

A Psychoanalytic Study of the characters of Yağız and Fazilet: Themes of Parental Abandonment and Resilience

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Abstract

This research is about the investigation of parental abandonment suffered by Yağız and Fazilet throughout their childhood and their resilience against it. The current study focuses on the evidences of parental abandonment in Yağız and Fazilet's lives and the reasons of their different chosen paths. The source material of this research is the Turkish drama 'Fazilet Hanım Ve Kızları' and the researcher used note taking as the instrument to find out the evidences and reasons of both character's different resilience in the face of parental abandonment. The results of the current study displays that during their childhood, both characters were robbed of their basic rights and due to their contrasting environments that include safety, money, and education, both chose a different path to grow.

Keywords: *Psychoanalytic, Parental Abandonment, Resilience, Childhood Trauma*

INTRODUCTION

Written by Sırma Yanık, Mrs. Fazilet and Her Daughters (*Fazilet Hanım Ve Kızları*) is a Turkish drama, which aired in 2017. The drama entertainingly talks about the severe and toxic parenting that can cause a huge danger to the society. The parenting scenarios go both ways of extremeness: love for children without boundaries and control over children without boundaries. The drama portrays variety of characters; each adult character depicts a different scenario of life. Yanık, very profoundly, dug deeper in each character's psyche to represent a connection between their childhood and adulthood. The adult characters' personality traits are driven by their childhood experiences, meanwhile their childhood experiences connect with the parenting that they had. Fazilet and Yağız both went under a different but disturbing parenting which caused changes in their adult life. Although, both of their childhood experiences were different than the other, but the way both coped with it is what under the discussion in this study.

The aim of this study is to critically analyse the themes of parental abandonment that took place in the lives of Yağız and Fazilet. It also aims to explore the environmental-based

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resilience of both characters and their coping mechanisms. The following are the questions that are intended to answer through this study:

1. How do the characters of Yağız and Fazilet suffer from the ordeal in the name of parental abandonment?
2. How do both characters differ from their resilience against parental abandonment?

The main problem pertaining to this study which has not been elucidated is the investigation of a similar struggle faced by Yağız and Fazilet in their childhoods and their environmental-based outcomes. The magnitude of their childhood suffering weighs differently, but the principle factor that pairs their childhood suffering is the abandonment from their own parents. This research will dig deep into the psyche of both characters and also will study the environmental factors that helped them cope with their suffering.

The significance of this study is probably based on the Social Behaviour, for personalities with disturbed stability might cause inconvenience, not only for themselves, but also for people around them. Fazilet's character reflects the negative outcome; meanwhile Yağız's reflects the positive outcome. By putting both of the characters' psyches under discussion, it can help in understanding the behaviours which can be adapted for the betterment of the society. This research is also a new addition to the theory of Psychoanalysis and will benefit other researchers.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Psychoanalysis is a branch of Psychology which deals with the human mind rather subjectively. The concept of Psychoanalysis already existed before Freud, but with the passage of time and Freud's endless efforts, the theory got its fame and recognition in all over the world.

Sigmund Freud, an Austrian medical student, could not satisfy himself with the medical experience he was getting; his mind, therefore, headed towards psychology, which then directly led to something which was called 'Hysteria' at that time. Freud believed there is more to mental illness than what it already seems, hence he himself began to dig deeper in the field. In 1890s, Freud began his work on Psychoanalysis and came up with his own theory and revelation of Conscious and Unconscious Mind. The Psychoanalysis Theory was initially created as a guide to treat patients with mental disorders. It opened a passage to explore

human mind with its hidden treasures. Freud, later with his on-going work, came up with different concepts in Psychoanalysis:

- **Conscious and Unconscious Mind:** Human mind is divided into three categories including Unconscious, which occupies more than half of the human mind; containing dreams, thoughts, desires, and memories which are inaccessible to conscious mind. Then comes Conscious, which only occupies the surface level of the mind that only displays the things one is already aware of. And then there comes a middle part which falls in both conscious and unconscious, known as Preconscious.
- **Id, Ego, Super-ego:** Three major elements which help in creating a personality. Id is known as pleasure principle, seeking worldly desires without considering any of the consequences. Super-ego could be considered as an opposite of Id, for it always prioritizes the moral and ethical values, and rejects personal temporarily satisfying desires, and is also known as morality principle. Ego, at the very last, is reality principle, which balances out both Id and Ego by finding out a middle ground to prevent any kind of conflict within the personality.
- **Defence Mechanism:** Human mind unconsciously uses defence mechanism as a behaviour that helps an individual in preventing any kind of stress or distress.
- **Dream and its Interpretations:** Freud believed that the conflicts of human mind display themselves in dreams by adapting a symbolic manner.
- **Psychosexual Development:** Freud proposed that the human personality develops at initial stages of one's life; the child grows up with different information about his/her sex. Childhood, by all means, has a severe influence on one's adulthood.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

