

Memed, My Hawk Study Guide

Memed, My Hawk by Yaşar Kemal

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

Memed, My Hawk Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapters 1-3, pp. 3-29.....	4
Chapter 4-6, pp. 29-50.....	6
Chapters 7-9, pp. 50- 96.....	8
Chapters 10-11, pp. 97-132.....	11
Chapter 12, pp. 132-165.....	13
Chapters 13-14, pp. 166-192.....	15
Chapters 15, pp. 192-243.....	17
Chapter 16, pp. 244-257.....	19
Chapters 17-18, pp. 258-270.....	20
Chapters 19-20, pp. 271-291.....	21
Chapters 21-22, pp. 292-304.....	23
Chapters 23-25, pp. 304-322.....	24
Chapters 26-30, pp. 322-340.....	26
Chapters 31-34, p. 340-357.....	28
Chapters 35-38, pp. 357-371.....	30
Characters.....	32
Objects/Places.....	37
Themes.....	40
Style.....	42
Quotes.....	44
Topics for Discussion.....	46



Plot Summary

Memed grows up in the village of Deyirmenoluk, which is totally controlled by Agha Abdi. At the age of eleven, Memed runs away and gets to the house of Suleyman in the village of Kesme, which is not controlled by Abdi. Memed lives there until he remembers that his widowed mother, Deuneh, will not be able to bring in her wheat harvest alone. He allows himself to be captured, and then he and his mother suffer famine when Abdi takes away an extra amount of wheat for his rental charge. Memed and Deuneh survive the winter only with the secret help of other villagers and by selling their cattle. Years later, at the age of eighteen, Memed secretly goes to town with his friend Mustafa and is shocked to find out that Agha does not have dictatorial control of the town. Memed goes to his girlfriend Hathe and makes a plan to elope with her while Abdi is having Hathe betrothed to his nephew. The couple is chased down by Abdi and his nephew, Veli, with the help of Lame Ali, a man with keen powers of tracking people. Abdi and Veli close in on Memed and Hathe, but then Memed shoots them. Memed flees, while Hathe is allowed to be caught by Abdi.

Veli dies, but Abdi recovers and swears the villagers on the hunt for Memed and Hathe to tell a story that Hathe shot Veli, so Hathe is imprisoned as a murderer. In the meantime, Memed goes back to his old protector, Suleyman, and is brought to a band of brigands led by Mad Durdu. Durdu is known for having his robbery victims strip totally naked. Durdu's band is nearly cornered by police but survives due to Memed's leadership in part. Memed and Jabbar, another brigand, go to get food from a nomad chief Kerimoghlu. When they go back to Durdu he has the band attack Kerimoghlu, but the robbery is interrupted by Memed, who finds it a betrayal of the nomad's kindness. Memed becomes a brigand chief followed by both Jabbar and Sgt. Rejep, who was wounded in the previous fight. They go to Deyirmenoluk to kill Abdi, but find out that he has fled. Next they follow Abdi with the help of Lame Ali, who is now on Memed's side. Abdi is tracked down to Aktozlu village. In the attempt to kill Abdi, all of Aktozlu, a village in the Chukurova plain, is burned down. The brigands escape to a marsh where Sgt. Rejep dies of his wound, and then Memed and Jabbar make it to the mountains.

Abdi escapes and goes to Ali Safa Bey for assistance. Ali Safa plans to have his secretly controlled brigand, Kalayji, ambush and kill Memed. Instead, Memed outwits Kalayji and kills him instead. Memed finds a safe place to rest in the Chichekli Valley, close to the town where Hathe is imprisoned. Memed dresses up as a poor boy and manages to see Hathe. Then, with the help of Lame Ali, Memed carries out an ambush of the police crew, bringing Hathe and her friend Iraz to a new jail. Memed, Hathe, and Iraz are constantly pursued by the police. Memed goes to a cave hideout on the Alidagh peak. For many months the three of them hide out there, and by this time Hathe is pregnant. Sgt. Asim closes in on Memed, but quietly lets him escape when he discovers that Hathe just gave birth to a son. The three fugitives move on, but in a fight with other police, Hathe is shot and killed. There is an amnesty, but Memed instead finds out how to shoot and kill Abdi.



Chapters 1-3, pp. 3-29

Chapters 1-3, pp. 3-29 Summary

In chapter one, the area in southeast Turkey, between the Taurus Mountains and the sea is described. There are marshes and also fertile soil. Dikenli is the high plain of thistles, and the home of five villages that are owned by Abdi Agha. The main village is Deyirmenoluk. Towering over it is the Akchadagh, the White Mountain.

In chapter two, a boy is running away through the thistles, getting cut by them on his legs. He hides among rocks and then continues in search of a village he has heard about. The boy follows a goat track and approaches a house as it gets dark. The boy hopes to be adopted by someone and to work as a goat herder. He hides near an old man who sees him and brings the boy into his house. The old man and his wife see that the boy is about eleven years old, tired and hungry. The couple feed Memed and take a liking to him. Memed sleeps, and then gets up and is given a hot milk and wheat soup. Memed tells Suleyman that he will be his son. Memed says that he was beaten nearly to death. Suleyman frightens Memed when he tells him that he is really only a few hours walk away from Deyirmenoluk, but then is reassured that no one will find him. That day Memed gets to wander around the village and no one bothers him. After a few days he plays with other boys. There are autumn rains, and Memed sits around and becomes bored. Suleyman shows Memed the boundaries of the town goat pasture, and Memed is made a goatherd. He is warned that if he goes past the red hill, he is in danger of being spotted by people from his home village.

It is evening in chapter three and Memed's mother Deuneh is worried because Memed has not come home. It is dark, but Deuneh goes to Abdi's house to try to find out what happened to Memed. Deuneh is treated with scorn by Abdi. He calls out for his servants, the grown-up Dursun and two teen-aged boys to go out in the dark and look for Memed and the oxen with him. One of the teenagers recalls that Memed said that he was planning to run away. Dursun thinks back to the Chukurova, with its fields and cities, that also interested Memed. Then group reaches the field where Memed was supposed to plow, but see that he did no work. They decide to sleep in the field and wake up at sunrise there. They wonder if Memed has escaped to the shiny cities of the Chukurova. After a while, the group finds the oxen that were with Memed. They return to the village without Memed, and Deuneh is grief-stricken. A group of women and children run to the town spring, imagining finding Memed's body there, but find nothing. Deuneh spends days at the spring waiting to see if Memed's body comes up. Then she stays on her roof seeing if eagles gather in the fields, perhaps around Memed's body.

Chapters 1-3, pp. 3-29 Analysis

In chapters one and two, Memed is raised by his widowed mother under difficult conditions. He is personally beaten by Abdi, who treats the villagers as little more than



slaves. Then the boy gets the idea to escape, though he has an idea to go to the Chukurova plain that is far away. Instead he makes it to a nearby village not controlled by Abdi, and gets help from Suleyman and his wife. The couple feeds the boy and he relaxes, telling them that his name is Slim Memed, and he is escaping the cruel Abdi. Abdi must have a reputation for cruelty, because the boy Memed is readily believed and sheltered. The man and his extended family eat with the boy and then the man, named Suleyman finds out that the boy is from Deyirmenoluk. Memed says that he lives with his mother and works for Abdi Agha, who beats him. Memed shows his skill in removing seeds from raw cotton that is brought into the house, and Suleyman tells him that he can live with Suleyman and his family.

In chapter three, Deuneh, Memed's mother endures a lot of suffering when she believes that Memed is dead. It is inconceivable to her how anyone from the village could escape, or how Memed could possibly survive. Deuneh is a good woman, but represents the feudal past. She has no ability to defy the cruel Abdi. It is hinted that her husband had in some way defied Abdi and suffered in ways that helped ensure his early death. Deuneh has never been in a city or really anywhere outside of the villages on the Deneki plain, the totally controlled and feudal land of the thistles.



Chapter 4-6, pp. 29-50

Chapter 4-6, pp. 29-50 Summary

In chapter four, it is already summer and Memed is still working as a goatherd for Suleyman. The harvest approaches and Memed realizes that his mother will not be able to harvest her wheat. After hesitating, Memed walks towards Deyirmenoluk and sees Husuk, while Memed's flock strays into the field. Husuk is angered and is ready to attack Memed until he recognizes him. Memed gets the goats out of the field and confesses that he is working for Suleyman in Kesme village. Husuk immediately goes to Deuneh's house when his workday is finished. After some hesitation, Husuk tells Deuneh that Memed is alive and well.

In chapter five, frantically, Memed works on reaping the wheat crop. His mother helps him bind the sheaves and then the grain must be threshed and separated from the chaff. Memed's main help is an old and tired horse. After days of this, Memed is near collapse as he waits for his mother to bring him lunch. She comes and takes over the work as Memed naps. Abdi ends up taking three-quarters of the grain, instead of the usual two-thirds share. Memed and his mother face starvation over the long winter. This is their punishment for Memed's running away.

In chapter six, at Memed's small house there is also a calf living there, being protected while he is young. Memed thinks of breaking the growing calf and turning it into an obedient ox. By autumn, Memed and his mother fear running out of food. Often, the cow is also in their house with the calf, and Deuneh knows she will lose both animals. As winter comes on, other villagers face starvation too. Jennett complains that her crops were poor. Villagers beg each other for food and Deuneh begs from house to house. Abdi greets a starving crowd and then yells that Deuneh will get nothing. The other villagers get bags of grain to mill and bake into bread. Some of them, like Durmish Ali, feel guilty and secretly bring some bread to Deuneh and Memed. This food from Durmish Ali and other villagers keeps Deuneh and Memed eating another couple of weeks, but then they have to beg from Abdi. Though Memed objects, Deuneh brings the cow and the calf to Abdi, trudging through the snow, and gets a bag of wheat.

