*(MERAL and AYSE come in)*  
 HASAN : *(Shows them the pack)* Do you see your son's mess?  
 MERAL : *(Lies)* He bought it for me Hasan...  
*(ILKER goes to his room.)*  
*(MERAL takes the cigarettes and goes to kitchen with AYSE)*  
 NECATI : *(Seeing that HASAN is sad)* Are you up for an arm wrestling?  
 HASAN : Don't do that Necati...  
 NECATI : Are you chickening out?  
 HASAN : What, from you?  
 NECATI : *(Clearing the table)* I haven't competed against anyone in a long time.



MERAL : *(Enters with a plate in her hand)* What are you doing?  
 AYSE : Move over so we can put the plates...  
 HASAN : Okay then... You've asked for it...  
*(They get into it)*  
 MERAL : You're like a little boy Necati...  
 AYSE : Look at this, does this suit you?  
*(With their faces getting red and all, the arm wrestling continues)*  
 MERAL : This man will never grow up... Just look at him...  
 AYSE : Just don't hurt yourselves...  
 ILKER : *(Anxiously comes in... In his hand an opened envelope and TANER'S letter)*  
 Mom... Dad...  
  
*(HASAN looks at his son, NECATI pins down HASAN's arm)*  
 NECATI : *(Like a Commander who just won a major battle)* I'm in great shape...  
 AYSE : Is there something wrong son? *(Takes the letter and reads it)* My dear mom,  
 dad and brother... I will not be a burden to you any longer... I'm leaving this  
 home in order to peruse my soccer career... I've come to terms with a team of  
 a city, which I won't be able to name. I'm not giving you the address for  
 now... Please forgive me... At the end I will also save you from this miserable  
 life... I kiss your hands... Your son, Taner...  
 MERAL : This boy's ran away.  
 AYSE : Oh my soon.  
 NECATI : Discipline, discipline! Everything starts with discipline! You were gonna let  
 me go... I was going to notify this boy...  
 AYSE : *(Starts to cry)* Without any money.  
 MERAL : I had given him some...  
 AYSE : It was obvious this would've happened anyway.  
 MERAL : He had it planned Ayse.  
 AYSE : *(To HASAN)* You complained and complained and now you've made him run  
 away. I want my son, you go and find my son.  
 MERAL : See, this should be a lesson to you... You go on and leave Gulay astray.  
*(AYSE goes to TANER's room)*  
 NECATI : I hope I won't see that day.  
 MERAL : Don't let her out.  
 AYSE : *(Comes back with TANER's shirt. And his picture on the other hand... In  
 hatred)* We have always suffered. In the villages. In exiles. Even our bread  
 would come monthly in the villages... And you've dragged us behind you.  
 HASAN : *(Sad)* I never brought shame on you...  
 AYSE : Debt, debt, debt.  
*(Puts on her overcoat)*  
 MERAL : Where to Ayse?  
 AYSE : I'm going to the police station... Let them find my son...  
 HASAN : *(Cuts in front of her)* Are you gonna disgrace me? Is he gonna make us news  
 in the... *(Can't finish it, falls down... As the others bend over on him in confusion)*

#### IV

*(INSPECTOR opens the bag in front of him... Pulls out some sort of written  
 papers... Inspects them... The door knocks)*

INSPECTOR : Come in...  
*(HASAN enters)*

INSPECTOR : Mr. Hasan?

HASAN : Yes.

INSPECTOR : *(Gets up. Extends his hand)* Omer Uysal, Inspector of Ministry... Please sit down...  
*(They sit down)*

INSPECTOR : Cigarette?

HASAN : No, I don't use cigarettes...

INSPECTOR : *(Changes his mind)* I don't want to make you uncomfortable...

HASAN : You go ahead sir. It wouldn't bother me...

INSPECTOR : I talked with your principal just a while ago. He said positive things about you... I guess there 's some disturb...

HASAN : *(He withstands)* No, no... Just a little tired, that's all. My heart is solid as a rock... I can go out and run for ten miles right now...

INSPECTOR : Mr Hasan, as you know we are colleagues... My being an inspector doesn't change this fact. I work as an inspector in this force and you as a teacher.  
*(Continues as usual)* But as in every profession, this job has some tough sides too... For example, for two people who come from the same roots, namely teaching to face each other for an investigation like this, is saddening.

HASAN : I've gone through many investigations in my career, and twice I've been laid off. Don't worry, I'm use to it, you can start.