Human mind is always in a constant conflict with itself. The conflict, then, generates behaviours which seem far from one's own understanding. As Milton, Polmear, and Fabricius (2011) noted, "Psychoanalysis takes a dynamic rather than a static view of the mind, seeing movement, energy and in particular conflict as intrinsic to mental life. For example, a person may want to do something his or her conscience doesn't allow, or may be pulled by different ways by love or hate for the same person. He or she may want to find truth, but also be frightened and reluctant to find out."

Human mind does not always work coherently, in fact, only a limited part of mind works in a comprehensible manner, known as Conscious. A major part of the mind stays in a

form of Repression, also known as Unconscious. Between Cs and Ucs, there lays a middle ground known as Preconscious. The repressed desires, thoughts, sentiments, or any human thing which cannot appear in one's conscious is what Unconscious is; the repressed part probably serves as a prototype of the Ucs. Whereas something which is latent, but can be exposed to the conscious with a little struggle is known as Preconscious. Conscious, on the other hand, is what one already knows and feels. (Freud, 1923) Cs, Ucs, and Pcs are the major factors that fuel the Id, Ego, and Super-ego in a personality. The Id, Ego, and Super-ego, then, generate behaviours according to the dominance one has over. For instance, if an individual has his superego dominated over him, his decisions would base on a moral ground, where he would always find the need to sacrifice, reject or dismiss whatever he desires, and keep a selfless image of himself for his own satisfaction. "Liu Feng is a character in people's eyes who constantly pursues the 'superego.' And he also commands himself in such a way repressing his love and admiration for Lindinding, trying to use 'superego' to overcome the impulse of consciousness containing the burning feelings, which built a 'perfect image' of breaking the common customs. The extreme repression and dislocation of 'superego' to 'ego' caused extreme pain in Liu Feng, and panic pushed him down the altar." (Li Anran, 2022) Meanwhile a person with a powerful Id would likely to choose himself and his desires over anything, and would keep on seeking the pleasure. Although, Freud believed that the human personality, along with the concepts of Cs, Ucs, Pcs, and their elements, Id, Ego, and Superego, the surrounding and the situations one faces at the early years of his life may also play an important role in building his personality. Disturbing childhoods can generate disturbing adults within a conflict with their past. There are certain needs in one's life at the early years, and if those needs do not get fulfilled, the person may suffer from a traumatic childhood, which would keep hunting him in his adulthood. As Herman (1992) observed that long after the traumatic event is passed in one's life, they would still keep on reliving those disturbing times by having the trauma encoded, which then breaks in both Cs and Pcs; sudden flashbacks of that traumatic event in the day with severe anxiety and nightmares at night while sleeping. "We examine the carryover effects of adult patients' early traumas from three perspectives: (1) explicit (conscious) memories of trauma; (2) implicit (unconscious) reliving/memories of the trauma; and global patterns of functioning influenced by the trauma." (Gaensbauer & Jordan, 2016) Psychoanalysis, along dealing with Unconsciousness and Consciousness of human and their aspects, it also talks about the dreams and their interpretation, since they, too, connect with human mind. Freud's one of the greatest conceptions was introducing Dreams as a symbolic entity. Although the dreams do not effect