Chapter 4-6, pp. 29-50 Analysis

In chapter four, Memed arrives at Suleyman's house sometime in the autumn. He is happy to do some work to earn his keep, as long as he is not persecuted. In fact, Memed seems extremely pleased to have the job of being a goatherd. It is only when he realizes that the harvest is coming and that his mother is doomed without him that he slowly decides that he must go home. One day Memed climbs up on the red hill looking out over the plain of thistles towards Deyirmenoluk, which is behind a ridge. Soon, Memed rises one morning and heads for the red hill and then past the ridge too. Finally, he sees an old man from his village, Beetroot Husuk. Memed is in a trance, and his



goats invade the old man's wheat field. Memed wants to return home, but is so in fear of Abdi that he cannot openly tell Husuk that he wants to go home. In fact, in fear Memed has Husuk swear that Husuk tells no one about seeing Memed. Of course, Husuk tells Deuneh and soon Abdi is informed where Memed is and has been hiding. Abdi shows up at Suleyman's house, swearing that Suleyman has stolen his laborer. Suleyman has no choice but to lead Abdi to Memed, who is out in the fields. Memed is not surprised to find Abdi there, and leads on foot going back to Deyirmenoluk, followed by Abdi, who acts as if he is reclaiming his horse or other beast, not a human being.

In chapter five, Memed realizes that he has been irresponsible and had abandoned his mother to punishment and death. This foreshadows the time when Memed elopes with Hache years later and Memed's mother is once again abandoned by him and then beaten to death by Abdi. This time Memed returns and frantically harvests the family grain. After days, the grain is harvested and ready for bagging, but Memed and his mother must watch over it all night until Abdi comes to get his share the next day.

In chapter six, Memed can barely move, because he has so little to eat. Soon, a mob of villagers come to beg Abdi for food. Deuneh forces herself to beg for food from Abdi as she sees Memed starve. Abdi refuses to give her anything, punishing her for Memed's running away, and possibly for deeds going back to Memed's dead father.

When Durmish Ali visits, Deuneh does not even have the hearth fire lit. There is a fire of anger in Memed's eyes, though he also feels Durmish Ali's kindness as they curse Abdi. Memed remembers this moment of horror and starvation years later when he elopes with Hache, and then shoots the pursuing Abdi and Veli.



Chapters 7-9, pp. 50- 96

Chapters 7-9, pp. 50- 96 Summary

In chapter seven, the land is described where the oaks grow in the rocks. Often these oaks' growth is stunted. Similarly, Memed's growth is somewhat stunted by harsh treatment. This is many years later, and Memed is eighteen years old. Somehow he has acquired a new jacket, cap and other new clothes. He puts on handmade stockings that have a fancy pattern knitted into them. The birds and flower patterns were made by Memed's girlfriend, Hatche. Memed meets Mustafa, a boy his age, to go on a secret trip to the town. The young men walk past fields and take a rest about noon. A tall and old man who is bare-chested approaches and takes out his lunch, offering them some food. The young men do not eat, but get directions to the town. They tell the old man that they are from Deyirmenoluk. The old man tells the story of how Abdi was once weak and cowardly, and saved by Big Ahmet. Big Ahmet, who may be this man, rescued Abdi and got Abdi's wife back. Big Ahmet is known as the brigand who killed the man who raped his mother. Then Big Ahmet lived in the woods and the mountains for sixteen years, until he is allowed to return to his farm. Mustafa knows the story of Big Ahmet, the honest outlaw, and even describes a mole on Big Ahmet's forehead. The old man then denies being Big Ahmet, though Memed sees the mole on the man's forehead, though the color has changed from what Mustapha said. The young men walk, with Memed arguing that it was Big Ahmet that they saw, with Mustapha denying this. The young men wade through an irrigation ditch and then come to town.

The big, shiny town is like nothing the young men have ever seen. Soon, they see a big market selling clothing and other goods. After a while they find the han, or inn. The inn is dirty, with riding animals in a courtyard. It is getting dark and a lantern is shining as men talk. Memed finds a friendly looking man and asks for the innkeeper. After jokingly calling the innkeeper a pimp, the innkeeper is pointed out, and the friendly man shows the young men to their beds. The man's name is Corporal Hasan, and he tells the young men about Marash, his hometown, and other cities that have no Agha ruling them. In the morning, Memed wants to talk to Corp. Hasan again, but Hasan is gone. Memed and Mustafa walk through the marketplace. Memed tries some sherbet just to see the shiny brass cups it is served in. They eat and go to shops, with Memed buying some yellow cloth for Hatche. The young men leave and start the long walk home. Memed meets Hatche outside her house at night, using a bird call as a signal. Memed tells Hatche that he plans to run away with her. Memed and Hatche have liked each other since childhood. At age fifteen, Memed kissed Hatche and told her that she was his girl. For years they have met at night, despite discouragement from Hatche's mother. Hatche made up songs about Memed and knits him beautiful stockings.

Memed admits to his mother that he and Hatche plan to run away. Memed insists that he must have Hatche and therefore must escape. In the next few days it becomes official that Abdi's nephew is to marry Hatche. The whole village speculates that Memed will elope with Hatche. Abdi summons Memed to him and demands that he leave



Hatche alone. Memed is silent and there is only the gleam in his eye of defiance. He bites his cheeks and does not speak even when Abdi kicks him.

In chapter eight, Memed feels guilty because he knows that his mother will be punished for his running away. Memed dreams of a successful elopement, and then Hatche shows up and they run off in the rain. The couple is lost as they wander about the forest and finally make it to a big hollow rock as dawn appears. Hatche finds some dry cloth in her pack and a fire is started. The two take off their wet clothing, but Hatche keeps on her underwear. Memed has her take her underwear off and becomes excited. He makes her yield and the two have sex.

In chapter nine, Hatche's mother discovers that Hatche has run away and knows that Memed is involved, so she tells Abdi. Abdi is cruel as usual and kicks Hatche's mother. Abdi summons the village and they have to pretend to be upset about Memed's and Hatche's elopement. After a while, Abdi's nephew comes from his near village, and drags out Deuneh to Abdi, who beats her savagely. There is a meeting to decide how to track the two lovers down. It is suggested that Lame Ali lead the tracking party, because he is known for his good tracking skills. While Lame Ali prepares to track the lovers, he is pulled aside by Husuk and asked to deliberately mislead Ali. Memed's mother has already been beaten, so it is known that horrible things will happen to the two lovers if they are caught, but Lame Ali still leads the hunt for the lovers. As Lame Ali goes around the village on a horse, some people become impatient with him. Ali starts to follow the trail from Hatche's house. He sees the mark of Memed's new sandals made from calf skin. Abdi demands that the trail is followed, as he and eight other riders follow Lame Ali. The men ride for a while, and then are forced to dismount as the trail heads over the rocks. The trail goes around in circles for a while because the couple did not know where to go. Lame Ali climbs up some rocks and finds the shelter that Memed and Hatche used. It is near dark, and the bridegroom, the nephew wants to rest, but the evil Abdi drives the group on. Soon the lovers are found behind a bush. Memed is able to shoot Abdi and Veli, and escapes, though Hatche is caught.

Chapters 7-9, pp. 50- 96 Analysis

In chapter seven, Deuneh ends up allowing Memed to go to town, despite her fear that Abdi would be angered if he finds out. The other boy, Mustafa, tells his father that he is going out hunting deer. The boys sleep at Deuneh's house and leave for town before dawn. Deuneh knows of little beyond her village, but she is willing to assist Memed in defying Abdi and keeping the boys' visit to town a secret. On the way to town, Memed and Mustafa meet an old man, possibly Big Ahmet, a legendary head of a brigand band. Big Ahmet foreshadows the ideal of the brigand leader who does not oppress the poor, and later is emulated by Memed. The old man knows that Abdi has enslaved the village where they live, and helps Memed begin to understand the slave-like situation in Deyirmenoluk.

The young men are overwhelmed when they see the town. It is totally different than anything they know, but finally they remember they need a place to sleep, and look for



the han, a type of inn. They fear asking directions until they see someone else from the mountains who tells them where the han is. Memed is totally changed by his conversation in the han with Colonel Hasan. Memed is stunned when he hears that the town has no Agha, or absolute ruler. Memed realizes that it is not normal for Abdi Agha to rule over all the villagers in all things. Corp. Hassan talks of places all over Turkey and into the Caucasus and Syria, and Memed dreams that Hasan will help him escape Abdi. Just before dawn, Memed returns home. Deuneh asks him about the trip, but he is still in a daze and in his fantasies. Later Memed tells his mother about the town, but she can tell that he is hiding something. When Memed reveals his plans, Deuneh does not stop him, but sadly says that she cannot leave town or defy Abdi.

In chapter eight, it is night, and Memed is hiding under a tree, waiting for Hache. It is raining and Memed is soaking wet. Already there is a bad start to Memed's elopement, foreshadowing the events in store. On the run, Memed looks to see if he has dry tinder and finds it in a pouch that Uncle Suleyman gave him long ago. Already, Suleyman is in Memed's thoughts and soon Memed will see him again. Memed dries his hands and tries to start a fire, while Hache gathers brushwood and twigs. Memed lights the fire, and then he demands his sexual reward from Hache, who is unable to resist him. Memed's strong compulsive nature is shown.

In chapter nine, at dawn, Hache's mother thinks that Hache is there, but it is only the pillows arranged to create this appearance. Hache's mother screams until she is restrained by her husband. The husband knows that Hache has run away with Memed and secretly approves of this. However, they must conceal their feelings, and the wife runs off to tell Abdi what has happened. Somehow, they escape the horrible treatment that is in store for Memed's mother, Deuneh.