INSPECTOR : *(In the comfort of getting a big burden off from his shoulder)* There are some accusations in regards of you...But I'd like to assure you that, I will continue this investigation before believing these accusations and without prejudging... First of all let me read the accusations regarding you... Actually there's no need to read them all... Most of them are nonsense *(Searches)* Yes... Your beating the student named Sibel Cansiz for the reason that she had come to school wearing earrings, and your treatment towards the children of wealthy in animosity and hatred, because of you actuality being an enemy of wealth. To bring this into a habit...

HASAN : Can I request you to read the accusations about me one by one? In order for me to reply easier...

INSPECTOR : Of course... Oohhm. Let's start from Sibel Cansiz if you like. The enmity of wealth and all... The earring incident.

HASAN : You know it as well that, no student comes to school dressed up fancy as if to go to a fashion show. Isn't that right sir?

INSPECTOR : Yes, without a doubt...

HASAN : The student in question was not applying to this rule... I've warned her saying, "Don't put on earrings"... And next day she came to school wearing earrings again... So I wrote a note and gave it to her hand... I was inviting her parents in the note that I wrote... They didn't come... And on top of it they sent me a message saying, "You can't interfere with our daughter"... And then the incident grew bigger and came to where we are.

INSPECTOR : So you're saying that you have invited her parents...

HASAN : Yes... With a memorandum written in a respected manner...

INSPECTOR : Do you have a copy of that memorandum?

HASAN : If I knew I was going to need it one day, I would've announce it with official statement.

INSPECTOR : (*Shows him a photocopied writing*) Was it this one?

HASAN : (*Reads*) "I order you, come to school... Otherwise I will expel your daughter. Are you relying on your wealth?"

INSPECTOR : (*Prevents him from reading*) Is this your writing?

HASAN : No... This is a very clumsy written writing... Whereas there are experts regarding this matter... It would be revealed if it were investigated...

INSPECTOR : Then?

HASAN : The next day Sibel came to school with earrings again... So I took her earrings out, put them in a paper and put them in her pocket... I neither beat her nor said anything else... My other students are witnesses to this... And after that, I made her wait standing in the classroom until the lesson was over...

INSPECTOR : In actuality you have made her mom and dad standing, not the child.

HASAN : I had no other choice in order to obtain discipline... If it was you...

INSPECTOR : These are not important sir, get over these... Because your behavior in animosity and hatred towards the children of wealthy...

HASAN : (*Points to the list of accomplishments hanging on the wall*) Can you read the bottom of that picture?

INSPECTOR : Sibel Cansiz...

HASAN : There's my student, who's the hero of the incident... If I were to have animosity and hatred towards the children of wealthy, would I put Sibel on the list of accomplishments? See, she's been the runner up of the class every year. And last year she even became the first of the class...

INSPECTOR : Do you drink?

HASAN : Yes... At nights...

INSPECTOR : That doesn't concern anybody... It's written here that, you can't enter the class unless you drink...

HASAN : Am I drunk now? You just pulled me out of my class... If I couldn't enter my classes without drinking, shouldn't I have had drunk something by now?

INSPECTOR : I didn't prepare the questions Mr. Hasan, I'm not being able to explain some of the things... Please...

HASAN : Sir, it's clear that these people are determined to chew me up... My saddens is that, in a matter like this a gentleman like individual such as you is being used by them.

INSPECTOR : (*He explodes*) Do you know what we go through here? Do you know under what circumstances we work here? That mighty general director called me in and said, 'go take that man off duty'... What can I do?

HASAN : Don't let them use you...

INSPECTOR : Just let me complete my six months... There's six months to my retirement... There are three kids at home... These mouths aren't just there to talk... Also to eat... And my wife on the other hand, is sick... Just let me finish my six months... Would I wait a second? I'm not a servant and I never served to anyone...And I never will!

HASAN : Do you believe in my innocence?

INSPECTOR : Yes I do.

HASAN : Then you can write your report as you believe.

INSPECTOR : (*Puts his hand on HASAN's shoulder*) Don't worry... That's how it'll be...

## The Living Room Of A Flat In Ankara

*(TANER is eating. AYSE is knitting. There's a coffee cup turned upside down by AYSE, clearly done for fortune-telling.)*

AYSE : Why don't you eat some more.

TANER : *(Withdrawn)* I'm full.

AYSE : You've slimed down.

TANER : No I haven't.

AYSE : Should I make you some lemonade?

TANER : No, I don't want it. You shouldn't have placed that announcement in the newspaper.