as physically something physical may effect, since they already work intrinsically. The dreams possess an intelligible cognitive structure that can be comprehended by the sentimental position of the one having those dreams. Dreams can also be concluded as signifier of what they signify. The unconscious thoughts, memories, and desires get an unknown support by the dreams which, the, manifests the repressed. (Edelson, 1972; French & Fromm, 1964) Another approach by the Psychoanalysts is Defence Mechanism. One can adapt behaviours both consciously and unconsciously that can be labelled as defence mechanism behaviour, which, then, helps in preventing distress and stress. According to the findings of Bowins (2004) “Psychological defence mechanisms represent a crucial component of our capacity to maintain emotional homeostasis. Without them the conscious mind would be much more vulnerable to negatively charged emotional input, such as that pertaining to anxiety and sadness.” Psychosexual, another psychological approach by the psychoanalysts, deals with the sexual development of an individual considering the past he or she had. Simon and Gagnon (1969) stated in their research work that, “Whether one agrees with Freud or not, it is obvious that we do not become sexual all at once. There is continuity with the past. Even infant experiences can strongly influence later sexual development. But continuity is not causality. Childhood experiences (even those that appear sexual) will in all likelihood be influential not because they are intrinsically sexual, but because they can affect a number of developmental trends, *including sexual*.”

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Method

This research is based on the qualitative-descriptive method. To scrutinise the characters’ inner struggles and strength along with their hidden motives behind their actions under the study of Psychoanalysis, this research aims to provide arguments based on facts to analyse the human behaviour with a descriptive and subjective approach.

Source of Content

The source of the data is the Turkish drama, originally named as ‘*Fazilet Hanım Ve Kızları*’ which aired in 2017 in Turkey. The drama has 50 episodes with 2 seasons. Each episode’s running time is 2 hours and 30 minutes. With the huge success, the drama later got dubbed and subbed in many different languages. One of the subbed versions was in English.

Instrument of the Researcher

The instrument of the researcher is observation and note taking. It is a technical approach that requires keen observation of the researcher whilst also noting down every major and minor detail of the data to come up with relevant facts and figures; e.g. what dialogue in which episode, etc. By noting down the observed and factual relevant information about the data, it becomes comprehensible for the researcher to get a hold of every important idea related to the research, for character analysis requires effort and keen concentration.

Procedure of Content Collection

For the process of data collection, the researcher will apply numerous course of action, such as:

- a) Giving the drama various watches. By repeating the drama for a number of times, the research can get a hold of important things which got missed in the previous watches.
- b) With the repetition, the researcher can notify the actions of the characters (under the study) each time with a different perspective. Each dialogue conveyed with a certain body language, or each utterance at different places can itself speaks very well for the study.

Techniques of Analysing Content

To analyse the data, the researcher has chosen the theory of Psychoanalysis, given by Sigmund Freud, to analyse the character arcs of Fazilet and Yağız. According to Freud's findings, personalities may vary for numerous reasons; some of those reasons can be different approaches to world and life itself, and those approaches drive straight from one's inner conflict, which then lays in an individual's Cos, Pcs, and Ucs.

Psychoanalysis Process

The chosen process of Psychoanalysis for this study is the psychoanalytic concepts which help in building personalities. Both Fazilet and Yağız possess different tendencies towards different things, this study is to ask and answer why.

Motives of Psychoanalysis

The concept of Psychoanalysis was introduced for a sole purpose, which was the treatment of the abnormal. Freud's main motive was to examine human behaviours and their motives behind the actions, so to treat them accordingly.

The purpose of this research is to scrutinise the personality traits driven by childhood experiences of the characters of Yağız and Fazilet under the lens of Psychoanalysis Theory given by Sigmund Freud. It aims to explore the parental abandonment that took place in both of the characters' lives and their chosen way to deal with it in their adulthood.

Results and Discussion

The Ordeal of Yağız and Fazilet in the Face of Parental Abandonment

The Parental abandonment can have many faces. In each face, it is often the child who suffers mercilessly. Parental rejection can effect both mentally and physically, which is why, the child may suffer in both ways. It is a situation where the child suffers from a highly traumatic experience that can last for a lifetime. Such sort of abandonment (caused by lack of love and interest from the parent) can lead the child to feel unloved and unwanted. The aftereffects of parental abandonment can damage a child's future, including his skills to socialize, his relationships, and above all, his self-esteem. Therefore, it is extremely important for parents to support and provide the parental love/care that every child needs/deserves (Marici, Clipa, Runcan & Pirghie, 2023).