Lame Ali is recruited to track down Memed and Hache. Lame Ali is very vain about his tracking abilities and it is difficult to persuade him to fail in his mission. Husuk thinks that Memed can find a safe place like he did years before when he ran away, if only Ali does not track him down. At length, Lame Ali is hesitant, and walks around the village in circles for hours. Lame Ali knows that most of the villagers secretly want him to fail, but cannot escape his fate to track down Memed. Soon, Lame Ali leads Abdi on the trail. Ali shows Abdi the outline of a woman's nude body in the sand under the big rock and they know that Memed had sex with Hache. Then, the tricky Memed is spotted. Memed yells out that he will surrender, but instead takes out his revolver and shoots Abdi and the bridegroom. The search party is shocked and leaderless, and Memed slips away in the darkness.



Chapters 10-11, pp. 97-132

Chapters 10-11, pp. 97-132 Summary

In chapter ten, Memed arrives in the middle of the night at Uncle Suleyman's house in Kesme village. At first old Suleyman and his wife cannot recognize Memed, but they are happy to see him when he identifies himself. The old couple has Memed take off his wet clothing and put on dry underclothes as they make a fire. Memed tells Suleyman that he shot Abdi and his nephew. In the morning, the news has already traveled to Kesme village about the shootings. That night, Suleyman gives Memed the idea of being led to the outlaw chief Mad Durdu. Memed must become a leader of outlaws, says Suleyman, but not become an oppressor of other people. Mad Durdu and his band will give Memed weapons and a chance to survive. Suleyman leads Memed to the hideout of Durdu's outlaw band of brigands. After a gunshot signal, they meet the brigand, Jabbar. They are brought to a campfire and to Durdu. Suleyman greets Durdu warmly, while cautioning him that his crimes are out of control. Suleyman is distracted by the sweet smell of wormwood burning in the fire. The outlaws are wearing the red fez, which is not now worn by other Turks. Suleyman criticizes Durdu for his lack of caution. After Memed is identified as the shooter of Abdi, he is accepted into the band. When Suleyman leaves, Durdu gives Memed a gun and soon sees that Memed has excellent aim. At this point, a lookout appears and reports that a rich-looking group of travelers has been seen on the road. The outlaws come down towards the road and soon hold up a man that has been sweating and earning a living and now is coming home with his money. This man is let go because Durdu sees the much wealthier travelers coming. Durdu tells Memed that he has his victim totally strip, so the world knows that they have been robbed by Mad Durdu.

Abdi is wounded, but is making a slow recovery. However, Veli, Abdi's nephew dies. When he returns to the village, Abdi does not have Hache beaten, so the villagers know she is in big trouble. Abdi has the eight villagers who chased Memed and Hache gather around his sickbed. Abdi tells them what to say when the police come, saying that Hache also shot Veli. Hache is arrested and taken to prison in town.

Despite her situation, the next day Hache is excited by the glittering town, but is soon taken to a damp and ugly prison. When her mother comes to visit her, Hache begins to have some hope. Her mother soon realizes that it is impossible that Hache has shot anyone, and goes to get a petition drafted in Hache's defense. Hache's mother goes to Mad Fahri, the public letter writer. Soon, for ten lira, he writes an eloquent letter to the judge in the case, protesting that Hache is not guilty. With difficulty, the woman hands in the petition. The mother returns to Hache in prison, and after much pleading, promises to return with news about the fate of Memed.



Chapters 10-11, pp. 97-132 Analysis

In chapter ten, Memed plans to hide in the mountains, and Suleyman is prepared to shelter him until Memed is ready. Memed is concealed and goes to sleep.

Suleyman knows Durdu from when Durdu was a child. Now Mad Durdu holds up people on the roads and robs them of even their underwear. Suleyman has a contact that leads him to Mad Durdu's location, and that night Suleyman and Memed head up Mt. Duman. Before they meet the outlaws, Suleyman demands that Memed restrain himself from killing at random, an important bit of foreshadowing of the plot.

Suleyman tells Durdu about Memed's shooting of Abdi and Abdi's nephew, both of whom are presumed dead. Durdu is impressed by this, and accepts Memed into his band. Suleyman criticizes Durdu for lighting such a big fire and being too visible. Soon Memed goes to sleep, along with the others. When Memed wakes, it is still not morning and he is surprised that there is no watchman. Memed becomes the watchman for the rest of the night. In the morning, Durdu asks Suleyman for more advice, and Suleyman warns Durdu to harm only evil men.

Durdu again jumps out and holds up the five horsemen. A young man fears death and quickly takes off all his clothes. The other men have to be threatened to make them comply with this demand. Durdu gives the young man's clothing to Memed.

Abdi claims that he saw Hatche shoot Veli after Memed shot him. A weapon is passed around and said to be the weapon that Hatche used. Lame Ali feels guilty for following the trail of Memed and Hatche and refuses to give false testimony. As a result, Lame Ali and his family are ordered to leave the village. The others there swear to Abdi's version of the shootings and memorize their false testimony. The authorities arrive and take Hatche's testimony, which is contradicted by the others who say that Hatche shot Veli.



Chapter 12, pp. 132-165

Chapter 12, pp. 132-165 Summary

In chapter twelve, it is night in a forest and the police and villagers are closing in on Mad Durdu's band. Memed and Jabbar walk off and talk about how Durdu has made the mistake of angering all the surrounding villages. Memed compares Durdu to the evil Abdi, who persecutes people. At daybreak, the attack on Durdu's band begins. Memed has the police Sergeant Asim in his sights, but only shoots near him while yelling threats. Then, the brigand Sgt. Rejep is wounded in the neck. Sergeant Rejep's wound is bandaged. Memed calms the brigands down so they do not panic, and they hold fast. Memed is grazed by bullets but is all right. A hollow is found for cover just as a volley of bullets fly. Black Mustan taunts Mad Durdu, but then Durdu is able to shoot Black Mustan. Durdu ends up charging the machine gun nest, carefully crawling up to it under cover and throwing grenades at it successfully. The attack on Durdu's band has been broken up and they escape up the mountain in bad shape. They have also run out of food.

Memed and Jabbar approach the nomad camp nearby and are allowed into a tent by the old nomad chief, Kerimoghlu. Kerimoghlu serves the brigands boiled milk and other food. Memed is surprised at the wealth of the nomads, including many mother-of-pearl tent poles, and women wearing gold jewelry. Kerimoghlu has their wounds bound up and gives the brigands new clothes. Memed finds out from Kerimoghlu that Abdi survived being shot by Memed. Memed and Jabbar leave with medicine and food. Back on the mountain, Durdu and the others appreciate the food and medicine, but Durdu's main interest is the reported wealth of the nomads. The narrator describes the brigand, Sergeant Rejep, as a mysterious man who has been a brigand for many years. No one knows his history, though some say he had a family fight or refused to pay taxes, and then ran off to the mountains. In the morning, after some delay, the brigands move down the mountain towards the nomad camp. Memed and Jabbar suspect that Durdu will mount a treacherous attack on the nomads. There, Kerimoghlu expects trouble, and as soon as Durdu is inside the tent, he gets up and declares that this is a robbery. Memed is ashamed that Durdu is robbing a man who recently gave them help. Then, Durdu demands that Kerimoghlu takes off his clothes and underpants. Kerimoghlu pleads with Durdu and stalls. Memed gets angry, steps out of the tent, and then yells for Mad Durdu to freeze. Jabbar and Sgt. Rejep also join Memed, and Durdu is forced to leave the tent with his loot, but without the underpants.

Chapter 12, pp. 132-165 Analysis

Durdu lights a big fire and resents being told to be more cautious by Memed. Sergeant Rejep, who has been a brigand for years, wants to continue running, but Durdu refuses to move. Durdu is very rash and almost gets the whole brigand band killed. Memed tells Durdu to wait for nightfall. They fear the villager Black Mustan, who is being particularly



aggressive in his attack. Soon the attack comes and Sergeant Rejep is wounded. Memed manages to help Sergeant Rejep into the hollow as the band is asked to surrender. Sgt. Rejep realizes that they can survive if the machine gun on the other side is silenced. Mad Durdu shows his courage by charging the machine gun nest, though the odds are against him.

The brigands survive but are hungry and in bad shape. They hear dogs howl in the distance. It is the dogs of a nomad band and Memed and Jabber decide to go there and ask for some food. Memed is stunned by not only the wealth of Kerimoghlu, but also by his kindness. However, Durdu is totally untouched by kindness and the next day launches a robbery of Kerimoghlu. To show he is serious, Mad Durdu hits Kerimoghlu with a rifle butt. Another of the brigands grabs the nomads' money and jewelry. Memed shows unbelievable courage by stopping Durdu from continuing with his demand for Kerimoghlu's underpants. Also, Memed does not kill Mad Durdu, though he could have done this easily. Jabbar and Sgt. Rejep are inspired to join Memed's new brigand band.



Chapters 13-14, pp. 166-192

Chapters 13-14, pp. 166-192 Summary

In chapter thirteen, Iraz is a young widow with a baby in a farming village. She refuses to marry her dead husband's brother. In retaliation, the brother steals her land. Iraz raises her son Riza by working for other people. When Riza grows up, he yearns to get his father's land back. Riza applies to the government and wins the land through a legal case. Then, one night Riza is killed while sleeping in his field. Iraz tells the police that she suspects the boy's uncles, and soon Riza's cousin Ali is arrested but is released because of false alibis given to him by other family members. Soon, Iraz attacks Ali's house with an ax, though not succeeding in harming anyone. Later that night, Iraz sets Ali's house on fire. Iraz is thrown in jail and ends up with Memed's girlfriend, Hache, in prison.