AYSE : What did we announce? "Our dear son Taner. Your father is sick. Come home. Your mom"... We didn't announce our last name anyway. What could we do? God knows what we've been through. You'll only be able to grasp it when you become a parent yourself. You should have seen your dad; he became so sad, ashamed, that he couldn't reply to those who came to "say "they were sorry".

TANER : As long as he doesn't try to kick me out again...

AYSE : Are you crazy? When I told him on the phone that you had come... *(Can't finish it)* Don't pay attention that he is tactless like that, but he loves us all... He screams and yells, but there's no badness in him. He lights up like a match but it fades away quickly and forgets everything... Now he's got diabetes to go with his heart problem. They say his anger and yelling are because of this. If he passes away, what could I do with just that much of retirement pension? Just waiting for his appointment...

TANER : I hope so.

AYSE : *(Still hopeful)* I believe it too now, it'll happen. Because the inspector who came for the inspection has given a positive report to your dad.

TANER : How do you know that he gave a positive report?

AYSE : Well the poor man has come all the way here... I wasn't here but he talked with Ilker... He's said, "don't worry, I will try for his designation too".  
*(Doorbell rings. Ayse exits)*

AYSE : *(Comes back)* Boy, that woman is so coward. *(Picks he knitting, clears the table)* All she's gonna do is tell fortunes, and she says, "what if my husband comes".

*(Takes the things in her hands to kitchen, returns)*

AYSE : You're home, aren't you son?

TANER : Yeah

AYSE : *(Takes the coffee cup)* You would let me know if your aunts come over, right?

TANER : Okay mom.

*(AYSE goes out. TANER gets up. He's limping. Looks out from behind the tulle curtain. In a bad mood... Doorbell rings. TANER opens the door.)*

ILKER : *(Enters)* What are you doing Taner?

TANER : Nothing.

ILKER : Where's my mom?

TANER : She went across the street to have a look at her fortunes... We now depend on fortune telling.

*(TANER sits down)*

ILKER : *(Checks his watch. From now on he'll be checking his watch from time to time)* Your girl has heard of your return... The one across the street man... She asked me of you...

TANER : Forget it. *(Pulls out cigarettes, extends)* Light it up.

ILKER : I've quitte... A good soccer player shouldn't smoke.

TANER : *(Lights one up)* Ah, forget it.

ILKER : You shouldn't smoke... You'll be a good player.

TANER : I got injured.

ILKER : It'll be over...

TANER : In future...

ILKER : You've said, they've taken you to the best doctors when you were injured...

TANER : *(Lies)* They did.

ILKER : So why is this pessimism? You say 'forget it' to everything.

TANER : When?

ILKER : Just a moment ago... You just said 'forget it'.

TANER : Is that what I said? *(Still stubborn)* My injury will be gone someday. I will return to the fields. I'm just sorry for other things... I'm sorry for my dad.

ILKER : Well what's done is done. We can't turn back. What we experienced can't be relived... Don't worry anymore...

TANER : Actually it's not just my fault Ilker. Dad was pushing so hard for me to be a teacher. *(Thinks)* Just remember... Huge dogs use to attack on us in the village. We couldn't go out because of them dogs. Especially they had hit on a man remember, his face is still in front of my eyes... He was covered in blood, struggling and kicking about while lying on his back... I couldn't become a teacher and go to villages Ilker... I couldn't go through that poverty and brutality with this frame of mind.

ILKER : Is it just villages where people get shot?  
*(Silence)*

TANER : *(Thinks)* I want to tell you something.

ILKER : Say it... Go ahead...

TANER : This must stay in between us...

ILKER : You can trust me.

TANER : My mom, and especially my dad shouldn't hear this.

ILKER : I won't say it...

TANER : Because it's very important, give me your word.

ILKER : I promise

TANER : They had called me... You know I had ran away... They obtained a license as an amateur... They said, "prove yourself first, then we'll make a professional contract with you". They reserved a room in a luxurious hotel and have me eat in the best restaurants...

ILKER : I know all of these...

TANER : But you don't know the end. Everything was running smoothly up until my third game... And I had scored three goals... Everyone knew me... It was a tiny small town anyway... Even my being on the street would be an event... I got injured in the third game. They took me to doctors. They were just trembling over me believe it... Then couple more doctors came... And then they rented a small room for me... Only a small rug thrown on the floor... Some of my teammates brought spring mattress, bed, table and couple of chairs from their own homes.

ILKER : Why didn't you come back home?