Robbed of Love

Yağız born to a wealthy family of Istanbul, Yağız, in his initial years of life, often had a slightest of doubt of being an outsider in his own home. He did not know why (for he had no evidence) but he felt what he felt since the very beginning. The dirtiest of truths at last gets revealed to him in the final episode that he was not really an Egemen, rather a bought child whose real father was murdered by Hazım Egemen (his father). Therefore, without even knowing his reality, he felt miserable around the people he called family. Where his siblings were allowed to make mistakes, allowed to say no, allowed to have a childhood like a child, he was coerced to be set as a Golden example; 'Altın Çocuk' was what he was called by his siblings, which translates to Golden Child. He was often mocked by his siblings for being (narcissist) Daddy's favourite, neglecting the fact that how big of a price he had to make to be one. According to Cramer (2011), if the parents expect highly of their child and demand excessively from him without ever being responsible towards his basic needs, the child may continuously search for approval, and feel incomplete and unworthy of love. Which, then, also shades light to Yağız's golden child persona, for he was demanded to be an ideal child with no say of his own? The lack of love and appreciation made him desperate to be what his father desired him to be, without giving any importance to his sentiments and priorities; he shaped himself according to his father's wishes. This, with the passage of time, brought

excessive appreciation from his father (that his siblings did not like much). With passing years, Yağız got the title of Golden Child; a child who never made a mistake to upset daddy, meanwhile the rest three siblings continued to do so. At the age of 12, Yağız was robbed of love when he met one of his worst nightmares where he was forcefully sent to America to a boarding school. In episode 14, he, for the very first time, talks about his traumatic childhood memories. When Hazan (his love interest) talks about her lonely childhood, he gets along with her, hesitantly sharing his childhood trauma to comfort her. At 1:14:25 of episode 14, he states:

“My darkness was lonely, too. While you were selling lemons in the market at half darkened dawn, I was in a USA’s boarding school. I, too, used to sing in bed whenever I felt scared out of loneliness.”

Yağız always felt an unknown ache that reminded him of his robbed childhood. He knew something was off from the very day he was sent to America against his will, but could not detect what, until the day he got to know about the truth.

In his adulthood, it became evident to him that something was wrong. The things that he used to be oblivious of are now hunting him down and he is no longer taking it inside. In 8th episode, Yağız and Sinan, in their drunken state, make a bet. Yağız states that neither can Sinan make Hazan his girlfriend nor the beauty face of their upcoming project named as Egemen Cosmetics. Which Sinan takes as a challenge and makes a bet that he is able to do both. The next day, Yağız witnesses a billboard of a messy picture of Hazan, and under it the logo of Egemen Cosmetics. When their father comes to know about it and the bet, he gets furious with both brothers, but his outrage was something to be noticed. Where Sinan only gets his car and credit cards taken away, Yağız suffers the most of it. Their father dismisses the cosmetic project, on which Yağız spent two years, as a punishment for a mere bet. But this was not what upset Yağız, it was the indifferent behaviour of his father. At 1:50:05 of episode 8, his father shouts:

“How dare you question my fairness? How dare you after all that you have done? Look at yourself! You're a big disappointment for me. I would expect anything from anybody in this world, but you...”

"You wouldn't expect it from me, right? You wouldn't expect it from your Golden Child! Because I'm perfect, I'm faultless, I'm a model son. Isn't it? I have to be Mr. Right because you wanted so! Let me tell you something, then, Baba! I did not want to be the

Golden Child. I did not want to be your Project Child! I did not want to go to US to become Mr. Perfect at 12 years of age. I did not want to be a stranger in a country where I couldn't even speak their language, away from my family, siblings, mom and dad, especially when I needed them the most. You wanted that. You wanted me to be perfect. But it didn't work out. No matter what you did, it did not happen. I couldn't be Mr. Perfect."

This was the first time when Yağız stood up against the saddening behaviour of his father towards him. The hurt that he buried in his heart long ago could not stay still and got out.

(Fazilet) Born to a working class in a small town named Adapazarı, Fazilet had the roughest childhood of all. Her suffering can never be compared to anybody else. She was robbed of love, for her biggest of crimes was being born a girl. In 25th episode, her eldest daughter, Hazan, confesses to Yağız that how her mother would never really reveal what had happened to her, but would always rant about her past life. At 22:03 in the 25th episode, Hazan states:

"As far as I could remember, whenever my mother was angry, she would say what she went through. That's all. Nothing else. I would also angrily reply to her ranting screaming, 'What have you gone through? Say it. Let me know.' But I could not know."

Having to be brought up in a place where one is not even treated as a human being, Fazilet yet survived with all her strength.