Hache is upset over Iraz's obvious misery and is afraid of this mad woman, but finally gets Iraz to talk and eat. Then the two women become friendly, with Hache complaining that even her mother does not visit her. They dream of being freed and living with Memed on a farm. Then finally one Friday, Hache's mother comes to visit. The mother reports that after she petitioned the government in Hache's behalf, Abdi did not let her return to town. Then the mother heard that Memed is part of Durdu's band and Abdi fled the village. This is why Hache's mother is finally able to visit Hache. The mother then says that Memed turned against Durdu and it is said that Memed was shot. Hache is horrified at this news. The mother leaves, and Iraz assures Hache that Memed is all right.

In chapter fourteen, two men, Ali and Hassan, are walking with their donkey back to their village after working for several years in the Chukurova. As they approach their village, Ali talks of being able to pay the dowry for his bride. Each will buy gifts for their family. They are tired and have malaria. They repeat conversations they have had many times, with Hassan longing to see his wife and children and plant his field. As they climb a hill they meet Memed's outlaw band. They are unable to run away and are surrounded. Ali and Hassan insist that they would rather be shot than lose all their money. Memed feels their pain and lets them go with their money. Memed warns them to take a circuitous route or else they will fall victims to Mad Durdu's band. Memed's band goes back under cover, where Sgt. Rejep is still suffering from his wound. Memed talks to Jabbar and wonders what has happened to his mother and to Hache.

Chapters 13-14, pp. 166-192 Analysis

Iraz is another victim of the ancient feudal traditions. She is illiterate and unable to get her husband's land back until her son grows up and does it. He plows the field with oxen in joy, until one night he plows so late that he goes to sleep in the field. In the morning, it is discovered that he has been killed. Iraz goes nearly insane with grief. She commits



crimes and is jailed along with Hache. Iraz only calms down after talking to Hache and realizing that she has been confessing her crimes and injuring her case. The women knit stockings to earn some money and expect that soon Memed will be caught and thrown in jail too. Hache dreams that she and Memed will be reunited and married. Iraz will live with them as their mother in a little house in the Chukurova, with a little farm.

In chapter fourteen, in the case of the robbery of Ali and Hassan, Memed shows that he is a brigand in the tradition of Big Ahmet. When he realizes that he is robbing peasants that have been slaving to get their money for years in the Chukurova, he decides to give it back. Memed is the leader of the band, and Jabbar and Sgt. Rejep do not object to his decision.



Chapters 15, pp. 192-243

Chapters 15, pp. 192-243 Summary

The three brigands are approaching Memed's home village. They go to the mill on the edge of the village. Earless Ismail at the mill is shocked to see Memed alive after hearing that he has been killed by Mad Durdu. Ismail evades answering about the fate of Memed's mother. He says that Abdi has fled the village. Memed checks his mother's house, but no one is there. Next he goes to Durmish Ali's house, where the dogs recognize Memed's scent. Durmish Ali is excited to see Memed and then blurts out that Memed's mother is dead. Durmish Ali's wife Huru tells Memed that Abdi made the villagers accuse Hache of shooting Veli. Memed and his friends load their guns and go to Abdi's house, finding that he is not at home. Memed is about to have Abdi's two sons killed, but changes his mind as Abdi's two wives shriek and one is stabbed by Jabbar.

It is arranged by Durmish Ali to summon Lame Ali, who refused to accuse Hache of crimes, and now can be useful in tracking Abdi. Aunt Huru has a paranoid fit, accusing Lame Ali of being worthy of death. She volunteers to watch at the mill for any sign of the police. The three outlaws go to sleep in the barn. Late at night, Lame Ali arrives and Memed goes to talk with him. Despite Lame Ali's fears, he too has ample reasons to track down Abdi and get revenge on him. Aunt Huru still rails against Lame Ali.

Sgt. Rejep forces himself to go with Memed, Jabbar and Lame Ali to Yellow Ummet's house. The outlaws rest there while Lame Ali goes to town to track Abdi. Early in the morning, Lame Ali goes to Uncle Mustapha's shop and soon finds out that Abdi is hiding in Aktozlu village and is protected by his relative, Headman Huseyin. At Huseyin's house, Lame Ali pretends that he is also chased by Memed. Abdi says that he is sending Durdu's band and other outlaws to kill Memed, and also gives Lame Ali some money, with permission to return to Deyirmenoluk. Next, Lame Ali makes the long walk back to Yellow Ummet's house. There are police there, while Memed's gang is hiding in the hayloft.

Sgt. Rejep knows he is dying but wants to lead one more mission to kill Abdi. Lame Ali is allowed to leave, since he is not known as an outlaw. Sgt. Rejep leads the attack on Huseyin's house and he soon forces Huseyin to open the door, threatening to use grenades, since Huseyin wants to save his wife and children. Memed is ordered by Sgt. Rejep to maintain gunfire at Abdi, while the Sergeant lights the house on fire. Huseyin tries to get the outlaws to flee, but then sends in his wife, who grabs household objects, and finally a large quilt from the flaming house. Abdi is not seen leaving and is presumed dead when the house collapses. Now the three brigands are stuck in the Chukurova plain and must flee to the rocks of Anavarza. The brigands flee to the marshes as the fire spreads and all of Aktozlu village goes up in flames. The brigands hide in the marshes nearby. Then the villagers come and convince the police to continue on towards Anavarza. The brigands have escaped for now, and at this point, Sgt. Rejep finally dies. Memed and Jabbar bury him under the reeds. They think of



Sergeant Rejep's hate for the Chukurova, and that now he is at peace. The two brigands stay another day in the reeds and then escape to the rocks.

Chapters 15, pp. 192-243 Analysis

Memed and Jabbar wonder if they will be attacked by Durdu's band. The men are tired and hungry as they approach Deyirmenoluk in the darkness. Sgt. Rejep is in pain and snarls at Jabbar, while Memed thinks about whether he has the right to kill Abdi. Memed remembers all of Abdi's crimes and concludes that Abdi must be killed. After Memed finds out that his mother is dead and that Hache is in jail, he is ready to seek his revenge on Abdi and kill Abdi's children. Memed does not do this, showing his pity for killing the unfortunate children. Memed breaks from the tradition of feudal revenge against the entire family. Sgt. Rejep is angry that Memed did not let him kill everyone in the house. Sgt. Rejep, who is slowly dying, also represents the old feudal tradition of blood revenge against an entire family. Villagers gather around, and Memed and his gang leave the area, later circling back to Uncle Durmish Ali's house before dawn.

Abdi is in Aktozlu and is tracked down by Lame Ali, who makes amends for tracking down Memed before. Abdi is staying in Huseyin's house, because Huseyin is expected to fight to defend Abdi. The group of brigands sets out walking all day and into the marshes at night. Sgt. Rejep warns them that only he can lead this dangerous mission in the plain of the Chukurova, where the police have control. The sun sets and Sgt. Rejep watches it, making his plan for the attack. The attack is unbelievably brutal and ends up burning down not only Huseyin's house, but the whole village. It is presumed that Abdi is dead, but Memed would have liked to see the body.

Sergeant Rejep is in intense pain, writhing and near death. The brigands just manage to hide in the marsh reeds as Sergeant Asim looks for them only a few yards away. The marshes are stinky and frightening as police fire at them. Their only hope is to be silent and unobserved.



Chapter 16, pp. 244-257

Chapter 16, pp. 244-257 Summary

Big Ismail reminisces on how the Chukurova plain used to be. The Turkoman tribes were all nomads and moved between the highlands in the summer and the Chukurova in the winter. The Ottomans forced the Turkomans to settle down and live in farm villages. The Ottomans were defeated in World War I, and there were French occupation forces until they were defeated in an uprising. There is a new national government in Ankara, which does its best to end the feudal landlord system. However, new Aghas arise like the clever Ali Safa Bey. Ali Safa keeps Kalayji's band armed with ammunition and uses the band to terrorize Vayvay village. Ali Safa tells his wife that he must continue to secretly back Kalayji until he is able to take over Vayvay village. In the midst of this, Abdi arrives and is let into Ali Safa's house. Abdi's head is bandaged and he is in a confused mental state. He begs that Ali Safa protect him from Memed. Abdi is in the habit of endlessly talking about escaping the burning village and running from Memed.

Abdi now claims that he wanted Memed and Hache to come back to live in his village, and then he was shot by Memed. Then, Abdi recounts going to Aktozlu village at Huseyin's house, after which Memed came and set the village on fire. Abdi tells Ali Safa's wife how Huseyin sent his wife in to rescue Abdi when his house was burning. Abdi got out concealed in a huge quilt that Huseyin's wife was carrying. Abdi and the woman make sympathetic noises about the poor homeless villagers of Aktozlu, until Ali Safa orders his wife out. Ali Safa has a plan to kill Memed and also needs Abdi's help. Abdi will get ammunition to Kalayji's band, and Ali Safa will have Kalayji kill Memed.

Chapter 16, pp. 244-257 Analysis

The Chukurova was covered with thick brush and reeds, where gazelles played and were hunted. It has only been civilized with permanent settlement for about fifty years. The Ottomans defeated the Turkomans and made them settle in the Chukurova, and Big Ismail sings his song for the rebel leader Kozanoghlu, who was defeated. At first many Turkoman died in the hot swamps. At first there is rampant malaria, which at present still exists to some extent.

Ali Safa learns as a law student to use legal tricks to win the land, and his landholdings keep expanding. In order to terrorize and break the villagers, Ali Safa makes deals with the brigand bands in the mountains. Most of these outlaws work for the landlords, with only a few brigand bands being independent. It's interesting how the author allows Abdi to make his arguments to Ali Safa about what really happened to turn Memed into a brigand. Of course it is all lies, but it is amusing to get a chance to hear the other side's viewpoint. As Memed later discovers, Abdi and Ali Safa are in league secretly with the brigand Kalayji.