TANER : I had to accomplish it Ilker... I was gonna resist it. But then one day they said, “we can’t send you abroad, our finances are limited’. I guess the treatments were very expensive. I had meniscus Ilker... So my soccer career finished before it started, as you’d understand. My leg will be crippled as long as I live... Then one day, one of the directors came over and showed the announcement in the newspaper and said, “son, your dad is sick, go back to your home”. *(Stops talking)*

ILKER : *(Thinks)* Why don’t you start with school again?

TANER : That’s impossible.

ILKER : Why not? You’ll attend the same class one more year. What kind of problem would that bring? I too have waited one year, in my last year of high school...

TANER : But you didn’t return to the same school...

ILKER : Don’t stuck up with meaningless thoughts... Finish your school...

TANER : But I can’t enroll this year...

ILKER : So then you’ll enroll next year. Do you know how happy our father will be if you decide to do this?

TANER : Do you think he’ll really be happy?

ILKER : What, you think just my dad will be happy? So will my mom...  
*(The outside door’s opening and shutting is heard)*

AYSE : *(Enters)* Are you here? Didn’t your aunts come?

ILKER : Were my aunts going to come?

TANER : They didn’t come. *(He goes to the room)*  
*(The door knocks. AYSE goes to open the door. MERAL and NECATI enter)*

ILKER : Hiii.

NECATI : Hi. *(He’s got sullen face)* Enough man!

AYSE : Is something wrong?

MERAL : I’m are tired of this man Ayse! We had enough! What have I done to you Lord, that you brought this man upon me?

AYSE : What is it now?

NECATI : The son of a bitch above us has gone left and right, and spread propaganda against me... But I won’t let him get away with this, he’ll see it soon...

MERAL : *(In a bitter voice)* Why do you tangle with a stranger? How do you know he’s said it?

NECATI : Who else can it be? He said it!

ILKER : The paralyzed man? What has he said?

NECATI : *(Shakes his arm as a paralyzed man)* He’s said, “He feeds chicken in the balcony... God forbid, if he becomes the chief of the neighborhood, he’ll cause us great pains”...

MERAL : Plus he has said, he’s a lunatic.

NECATI : Well of course, he’s not gonna say I’m smart... He had a grudge against me anyway... I had that son of a bitch beat in the arm wrestling...

MERAL : Well he’s not all that wrong then... He’s gathering the tenants in the neighborhood and gives them food, saying these are my voters, as if there’ll be election soon... Outside the people are ripping each other off, and you are in worry of election... If you’re not a lunatic then what are you?

NECATI : *(Imitates again)* He said, “Four votes from me... All of my family will vote for you... So think of those four votes in your pocket”... Lying son of a bitch!

MERAL : I could hardly grab the gun from his hand... He almost shot the man...

AYSE : When was this?

MERAL : At noon... Can you believe this?

AYSE : Oh my God.

NECATI : (*He's really into it now*) Me, a lunatic huh? That asshole! You watch, he'll get it. I'm gonna buy the best crowing cock from Denizli and put it in the balcony... Let it crow day and night into that son of a bitch's ears...

MERAL : Why do you have to buy a Denizli cock? You've taken a stick in your hand and kept hitting the ceiling... Isn't that enough? The man is a diabetic anyway, if he dies from the noise, you'll get it...

NECATI : Let him die, that son of a bitch! He got nothing but goodness from me. When he moved in, I was the one who fixed everything all the way through his faucets. I almost did his whitewash too. (*Imitates him again*) He grabbed my hands saying, "God not only gave me a home but a neighbor like you"...

MERAL : Stop shaking your arm... The poor man wasn't paralyzed then... You are the one who paralyzed him. (*About to jump onto him*) They have decided to move anyway... You intend to scare away all the tenants in the apartment... You're driving them out one by one... Most of them have late teenager boys. I'm afraid the will corner you someday... Get a hold of yourself. (*To AYSE*) You know Munevver, don't you? You know, our Munevver...

AYSE : Oh yes, I got it...

MERAL : Now I hear that Munevver's got a nephew... His name was written on the paper. (*Ties to find, and finds it*) Halim, Halim... He's been appointed to Ministry of Education as assistant general director... I had mentioned to Munevver about my brother... And Munevver's gone and mentioned my brother's thing to Mr. Halim. And he has said, "It's easy, let him come here, we'll have it done"...

AYSE : Oh boy, that would be wonderful... He's been dragging in motel rooms...

NECATI : Isn't there any news from the house?

AYSE : It's not sold yet... If everything could be put in order, with God's help... (*The outside door's opening and loudly closing is heard. HASAN comes in. He is disheveled... He'd been drinking. A suitcase in his hand. The ones are there understand, something is wrong*)

HASAN : Oohh, who do I see?