Robbed of Care

(Yağız) Since Love of Parents couldn't really play a proper part in his life, Care also faded away. Being sent to America at the 12 year of age, Yağız did not only miss out parents' love and care, but also his entire childhood. At the age where a child feels more excited to be alive and ventures through extra outdoor adventures (adventures in which he often ends up getting physically hurt) Yağız was left all alone in a foreign city of a foreign country. He was robbed of care when there was no mother to take care of his wounds and kiss them, when there was no father to build up his lost confidence. After reaching the adulthood, he still could not let go of his childhood scars. In episode 27th, when his father gets an attack of Dementia, Yağız, with all that buried pain in his heart, tries to make his father remember about him and his childhood (a childhood that his father could not properly witness). He,

trying to make his father remember, talks about his childhood while narrating the painful parts only in his mind. At 43:20 in 27th episode, he hesitantly states:

“Dad, remember when I was little...I was afraid of the dark. (Before you sent me off to America.) Mom, whilst saying goodnight to me, would turn off the lights. I used to get scared, but I was ashamed to admit it. I was afraid Gökhan and Sinan would make fun of me. Then you would come through the darkness. How you felt it, how you already knew, I couldn't get it, but you always saved from that darkness. Turning on the lights, you would always come and narrate me a story. You were the hero who saved me from the darkness, Dad. You always have been. Then I got used to the dark. I got used to being alone. I had no choice but to get used to it anyway. But not anymore, Dad. I cannot be alone anymore. Not without you. I need the Hazım Egemen who overcomes the darkness. I need my father. We need you.”

From being afraid of the dark to living alone, away from his family, he grew up to be a person with a kind heart and also a person who was still in search of love, care, and approval.

(Fazilet) Meanwhile Fazilet had it rougher than Yağız. As if being born a girl were not enough of her crimes that she got raped, too, at the age of 16. When she needed her parents and family the most, when she needed them to protect and support her, that's exactly where she was thrown into the deepest pit of Hell. Fazilet was robbed of care when her parents blamed her for the rape, blamed her for not protecting herself against a monster who was twice her size, blamed her for being a girl and beat her for standing up for herself. In the final episode of the series, she, for the first time, confesses to her eldest daughter Hazan about the horrors of her past life. At 1:41:08 in the 50th episode, she states:

“I wanted to have a law on him, but I could not do it, darling. They did not let me. They didn't. They didn't. They beat me up. They clipped my wings. They always blamed me. It's always been my fault. I ran to the Police. They caught me. They beat me up harder, my baby. They beat me up more so that I don't run off to Police again. They clipped my wings.”

Her miserliness did not end here. She had a lifetime to suffer.

Robbed of Respect

(Yağız) Yağız was a person who was only respected as a puppet (who never had a choice but to say yes to whatever his family demanded of him) and not as an individual (who happened to have a life of his own). As long as he was Daddy's 'escape from responsibilities' he was granted respect, love, and care; since Hazım could not properly take care of his children, he prepared Yağız to do so. Even though Yağız was not the eldest, but the amount of responsibilities he was put on was just a price he was unknowingly paying. With the passage of time Yağız was only identified as an elder brother; he had no other identity, not even as a human. From his father to his youngest sibling, everybody in his family (including his mother, father, aunt, elder brother, and younger brother and sister) became dependent on him. The irony begins when Yağız, even after being available to everybody, gets taken for granted. Without even knowing the real truth of his identity, his family robbed him of his deserved respect.

When the main conflict began between the brothers Yağız and Sinan (the love triangle concerning Hazan) Yağız started to notice the drastic change in his father's behaviour. He always thought that Sinan was more beloved to his father than him, but when the conflict started, he witnessed his father not only treating him worse than a stepson, but disrespecting him in every way possible. Hazan was the supposed girlfriend of Sinan, but due to Sinan's immature, irresponsible, and toxic behaviour, it was always Yağız who had to take care of her, and in the process, he fell in love with her. In later episodes, when Hazan herself begins to reciprocate his feelings, their families start to notice it and do not appreciate it at all. In episode 43rd, the mutual love of Yağız and Hazan gets revealed to Sinan, hence he drives off to a cliff in a drunken state. He does not return the entire night. Meanwhile Yağız and Hazan decide to better part ways, for it was the right decision. Therefore, Hazan books a flight to Germany to leave everything behind. The next day, Sinan was nowhere to be found, while Hazan was about to take off. Yağız, after a failed attempt at resisting his urge, decides to meet Hazan for the last time. When his father sees him driving off, he stops and asks him if he has seen his sibling. In episode 43 at 51:05 Hazım asks:

"Did you hear from your sibling?"