Chapters 17-18, pp. 258-270

Chapters 17-18, pp. 258-270 Summary

In chapter seventeen, Memed and Jabbar are up in the rocks of Akchacham after their escape. Memed plans to return to his home village and give the villagers there title to their own land. Memed and Jabbar will watch over the villagers to keep them free. Memed plans to burn the thistles. The two men go to Yellow Ummet's house, where they get food and talk about the burning of Aktozlu. Ummet leads Memed and Jabbar to a cave where they can safely sleep. In the morning, Ummet tells them that the search for them has been called off. Memed asks Ummet about having a village free of a landlord and about burning the thistles and Ummet agrees with both ideas.

In chapter eighteen, the villagers of Karadut are targets for takeover of the greedy Ali Safar. The main obstacle is a young man named Yellow Bekir, who can read and write. Bekir leads the villagers of Karadut in the resistance to the takeover. Bekir's cousin is the brigand leader Kalayji, who steals livestock from the villagers. On the night of Bekir's wedding celebration, he is shot and killed by Kalayji. The villagers of Karadut continue to resist Ali Safa, and become interested when they hear the story of Memed seeking Abdi and burning the Aktozlu village. Ali Safa secretly meets Kalayji and tells him that he must kill Memed. Kalayji tells his band that this operation should be easy. Horali, who knows Memed from Durdu's band, is now with Kalayji and tells him all about Memed. Horali is assigned the task of finding Memed and Jabbar and bringing them to Kalayji so they can be ambushed.

Chapters 17-18, pp. 258-270 Analysis

In chapter seventeen, Memed has escaped from the police along with Jabbar and believes that Abdi perished in the flaming village. Flames are a force of both destructive and positive change by getting rid of the feudal order. Now Memed tells Jabbar of his plan to free the tenant farmers of Abdi's five villages and burn the thistle fields. The thistle fields are also part of the oppression of the farmers, but from nature uncontrolled and unimproved.

In chapter eighteen, in the Karadut village, Bekir is another young man who is fighting the landlord, in this case with legal weapons. Bekir is gunned down by the brigand Kalayji. It shows that despite Bekir's intelligence, the landlord Ali Safa is employing brute force to keep the farmers down. Kalayji believes that it will be equally easy to ambush and kill Memed; however, in this case force meets force and Memed is destined to triumph.



Chapters 19-20, pp. 271-291

Chapters 19-20, pp. 271-291 Summary

In chapter nineteen, at Deyirmenoluk, Memed and Jabbar go to Durmish Ali's house and hear that Lame Ali is working for Abdi, though Memed knows that Lame Ali is his agent. Memed proposes that since Abdi is dead, Deyirmenoluk and the surrounding villages should be freed from the landlord system. Durmish Ali's wife, Huru, is extremely moved that the system of near slavery is going to be over. Durmish Ali is asked to gather the leading villagers and soon there is a crowd outside his door. Aunt Huru goes out to the crowd, announcing that Abdi is dead and that the fields are theirs, so they should celebrate. All of the five villages celebrate and Memed organizes them to burn the thistles. Then Lame Ali brings the news that Abdi is still alive, and the villagers feel confused and betrayed by Memed, so he leaves town.

In chapter twenty, Horali is sent to track down Memed, but gets no information until he changes his story, saying he is a member of Memed's band and was separated from them after the fire at Aktozlu. This approach works and Horali finds Memed and Jabbar. They immediately suspect a trap. Horali tells them the story of the death of Durdu. Durdu had been resorting to kidnapping women and raping them. Also, he shot many people in the arm, just for sport. One day, Durdu's gang invaded a village to rob it, and they were stampeded and killed, with somehow Horali surviving and walking away. Memed and Jabbar know that Horali is claiming friendship, but found them by using a false story. They hope that he will confess his scheme on the way to Kalayji, but he never does. When they get to the spot where they are to meet Kalayji, Horali goes first. When Kalayji comes out, Jabbar shoots Horali and Memed and Jabbar get into a gunfight with Kalayji's band. Kalayji is wounded, and two of his band are killed.

Chapters 19-20, pp. 271-291 Analysis

It is dark and Memed and Jabbar are by the spring near Memed's home village of Deyirmenoluk, scheming to liberate the village from the evil Abdi, who is now believed dead. Soon, the villagers are rallied by Memed and by Aunt Huru, and are brave for a little while, celebrating their good fortune. Memed, Durmish Ali and others cut some thistles and start a fire, which burns the thistle fields for days. The fire burns the Dikenli plain up to the Alidagh Mountain, symbolizing the new regime and new leadership of Memed. Then Lame Ali comes back from a trip with the sad news that Abdi is still alive. Memed is stunned and Aunt Huru screams. The villagers feel betrayed and many of them openly denounce Memed. Jabbar encourages Memed that even if Abdi is alive, the villagers should claim their land. They leave the village and hope to get Abdi someday.

In chapter twenty, there is a valley through which the River Savrun flows, and there Horali once worked as a watchman over a garden island. After the garden was flooded



and swept away, Horali became a brigand. It is strange how easily a man can become a brigand and an outlaw. Now, Horali is searching for Memed, first asking for him in Deyirmenoluk. Memed and Jabbar soon guess that Horali has an ulterior motive and is leading them into a trap. Memed decides to go ahead and see Kalayji because he does not want it to appear that he is afraid of Kalayji.



Chapters 21-22, pp. 292-304

Chapters 21-22, pp. 292-304 Summary

In chapter twenty-one, the Vayvay village rejoices that their enemy Kalayji has been wounded. Many people there want to repay Memed somehow. An old man, Big Osman, collects money in Vayvay village and sets out for Deyirmenoluk. There children say that Abdi will soon return and that Memed is not there. They send him to Durmish Ali's house. Durmish Ali is impressed with Big Osman, and decides to send him with Lame Ali to the Chichekli Valley, to make contact with Memed, who Osman refers to as My Hawk.

In chapter twenty-two, Lame Ali and Big Osman make it to the high Chichekli Valley. It is near the town where Hache is in jail. Memed is in good shape and well fed. Big Osman salutes Memed and calls him My Hawk, bringing him money from Vayvay village. Big Osman further rejoices when he hears that Kalayji has died from his wounds. Memed and Jabbar are with a new band member, Poor Ali, who plays a song on his Saz. The village that they are near is Poor Ali's friendly village. They have no money problems, but they still have to worry about the landlords Ali Safa and Abdi.

Memed is thinking about seeing Hache, who is still in prison. He enlists Lame Ali to help him. Jabbar thinks it is suicidal, because if Memed is recognized in the town, he will be immediately seized or shot. Memed has to see Hache, because he feels such pain from being away from her that he thinks he will die. He arranges to get old torn clothes to disguise himself.

Chapters 21-22, pp. 292-304 Analysis

In chapter twenty-one, another village, Vavay, is inspired by Memed's fight against Abdi. Though Memed burned Aktozlu village, still Big Osman idolizes Memed and calls him My Hawk. It is apparent that the society has descended into a brutal situation, where only the force of the liberator Memed is seen as able to defeat the powerful landlords. That is why Big Osman goes to seek Memed and brings him gifts.

In chapter twenty-two, Memed has most of the creature comforts he can wish for in Chichekli valley, but pines to see Hache again. This is the turning point of the story, where Memed goes from being a good brigand to an unbelievable and supernatural force that defies the police and the established order. Some of the coming chapters seem somewhat unbelievable, in that how could Memed not be spotted when he sneaks into town to see Hache? Nevertheless, the author can usually get the reader to suspend his doubt in this tale.



Chapters 23-25, pp. 304-322

Chapters 23-25, pp. 304-322 Summary

In chapter twenty-three, Big Osman rides on his horse around the town, merrily greeting everyone. He is celebrating the death of Kalayji. When he finds Abdi and greets him, Abdi recognizes Osman's meaning and shivers in fear. Abdi goes to the letter writer Politician Ahmed to send a message to the government in Ankara to crack down on the brigands, but the letter writer refuses to write it.

In chapter twenty-four, after consulting with Lame Ali, Memed disguises himself in tight, dirty clothes and walks to town, spending the night by a mill and pretending to be a worker there. Memed goes to the prison on Friday, saying that he is Hache's brother. He is let in, and sees Hache. Both of them are dumb-struck and just quietly stare at each other, and not until he leaves does Hache tell her friend Iraz that Memed has just visited. The two women again talk of being freed and having a house and a field together with Memed. An old prisoner tells Hache that an amnesty for the prisoners is coming, but on Wednesday Hache and Iraz are scheduled to be taken to Kozan for sentencing. After visiting Hache, Memed roams around the marketplace in a daze. He goes to a kebab shop to eat, and there is met by Lame Ali. Lame Ali has brought a horse that Memed conceals in the nearby woods as he waits for Lame Ali to visit Hache. Lame Ali reports back that Hache must go to Kozan on Wednesday, and Memed decides that he must free her.

In chapter twenty-five, Memed rides back to his hideout in the Chichekli valley and sings and dances. He tells Jabbar and Poor Ali that he will surprise the police bringing Hache and Iraz to Kozan and liberate them. Jabbar thinks the idea of attacking police in the Chukurova plain is suicidal. Memed thinks of Poor Ali's song about a little dog that had the courage to defeat many big dogs. Lame Ali decides to help Memed and gets him a horse. Lame Ali will do reconnaissance and help Memed, although he will do no shooting. Jabbar is in tears, but says his farewell to Memed.

Chapters 23-25, pp. 304-322 Analysis

In chapter twenty-three, Memed walks off to be alone at the Hawk's Rock. Jabbar comes to him and asks him once again to not go into town, but Memed says that whatever happens to him is fate. Hawk's rock symbolizes Memed's hawk-like bravery. Despite his bravery, only the help of Lame Ali makes it possible for Memed to succeed in his mission. Therefore, Memed made the right decision in allying with Lame Ali and not killing him in revenge.