NECATI : Weren't you gonna come tomorrow?

MERAL : Did you get permission Hasan?

AYSE : He'd drank.

HASAN : You have any food?

AYSE : I prepared...

HASAN : I'm hungry.

AYSE : I wonder if your appointing is done.

HASAN : Let's see, what have you cooked? You know my wife, she's the queen of all wives... Tell them...

AYSE : Well I cooked something.

HASAN : (*Trying to look calm*) Our home is about to be sold... Then we're done... If we can barrow a little and buy a flat, the rest is easy... How are you Ilker? Are you studying your lessons?

ILKER : Yes dad...

HASAN : You have to study... All of these hardships, outrage and dishonesty we go through is, because of you...

MERAL : What happened Hasan?

HASAN : Never mind sis...

MERAL : It's not right to drink brother...

HASAN : Nothing will happen to me... Fear has no affect to the consequences...

NECATI : What, did you fall down?

HASAN : (*Harshly*) Am I a man to fall down?

NECATI : You have dust all over...

HASAN : So what?  
*(The door of the room opens... TANER hesitantly enters... Silence. Upon seeing TANER, HASAN turns his head away. TANER comes limping to kiss his father's hand. HASAN indecisively pulls his hand back.)*

TANER : Forgive me dad... for give me...  
*(Reaches to his hand and kisses it. HASAN can't put up anymore, turns and embraces his son. Silence)*

TANER : I will start school again... I will be a teacher dad...  
*(Joy in everyone except HASAN)*

MERAL : There you go Taner.

AYSE : The fortune has become reality.

NECATI : I guess he finally got the sense of it.

HASAN : An uneducated person is a half person... But have your education in high school, not in teachers school... I don't want you to be a teacher... Don't be a teacher... Just don't be a teacher!  
*(Silence)*

HASAN : (*Relieved*) They banished me again...  
*(While the rest look at the written decree that HASAN gave, HASAN exits to go to the restroom.)*

NECATI : Boy where's Ankara, where's Agri?

MERAL : He has to hold back his tongue a little. So what, just bite your tongue... What is it to you from someone else's earring?

NECATI : Bring a map of Turkey, so we can find where is Agri...

AYSE : But the inspector had even given a positive report...

HASAN : (*Comes back. He heard the last sentence*) They've banished the inspector to Agri also.

NECATI : (*Has found Agri from the map ILKER had brought*) It's in the east Anatolia, at the border...

AYSE : How is he going to go there with his ill condition?

MERAL : (*Joyfully*) We forgot about Munevver's nephew in this chaos... Hasan, you will not go to Agri...

HASAN : I didn't understand.

MERAL : Our Munevver's nephew became assistant general director in the ministry... We'll have you appoint there, he promised...

NECATI : He had said, "let him come here, we'll arrange it under the table"...

AYSE : This is once in a lifetime chance.

HASAN : Oh, so I will go to the Ministry and kiss some asses, is that so?

MERAL : But..

NECATI : What's wrong with that?

AYSE : Don't you think of us?

MERAL : Just be realistic Hasan...

NECATI : A mouth will not be worn out by kissing some hands.

MERAL : Stop making nonsense Hasan...

HASAN : Am I guilty?

MERAL : What guilt?



AYSE : You see...  
 NECATI : *(To MERAL)* I don't get it...  
 HASAN : You're forcing me..  
 NECATI : What's he saying Meral?  
 HASAN : You want me to apologize...  
 MERAL : Where did you get that from Hasan?  
 AYSE : There, you see it...  
 NECATI : My dear, you'll just ask for appointing to be stooped...  
 HASAN : In return of what? In other words, I will say, "I did it but you have mercy on me", is that right?  
 MERAL : There's no one wants you to do that...  
 HASAN : Yes there is, there is... *(Quiets everyone down)* Isn't asking them to appoint me to Ankara, meaning an apology? It is to accept the guilt. Am I guilty so that I should apologize from them? What else do people like us have to lose in life besides their dignity and honor? Should they take away our dignity from our hands? Isn't Agri a part of this country? I can work there too... Don't you understand me? As least when I shave in the mornings, I'll have a chance to look at my face without shame. *(Moves forward in the other's bewildered look)* You're going to be dignified all the time. Why should you be dignified? Because a dignified man would have nothing to be afraid of. *(Now on his voice becomes very low, can't be heard... While talking as the rest of them look confused...)*

**END**

My first writing: Ankara, 1973  
 My second writing: Istanbul, 1987