"Which one, Baba? I have three of them."

"What kind of answer is that? You know I'm asking about Sinan, right? You know where you guys went last night. I haven't heard from Sinan since last night, I don't know where he is."

And here you're playing with words in such a manner. Sinan went to see Hazan last night. Did you see him?"

"I did."

"You saw him, and?"

"He was laughing. We didn't talk, Baba, I don't know. He went away."

"He was laughing? Means Sinan was drunk?"

"I don't know, Baba. I mean, he was just laughing. He wasn't well."

"He wasn't well? Your brother was not well and you let him go all alone? Don't you know how your brother is, son? How could you leave him all alone? Is this your Brotherhood? Is this how you behave as an elder brother? Are you done being his elder brother? Is this the end of your Brotherhood? Has your Brotherhood ended over a girl's beauty?"

"Baba...please talk carefully now."

"Answer me, Yağız! Has your Brotherhood ended? Are you done being a brother to your siblings?"

"Enough now, Baba! Enough! For the love of God, enough! I am not just an elder brother. Okay? I'm as much a Human as you and Sinan are. I'm a Human being with worries and sentiments other than just being an elder brother, Baba! Please understand this! I did not have this life to just behave as an elder brother to Sinan. Baba, I'm really tired. And I want to finally rest now. Yes, I didn't follow Sinan last night. Okay? I didn't, because I'm really tired now. I'm tired of following Sinan. I want to rest just for a day now. Just for a day I want to be Yağız. Just for a day, Baba, I want to be myself."

Yağız took off from there to meet Hazan for the last time, meanwhile the news about Sinan's devastating accident comes and everybody rushes to the hospital. Yağız gets robbed of respect when he and Hazan reach the hospital together, and upon seeing them side by side, Hazım's furiousness takes the worst of him and he slaps Yağız, without a word, in front of everybody.

(Fazilet) Fazilet was robbed of respect when her family sold her to her rapist for a few bucks. They forced her to marry him in order to save them from the humiliation. She was beaten when she refused to marry, but ended up fulfilling their demand for she had nowhere

else to go. In the final episode, at 1:41:50 she, for the very first time, reveals to her daughter that:

"Then your father bought me with his money. And that money was of chickenfeed. My father sold the worthless Fazilet for a few chickenfeed, baby. My father did this. With that chickenfeed my father cleaned up his own honour. That little girl's dreams, pride, honour, all gone in one night, my child...all gone in one night. They married me to a man who was my worst nightmare. I realized that day, my child. At that young age, I realized that in this life there's only one truth, and its money."

Fazilet, then, led a life of misery. She could not forgive her culprit.

Divergent Paths: Contrasting Resilience in the Face of Parental Abandonment

Every individual has a different and personal way to deal with miseries and traumas. The parental behaviour is a crucial factor that fuels the personalities of the adult individuals. Children who suffered from negative parenting are likely to adapt problematic tendencies (Ndegwa & Waiyaki, 2020). Meanwhile, there are very little chances of positive effects of parental abandonment, or to say, there are very few individuals who happened to suffer from parental abandonment and yet turned out to be self-reliant. Such individuals develop the inner strength and are of strong minds. However, it is crucial to note that they do not inherent such good qualities as a response to parental abandonment, rather they have the ability to adapt and find support in challenging situations.

Yağız and Fazilet's resilience towards the parental abandonment took different paths for both. Not that the severity of their suffering weighs same, but the turns that took place in their lives made a crucial impact on their adulthood. There are some relevant factors that comparatively gave a divergent shade to their lives.

Conveniences of Money and Education

Better education comes with better money, and better education has always been considered as an essential factor for growing up into a better version of one's self. For education does not only provide one knowledge but also builds self-confidence.

(Yağız) Yağız was already coerced to pursue his higher education in an extremely developed country USA. Without his consent, he had to accept what life offered him. Yağız's wise, insightful, and sagacious personality was notably visible throughout the entire drama.