In chapter twenty-four, Memed's deeds of courage are debated everywhere. Even the mill workers are debating the acts of Memed in burning the thistle fields. Memed is in disguise and cannot tell them what he is really doing in liberating Abdi's villages. Friday



is the visiting day at the prison, and Memed wants to avoid Hache's mother while visiting. She has been telling Hache all sorts of tales of the wonderful deeds and powers of Memed.

In chapter twenty-five, Memed celebrates his decision to free Hache and believes he will defeat the police that are escorting her. Jabbar warns Memed that most brigands who mount attacks in the Chukurova plain are quickly defeated and captured or killed. There is often nowhere to hide after attacks or robberies are done.



Chapters 26-30, pp. 322-340

Chapters 26-30, pp. 322-340 Summary

In chapter twenty-six, it is raining, and this makes Lame Ali feel sure that the police can only use one road to Kozan. Lame Ali shows Memed where to make his ambush. Memed sleeps and in the morning has to wait the whole day, concealed with his horse in the reed beds. Then at the end of the day, the police come with the prisoners. Memed shoots a policeman in the leg and scatters the others. Then Iraz and Hatche come over to him and he puts them on the horse. A short time later, Lame Ali brings another horse and Memed and the two women ride to the Chichekli valley.

In chapter twenty-seven, Abdi wanders around the town from the coffeehouse to the fruit stand, complaining that Memed is after him. Abdi is summoned to Ali Safa, who tells Abdi that these petitions to the government for help are not allowed. Ali Safa claims it would be a disgrace to the town if the troops are summoned, but he also fears interference with his plans to seize Vayvay village. Ali Safa has organized the local police to hunt down Memed and has also recruited a former brigand, Black Ibrahim to make sure that they find Memed's trail. Ali Safa's plan to seize Vayvay village has been stopped, and he too wants to find and kill Memed.

In chapter twenty-eight, outside of the Chichekli Valley, Memed and the two women are nearly surrounded. Somehow Memed is able to rout the police and force them to retreat. Then, Memed, Hatche and Iraz are able to escape. Iraz is able to help Memed, while Hatche is too panicky to do much. When they escape, they head towards the peak of Alidagh, where Memed knows a special hiding place.

In chapter twenty-nine, Memed and the two women arrive below the face of the peak at Alidagh. They have to climb up a rock face that is nearly totally vertical. Memed climbs up there and begins to set up the hideout. Then he brings Hatche up there on his back. Miraculous, Iraz is able to get up there on her own. Then, Memed heads back down to Deyirmenoluk village, which is not very far away. Memed stops at Durmish Ali's house, where Aunt Huru as usual curses Lame Ali. Secretly Lame Ali is Memed's agent, and he helps Memed get the furniture and supplies that Memed needs for his hideout, right from Abdi's household supplies.

In chapter thirty, the policeman, Sergeant Asim, and Black Ibrahim spend all autumn and winter searching for Memed. Black Ibrahim is enraged that Memed escaped him after being surrounded. Abdi is in total fear and spends his time drafting petitions to the government in Ankara to stop the brigands, none of which are allowed through.

Chapters 26-30, pp. 322-340 Analysis

In chapter twenty-six, Lame Ali is a key advisor to Memed in organizing the liberation of Hatche. Memed rides a horse under a saddlecloth to keep dry, and shelters in a hill



cave, near the reed beds of Sitir, feeling dread and loneliness. Lame Ali shows Memed a place for the ambush of the police by the road. The mission seems easier than before, with places for cover and hiding near the plain. After escaping, the three fugitives have a place to rest at Chichekli valley before heading to the mountains. A brigand like Memed cannot function without support from the villagers. Chapter twenty-seven shows that Abdi has been driven to near insanity as he wanders the town and rants about Memed. Abdi tries to summon the government troops, but none of his telegrams are allowed through by orders of Ali Safa. In chapter twenty-eight, there is some suspension of belief, as it seems it would be easy to catch Memed, who is slowed down by two inexperienced women and stuck in the mountains. Luckily, Iraz is able to shoot and do good work as a brigand.

In chapter twenty-nine, the Alidagh peak is the magical refuge and symbol of the future liberation of the villagers. There Memed, Hatche and Iraz are able to hide from the police for about a year. Later, Alidagh is the symbol of liberation from the landlords and the thistles, with the burning of the thistles reaching the peak.



Chapters 31-34, p. 340-357

Chapters 31-34, p. 340-357 Summary

The spring flowers are now here in chapter thirty-one, even on the peak of Alidagh. Winter has been tough to survive, with Memed and the women huddling together for warmth. Iraz and Hache dream of escaping being fugitives through an amnesty. They will settle with Memed on the Chukurova plain and have a nice farm. Memed often goes out of their cave to get supplies that Lame Ali leaves for him at the base of the mountain. Then one day Memed does not come back, and only appears a week later. He was ambushed by Black Mustafa when he went to get ammunition. Only Memed's good friend Jabbar was able to rescue Memed. At the cave, Memed tells the women he was shot, and they remove the bullet from his shoulder. It takes a week for Memed to recover, as the police get closer.

In chapter thirty-two, it is autumn and there is a good harvest around Deyirmenoluk. Aunt Huru circulates in the surrounding villages and organizes the people to not give their yearly tribute in grain to Abdi. Since Abdi is afraid to return to his villages, people agree and tell the lie that the harvest failed. Lame Ali is a steward of Abdi, who of course is also Memed's partisan as well, though covertly. Lame Ali repeats the lie of the people that the harvest failed and there is no grain to give as tribute. The people hide the grain, so when men from the District Governor are sent, they cannot find it.

In chapter thirty-three, it is winter and Memed's group has run out of supplies. Sergeant Asim's forces are nearby and they cannot go out when Hache is close to giving birth to Memed's child. There is bickering between Hache and Memed, and Memed neglects some precautions, like trailing a blackthorn branch to wipe out his tracks. It is feared that Lame Ali will be forced to track Memed to his cave hideout on the peak. In chapter thirty-four, a shepherd boy, after being beaten, admits to have seen Memed in the area. Lame Ali is drafted to track down Memed, but lies that he has lost his powers and that he cannot follow a trail in the snow. Memed's group is found and cannot run because Hache is about to give birth. Finally, Memed runs out of ammunition and calls out to surrender to Sergeant Asim. When the Sergeant arrives in the cave, Iraz reveals that Hache just gave birth to Memed's son and that is why Memed is surrendering. The Sergeant refuses to accept the surrender, and gives Memed some ammunition, pretending to flee.

Chapters 31-34, p. 340-357 Analysis

In chapter thirty-one, it is springtime, the season of hope, but also the police are more mobile and are trying to track Memed down. At this point, Memed the near supernatural hero emerges, who survives being shot after a week of rest. In chapter thirty-two, Huru shows her key role in fighting for Memed's concept of freeing the tenant farmers. She



organizes the farmers to withhold their rent to Abdi's agent. Ironically, one of Abdi's agents or stewards is Lame Ali, who is really working for Memed.

In chapter thirty-three, after months of tracking Memed, some of Sergeant Asim's men see Memed near the peak of Alidagh. Memed is near to being tracked down. Lame Ali is brought in by the police in chapter thirty-four to track exactly where Memed is. Despite threats, this time Lame Ali is able to resist his urge to follow a trail. Nevertheless, soon Memed's cave hideout is found. There is a firefight where Memed and Iraz both shoot. Sergeant Asim is also infected by the awe of Memed, and refuses to accept Memed's surrender because Hache just gave birth. Ironically, if Memed and his crew are allowed to surrender now, Hache would survive, and not be killed. As a diversion, Memed shoots past the Sergeant as he retreats, and claims that Memed forced him back. There is a snowstorm, and the encirclement of Memed is abandoned for now.



Chapters 35-38, pp. 357-371

Chapters 35-38, pp. 357-371 Summary

In chapter thirty-five, Memed is said to have been killed. There is mourning among the villagers of Deyirmenoluk and by Big Osman at Vayvay village. Then Sergeant Asim reports that Memed is only wounded, but still alive. Abdi has another desperate letter written, pleading for help from the government against Memed. In chapter thirty-six, Big Osman celebrates that the villagers of Vayvay have gotten their land back. There is supposed to be a great amnesty in fifteen days, and Big Osman gets the villagers to buy a big plot of land to give to Memed, Hache, and their adopted mother, Iraz.

In chapter thirty-seven, Memed meets Lame Ali on the run, and hears of the land that Big Osman has bought for him. Captain Faruk is on his trail, with only days before the general amnesty. Memed, Hache, Iraz and the child are soon surrounded in the land of Alayar. The Captain is wounded and the police retreat, but Hache is shot down in the fight. Hache is dead, and Memed has her buried by some nearby, friendly villagers. Memed, Iraz and the child find refuge in another mountain cave. Iraz tells Memed to give her the child so she can go to a village and raise him, and Memed agrees.

In chapter thirty-eight, Jabbar has survived and tells Memed that there is an amnesty and he can come down from the mountains. Memed returns to Deyirmenoluk, but is called a coward by Aunt Huru, who fears that the dreaded landlord Abdi will now return. Big Osman urges Memed to settle on the plot of land bought for Memed, but instead Memed rides off and has Lame Ali follow him. Lame Ali tells Memed where Abdi is staying in town, and how to get into the house. Memed rides alone into town to the house where Abdi stays, and goes in and shoots Abdi dead. He rides back home and tells Huru that Abdi is dead. Memed disappears, and the villagers are free.

Chapters 35-38, pp. 357-371 Analysis

In chapter thirty-five, Abdi is overjoyed and goes to town, getting a shave and a haircut. Abdi plans to force the villagers of his five villages to give him his tribute and admit their defiance of his power. Then, to his horror, Abdi finds out that Memed is very much alive. Chapter thirty-six shows how Abdi's desire to summon government troops is again stopped by Ali Safa's need to postpone the crackdown on brigands until he can get Vayvay village.

In chapter thirty-seven, a new police officer, Captain Faruk, is sent after Memed, and Memed is forced to leave the Taurus mountain area that he is familiar with. Memed gets help from the nomad chieftain, Kerimoghlu, and is able to evade capture, despite being with a newborn child now. Then, Memed receives a mortal blow with the death of Hache. In a sense, Memed's reason for being and his hopes for the future have been destroyed. The villagers fear that Memed will abandon fighting the landlords if he is

amnestied. Huru is the voice of the demand that despite the consequences, Abdi must be destroyed. Memed fulfills this wish, reports it to Huru, and then disappears from the scene in a miraculous manner.



Characters

Memed

Memed is the hero of the story. He begins as the poor son of the widow Deuneh. Despite his fear of Abdi, at the age of eleven he runs away from Deyirmenoluk village and is sheltered by the old man Suleyman. Memed lets his presence at harvest time be known to Deyirmenoluk, since he knows that his mother will not be able to bring in the harvest by herself. For running away, Memed and his mother are deprived of an even bigger portion than usual of their food. They barely survive being starved to death. When Memed elopes with Hache at age eighteen, he fears what will happen to his mother but elopes anyway. Memed and Hache are followed, and Memed kills Hache's bridegroom and wounds Abdi.

Memed becomes a brigand under the outlaw chief Mad Durdu. Early on, Memed is disgusted by Durdu's wanton cruelty and then leaves Durdu by defending the nomad chief Kerimoghlu. Memed leads his own brigand band, robbing travelers on the road but sparing the very poor. He first attempts to kill Abdi, burning a village in the process, but finds out later that Abdi has survived. Then, Memed goes to rescue Hache, who is in prison. The result is Memed is desperately on the run and somehow outgunning police forces sent after him. Ultimately, Memed dedicates his life to freeing the poor from tenant farmer slavery to landlords like Abdi and Ali Safa Bey. Memed rejects any hope for personal happiness by not taking advantage of the amnesty and instead killing Abdi at the end of the story. He has lost Hache and his personal hopes, but lights the way to progress for the villagers.

Jabbar

Jabbar is a brigand and meets Memed when Memed joins Durdu's band. Jabbar joins Memed in leaving Durdu's band by supporting Memed's defiance of Durdu's stripping of Kerimoghlu. Jabbar participates in both Memed's return to his village and his attempt at revenge on Abdi, and his later attack on Aktozlu village. It's easy to see Jabbar's tendency towards random violence. When Memed leads the attack on Abdi's house and Abdi is not there, before long Jabbar stabs a screaming woman, probably to death. He has some doubt about this type of revenge, but is still quite willing to carry it out until Memed calls a halt to massacring Abdi's family.

Jabbar is Memed's right-hand man and helps him kill Kalayji and Horalı when they attempt to trick Memed and ambush him. Jabbar is also with Memed during the comfortable days at the well-provided for hideout in the Chichekli valley. There is a break between Memed and Jabbar, when Jabbar refuses to participate in the operation to free Hache from the police. Jabbar is brave, but is far more cautious than Memed and fears being swallowed up in the police-dominated Chukurova plain. When Memed, Hache and Iraz are on the run, at some points Jabbar helps Memed escape the police



in shootouts. It is thought that he is wounded or killed in one of these instances, but Jabbar appears again at the end of the book. At the time of the amnesty, Jabbar accepts it, unlike Memed.

Hatche

Hatche is Memed's girlfriend and later his wife. She and Memed are in love from their youth, and she is thoroughly dominated by Memed. Hatche agrees to elope with Memed, accepting his plans without any forethought. To her shock, after the shooting of Abdi and killing of his nephew Veli, Hatche is accused of shooting Veli and thrown into prison. There she becomes friends with the female prisoner, Iraz, and they dream of being free and on a farm with Memed. Hatche remains largely in a fantasy world until Memed actually frees her and Iraz when they are in transit to another prison. Hatche complains of the hardship of life on the run, but stays loyal to Memed. Hatche becomes pregnant and delivers Memed's son. Later, she, Memed and Iraz have to flee their mountain hideout on Alidagh and Hatche is shot to death in a gun battle.

Lame Ali

Lame Ali begins as Memed's adversary when he is forced to track Memed. Although he is not happy with tracking down Memed, once he is on the trail he cannot stop himself until he finds his prey. Lame Ali is upset when he finds Memed and Hatche. Later, he refuses to testify against Hatche, and is forced out of the village by Abdi. Memed seeks out Lame Ali, and Lame Ali, despite his fears, helps Memed track down Abdi. Abdi escapes, and under false pretenses Lame Ali becomes Abdi's steward and helper, while secretly giving information and helping Memed. Lame Ali assists Memed and his outlaws, although he is never caught as a helper of the brigands. In a struggle to control himself, Lame Ali refuses to track Memed down when Memed is hiding on Alidagh mountain. Finally, after the amnesty, Memed goes to Lame Ali and gets the information that he needs to kill Abdi.

Abdi Agha

Abdi Agha is the villain of the story. He owns five villages on the Dikenli plateau, including Memed's home village of Deyirmenoluk. Abdi hates Memed's whole family and persecutes Memed and his widow mother Deuneh from an early age. He sets up the marriage of Hatche with his nephew Vili, despite the fact that he knows that Memed and Hatche are in love. Abdi is shot along with his nephew when he chases Memed. In revenge, he concocts charges against Hatche, claiming that she shot his nephew Veli to death. Abdi flees the village when he hears that Memed has become a powerful brigand. He hides at his relative Huseyin's house in Aktozlu village and barely escapes being burned to death when Memed's band attacks. Huseyin's wife goes into the burning house and carries out Abdi, concealed in a huge quilt. Abdi next goes to conspire with the landlord Ali Safa Bey against Memed. Abdi hides out in town while



Memed is busy running from the police. He hopes to return to the village as landlord and master of the serf-like tenant farmers once Memed is caught or surrenders. Memed refuses the amnesty and kills Abdi at the end of the story.

Durmish Ali

Durmish Ali is a close friend and supporter of Memed. Durmish Ali shelters Memed when he returns to Deyirmenoluk village and gets Lame Ali to meet with Memed. Durmish Ali also brings together notables of the villages of Abdi when Memed organizes the villagers to stop paying their rent to Abdi and to burn the thistles.

Suleyman

Suleyman is the old man who shelters Memed when he first runs away at age eleven to Kesme village. After Memed shoots Abdi, he flees to Suleyman. Suleyman and his wife shelter Memed, and then Suleyman puts Memed in contact with the brigand Mad Durdu. Suleyman cautions Memed that he will not be able to stay with Durdu long and soon will have to form his own brigand band.

Mother Huru, Aunt Huru

Aunt Huru is Durmish Ali's wife. She is a friend of Memed's mother Deuneh and a close supporter of Memed after Deuneh's death. Huru cautions Memed that he can be betrayed by the villagers that he trusts, such as Lame Ali. After the amnesty, Huru demands that Memed still get his revenge against Abdi, otherwise the villagers will again become Abdi's serfs.

Durdu, Mad Durdu

Mad Durdu is the leader of an outlaw band, or a group of brigands. Durdu has the practice of forcing his victims to not only give him their money, but also all their clothes, including their underwear. When Durdu demands that Kerimoghlu strip, Memed denies Durdu, and after this Memed fears that Durdu will hunt him down. Jabbar tells Memed how Durdu meets his death when Durdu attempts to rob and humiliate a whole village.

Sergeant Rejep

Sergeant Rejep is a member of Durdu's band and later leaves Durdu's band with Memed. During a battle with police, Rejep is shot and wounded in the neck. Rejep walks around with this wound for weeks, but it is never properly treated. Rejep leads the attack on Abdi, who is hiding out in Aktozlu village in the Chukurova lowlands. This is Rejep's last mission, and he dies in the marshes soon after when he is fleeing with Memed and Jabbar.



Nomad Chief Kerimoghlu

The Nomad Chief Kerimoghlu is helpful to Memed and Jabbar and gives them food and medicine. Memed reports that Kerimoghlu is rich, and despite the nomad helping Memed and Jabbar, Mad Durdu plans to rob Kerimoghlu. Kerimoghlu refuses to strip off his clothes at gunpoint and is only saved when Memed stops Durdu. After this, Kerimoghlu becomes a friend of Memed's.

Deuneh, Memed's mother

Deuneh is a poor widow who is Memed's mother. She sympathizes with Memed's struggle for independence even when he is eleven. Nevertheless, Deuneh cannot imagine defying Abdi Agha or leaving the village. After Abdi and his nephew are shot, in revenge Abdi beats Deuneh to death.

Sergeant Asim

Sergeant Asim is a police officer who chases first Durdu's band and later Memed. Sergeant Asim is cautious and tries to keep alive while chasing the brigands. When Memed is cornered in his hideout on the Alidagh mountain, Sgt. Asim is about to accept Memed's surrender, but refuses to after he sees that Hache has just given birth to Memed's son.

Iraz

Iraz is a prisoner who shares a cell with Hache. She committed crimes when she tried to avenge her son's murder. Iraz becomes a close friend of Hache and dreams of acting as Memed's and Hache's mother when they are all liberated and living on a farm. Later, Iraz is on the run with Memed and Hache, and shoots a gun along with Memed.

Big Osman

Big Osman is a very old villager who comes to help Memed and calls him "My Hawk." Big Osman tracks down Memed in order to praise him and give him money.

Big Ahmet

Big Ahmet is a very old man who for a long time was a brigand. Memed and his friend go to visit the town and meet this old man, though there is some doubt if it really is Big Ahmet. Big Ahmet helps the poor and only kills when it is for personal revenge.