For the matter of fact, he was considered, by the viewers, to be the only sane and understanding person in the whole series. Having to spend the entire teenage hood relying on nobody but himself, he happened to develop self-sufficiency, reliance, and confidence. Although it was never easy for him to be his own and only support, but the only choice he had. However, his reliance on himself made him possess a fine quality of adapting in challenging situations. He exhibited a remarkable degree of self-sufficiency and strength, demonstrating an impressive ability to independently navigate challenges and overcome obstacles with firm resilience and determination. In episode 8th, when Hazım humiliated him over a minor mistake of betting, Yağız prioritised his self-respect over his daddy's rich company, and went on signing a resignation; all of Hazım's children were dependent on him and his money, but Yağız was always an exception. Sent to USA, he built his own career without daddy's influence, and ended up with major academic achievements. Therefore, he never felt the need to possess any of daddy's belonging, unless Hazım himself wanted him to. In the final episode of the drama, when he got to know the truth about his identity, after confronting Hazım, at 46:00 he walked out of his father's house and threw away the keys of his car, and said to himself:

"Nothing that belongs to Yağız Egemen is yours now."

That was the last straw for Yağız. It did not, for a single second, bother him to leave every luxury behind. He was financially destroyed at that moment, and yet his trust in himself did not even shake. The next day he took off to USA and returned after a year as successful as before.

Financial security is one of the most basic needs of humans. A person's entire personality may depend on it. It can be said that having better education and financial security made Yağız humble in a certain way; for he did not suffer from the cruelty of not having enough money to have you needs fulfilled.

(Fazilet) Being born into a poor family, and then being forcefully married off to a poor family, that, too, at a very young age, Fazilet had it rough. In the final episode of the drama, she confessed to her daughter how her miserable life made her realize that money is the only way out of miserliness. At 1:42:00 of the final episode, she said:

"I realized that day, my child. At that young age, I realized that in this life there's only one truth, and its money."

Her miserliness did not only consume her but also her daughters. Miserable Fazilet, then, tortured her daughters into becoming what she wanted them to become. When her monster husband died after the 11 years of their marriage, from right there the only purpose for Fazilet was to give her daughters a life of luxury, respect, and peace. However, she mistook respect and peace with money. She, without prioritizing her daughters' basic needs and happiness, forced them to get into media industry and earn in dollars. She terrorized and dominated her younger daughter, Ece, into thinking her beauty and young age is the only weapon of hers, meanwhile degree or education means nothing. The terrorizing dominance that Fazilet had over Ece was extremely torturous.

Exposure of the Outer World

(Yağız) Along with inherited intellect, having to study abroad and in a far better environment (away from the family toxicity), Yağız developed a perceptive understanding of the world and its surroundings. Living in a different region of the world with different cultures and norms and meeting new people with different backgrounds, Yağız discovered the freedom to thrive and develop into his own person. He was wise and patient enough to understand the complications of life. His wider insight helped him recognise people and their twisted behaviours. In episode 27th, when Hazan's younger sister, Ece, was charged with poisoning Hazım, it was only Yağız who stood against his whole family and tried to reason with the entire situation. He might not have spent an enough amount of time with Ece, but he knew her enough to understand that a 17 year old girl cannot do that, along with the fact that the only people who would benefit from Hazım's death are going to be from his own family. At 2:13:27 in 27th episode, Yağız asked Sinan if he checked on Hazan to make sure she and her mother are fine (concerning Ece's arrest). He asked:

"Did you call Hazan?"

"Why would I call her, huh? Her sister poisoned my father, should I ask her if she needs anything in court?"

"Look, I've my doubts about it. Everybody is already convicting her. They say there's evidence and what not, but she is not on trial yet."

"She is not on trial?"

"I don't believe that girl can commit such a crime, okay? I just cannot fit it in my head. My conscience cannot fit it anywhere."

“Brother, are you even listening to yourself? Look, I’m telling you Narmin saw her dripping the medicine in father’s glass and that same medicine was found in her room, then. And then she claims Yasmin took her to that doctor who gave her the medicine, and when you asked about his address, the doctor is nowhere to be found. So, she is testifying, but not a word of her is true. I don’t understand what you want to believe in.”

“Something is wrong. Listen to me now. I saw that girl before her arrest... I saw her at father’s bedside in clinic. She was there with him with our family photo album, trying to make him remember us. And she was crying, Sinan, think about it; she would poison father and then shed tears for him in solitude? Do you really think that naïve girl can really do such evil?”

Yağız’s strong belief in his instinct made him stand in odd numbers. It was proven later that Ece was not the one responsible for Hazım’s condition.

(**Fazilet**) Fazilet, with no doubt, was smart. If Yağız was wise, she was clever, and understood the assignment that included the complications of human psyche. But having to spend the first 16 years of her life in a small village (that did not even have proper roads), meeting new people and exploring the outer world was something impossible for her. From home to farm, and farm to home, this was the daily routine of Fazilet. Later when she forcefully got married, her husband took her to a small *mohalla* of Istanbul. That *mohalla* was a slum which did not include people with broader minds or educated personas. That slum was full of people whose primary concern was whether they are having a better life than their neighbours, and Fazilet had to spend next 25 years of her life in that slum. One of the most prominent indications that hinted at Fazilet’s meddlesome and nosy *mohalla* was observed in the very first episode of the drama; when the neighbours saw Fazilet and her daughter Ece returning back, they could not hold still and said:

“Girl, Fazilet, where are you coming from?”

“We had things to do.”

“Fazilet, is your daughter’s show airing tonight?”

“8:30 in the evening.”

“Look at that attitude. Look, how Fazilet dolled her daughter up again and now retuning back with no accomplishment. She is going to burst in anger, I swear. What happened, Fazilet? You look so angry.”

“Mind your business.”

“God, how stubborn she is.”

An environment where she had to grow into an adult, all that Fazilet could focus on was how to earn money and belittle her irritating neighbours. Therefore, she was left with no choice but to force her younger daughter into becoming a model, and secure her and her daughters' lives.

Safe Environment to Grow

(Yağız) One of the best decisions of Hazım, according to the viewers, was to send Yağız to USA. As heart-breaking as it might have been for Yağız, it was also very much important for him to grow up into a healthy environment... an environment that did not constantly ask him to sacrifice his individuality only to serve and please his daddy. Being abandoned at a young age coerced him to stand on his own feet both mentally and financially. Yağız's introverted and calm persona did not allow him to socialise much, except when it was needed. He disdained quarrelsome and problematic people, therefore, he was very much cautious and considerate of his friend circle.

(Fazilet) Being born a girl was already a hard labour for Fazilet. Fazilet was born into a dysfunctional family, where she constantly had to prove her gender to be useful. And when her worst nightmare came true, she was again thrown into the deepest pit of Hell. She, then, at the age of only 16, had to survive in a house with her worst enemy... a house where she was constantly reminded of her nightmare. In the last episode of the drama, at 1:42:55 she confesses:

“He paid the price of, took my hand, and brought me here. Oh, only if these walls could speak... speak about how you mother has suffered. You father brought me here, ‘Here’s your suffering place, Fazilet. You’ll be grateful because you’re still alive.’ When you were born, he began to change, my child, but I couldn’t forgive him... I couldn’t.”

Fazilet, unlike Yağız, could not even have a proper environment to grow, let alone becoming her own person. She was a child of survival, who was constantly surrounded by other children of survival.

CONCLUSION

To sum up in the conclusion, the current study talks about how being abandoned by parents can seriously hurt children. It tells the stories of Yağız and Fazilet, showing how

different forms of abandonment affected them. Yağız, called the "Golden Child," struggled with not getting love, care, and respect from his family because they had unrealistic expectations. Fazilet, on the other hand, faced tough times due to societal norms and her family's betrayal after a terrible incident. The stories of Yağız and Fazilet show how parental abandonment can have long-lasting effects on a person's mental and physical health. It emphasizes how important it is for parents to show love and support to their children. The text concludes by highlighting the need to understand and address the serious impacts of parental abandonment to help children heal and break the cycle of pain.

The varied responses to parental abandonment by Yağız and Fazilet underscore the pivotal influence of factors such as education, exposure to the outside world, and the surrounding environment. Yağız's compelled educational journey in the USA cultivated self-reliance, contrasting with Fazilet's emphasis on wealth, resulting in her domineering approach. Yağız's familiarity with diverse cultures broadened his global perspective, while Fazilet's confined surroundings limited her understanding. The nurturing of a secure and positive environment played a role in shaping Yağız's resilience, while Fazilet's upbringing in a troubled family stunted her personal development. These unique trajectories emphasize how external elements significantly shape individual responses to parental abandonment.

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