Ali Safa Bey

Ali Safa Bey is a landlord who is in a struggle to seize more land from the peasants and turn them into serfs. He plots with Abdi to have Memet killed, using the brigand Kalayji.

Horali

Horali meets Memed when they are both in Durdu's band. Later, Horali is a member of Kalayji's band and he seeks out Memed in order to have him killed in an ambush. Instead, Horali and Kalayji are killed by Memed and Jabbar.

Kalayji

Kalayji is a brigand chief who is paid by Ali Safa Bey. He terrorizes Vayvay and other villages, killing village leaders who resist Ali Safa Bey's landgrab. Kalayji attempts to trap and kill Memed, but is killed by Memed instead.

Colonel Hasan

Colonel Hasan is a man that Memed meets in the town. The Colonel informs Memed that to have absolute rule over a village or town by an Agha is not the normal state of affairs. The Colonel tells Memed about free towns and cities, and Memed dreams that the Colonel will help him and Hache when they elope.

Bekir, Bekir Effendi

Bekir is a young man who lives in Karadut village. Bekir is literate and is able to object to Ali Safa Bey's legal tactics to steal the villagers' land. On Bekir's wedding celebration, he is shot and killed by the brigand Kalayji.

Poor Ali

Poor Ali is a minstrel who becomes the third member of Memed's small brigand band. He sings songs and plays on an instrument called the saz. Poor Ali is from Chichekli valley and gets help from there, so Memed's band spends a lot of time in the Chichekli valley.



Objects/Places

Deyirmenoluk and the Five Villages

Deyirmenoluk is Memed's home village. It is also the home of Abdi Agha and the leading village among the five villages that Abdi controls. Deyirmenoluk is located in southeast Turkey on the Dikenli plateau, the home of the thistle fields, and at the base of the Taurus mountains.

The Town

The Town is a small city that is a couple of days walk from Deyirmenoluk. It is never given a definite name, but it has beautiful buildings and soon captivates Memed on his trip there. At the age of eighteen, before his troubles, Memed visits there and admires its marketplace. Later, Hache is jailed in the town.

The Chukurova

The Chukurova is a plain with marshes and rivers going through it. Brigands fear operating in the Chukurova because it is protected by the police, unlike many mountain villages. Many villagers go to the Chukurova to work for years and earn money for their families.

The Aghas

Aghas are big landlords that totally control several villages and much farmland. Abdi Agha and Ali Safa Bey are such people. The term Agha is also used as a general term of respect.

Thistles

The thistles are annoying plants, sort of weeds. They can grow quite high and they scratch people's legs. There are large fields of thistles growing near Memed's village of Deyirmenoluk, and Memed decides that these thistle fields must be burned before the plowing of crops.

Alidagh Mountain, Mount Alidagh

Alidagh Mountain is a large, cliff-like mountain near the village of Deyirmenoluk. Memed knows this place from his boyhood, and later goes to Alidagh to hide out in a cave with



Hatche and Iraz. When the thistle fields are burned, the fire goes up Mount Alidagh and lights a flame there for a couple of days.

Aktozlu Village

Aktozl Village is where Abdi hides in the house of its headman. Memed finds out where Abdi is and attacks the headman's house. As a result the entire village is burned down.

Vayvay Village

Vayvay Village is a target for takeover by Ali Safa Bey. The villagers are attacked and besieged by Kalayji's band that is secretly in the pay of Ali Safa Bey. When Kalayji is wounded and dies, Big Osman gets the villagers to contribute money to bring to Memed. At the time of the amnesty, Big Osman has land bought in Vayvay village for Memed.

Karadut Village

Karadut Village is a village that is resisting the takeover tactics of Ali Safa Bey. Its leader in this fight is killed by the brigand Kalayji.

Chichekli Valley

Chichekli Valley is a high valley that overlooks the town where Hatche is imprisoned. Memed and Jabbar take refuge here, along with the brigand Poor Ali. Poor Ali is from Chichekli valley, so Memed and his band have a lot of help here and support from the villagers in the area.

Ankara, Turkey

Ankara, Turkey is the new capital of Turkey and the seat of the new republic. Landlords consider having troops from Ankara sent to put down Memed and the other brigands, but fear their own interests would be hurt by this.

The Nomad Tribes, the Turkomans

Once the Chukurova and the nearby highlands were inhabitants by only nomad bands, largely Turkomans. Later these nomads are defeated by the Ottomans and forced to settle in villages in the Chukurova. Only a few nomad bands remain, like that of Kerimoghlu and the Black-haired tribe.



Tenant Farmers, Serfs

Tenant farmers are farmers who do not own their own land. They pay rent to their landlord in the form of a share of their crop, sometimes two-thirds of their crops or more. Since such farmers are forced to remain in total poverty, they are likened to feudal serfs, who are property of their feudal lord, or landlord.

The Red Fez

The Red Fez is a type of hat that the brigands wear. It is a sort of defiance of the new government. Later, Memed abandons the red fez for a blue kerchief.

The Burning of the Thistles

The Burning of the Thistles is a practice introduced by Memed in Deyirmenoluk village and the surrounding villages. For two or three days, huge fires are set in the thistle fields. This is symbolic of the fight for freedom, because thistles annoy the farmers and goatherds, like how the feudal landlords harass these people.

Memed, My Hawk

Memed, My Hawk is the name of the book. It is a phrase used by the old man Big Osman when he refers to Memed and Memed's fight against the landlords and their brigand tools.

Infidel

Infidel is an insult used against anyone who is considered wicked. Formally, it means a person who is against the Muslim faith, or the people.

Ottomans

The Ottomans are the former rulers of what is now called Turkey. The Ottomans are defeated in World War I, and for a short time Turkey is occupied by foreign powers.



Themes

The Fight Against Serfdom

Abdi Agha has imposed a sort of slavery on Deyimenoluk and the five villages. The people are enslaved to their landlord and are tied to the land. Ali Safa Bey has a similar intention to get ownership of many villages and turns the villagers into tenant farmers. Even at the age of eleven, Memed wants to escape this type of slavery. He runs away to a nearby village where he is sheltered by Suleyman. It seems that Suleyman owns his own home and is not subjected to an Agha or landlord in his village. The idea is implanted in Memed's head that it is possible to escape slavery.

When Memed is eighteen, he elopes with Hatche because otherwise Hatche would be forced to marry Abdi's nephew. Perhaps Memed and Hatche would find a place to live, but then Abdi follows them and Memed ends up wounding Abdi and killing the nephew. Memed joins Durdu's band of outlaws and thieves. Later in the book, the story is told on how the landlords use most of the brigand bands to terrorize villagers and force them to sell them land. Only a few brigand leaders become legends by helping the poor. The confrontation between the two ways to run a brigand band is showed most clearly when the brigand chief Kalayji is ordered to kill Memed by Ali Safa Bey. Memed ends up killing Kalayji and the villagers of Vayvay celebrate, since they were Kalayji's victims.

The Flora and Fauna of the Dikenli and the Chukurova

A major feature of the book are the descriptions of the land and animals around the village of Deyirmenoluk and the wider region of southeast Turkey. The region is bounded by the sea in the south and the Taurus mountains in the north. The Dikenli is the home of Deyirmenoluk, one of the five villages of Abdi Agha, and translates as the plain of the thistles. The scratchy thistle plant grows everywhere except where the land is plowed to raise crops. These thistles oppress and annoy Memed, and one of his goals is to burn the thistle fields. In fact, the thistles represent the oppression of the villagers by the landlords.

About a day's walk from Deyirmenoluk is the town that Memed visits in the Chukurova, a wide plain. While brigands and outlaws are numerous in the mountains and even in the Dikenli, they rarely show up in the Chukurova. This plain is dominated by the police and is supposed to be safe under the new republic that rules Turkey. Years ago, the Chukurova was a low-lying marsh, with rivers going through it such as the Savrun that were untamed and changed their course every few decades. The nomads were the only people in the land and they stayed there only during the winter, going to the highlands in the summer. Now, there are still nomads such as the Black-haired tribe that Memed meets.



The Power of Love and the Desire for Revenge

The love relationship that is central in the book is that between Memed and Hatche. Memed also has a strong relationship to his widowed mother. When he finds out that Abdi has beaten her to death, he has a reason to want to kill Abdi, though already Memed wishes to kill him. Then in the village of Deyirmenoluk, Memed hears the story of how Hatche was thrown into prison on the basis of false testimony ordered by Abdi. Memed is mobilized to get his revenge against Abdi and his family. When Memed goes to Abdi's house, he finds that Abdi is not there. He is about to have Sergeant Rejeb kill Abdi's sons, but at the last minute realizes that this is wrong. Already, one of Abdi's women has been stabbed by Memed's brigand follower Jabbar, and Memed sees that this type of revenge is wrong.

Memed is torn by remorse when his attack on Abdi leads to the burning of all of Aktozlu village. He only becomes optimistic again when he realizes that he can now liberate his home village from being Abdi's tenant farmers and virtual slaves. This does not work out so well, after it is heard that Abdi is still alive. Memed retreats to a hideout, but is next drawn to saving Hatche from prison. He must see her no matter the consequences. Memed ends up freeing Hatche and being with her and her companion, on the run. Memed could surrender and later be amnestied, but he refuses to do this because Abdi is still not dead. Hatche is killed, but Memed has the opportunity to take advantage of the amnesty. Instead, he listens to the urging of Aunt Huru, kills Abdi, and then disappears as a legendary figure.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of the book is that of a third person omniscient observer. Therefore, there are written the internal thoughts of Memed and other characters such as Lame Ali and even of Abdi Agha. This universal observer also gives extensive descriptions of the landscape of the Dikenli plateau and the Chukurova lowlands. Overall, there is overwhelming sympathy for Memed and his point of view, but other characters also have their points of view represented. There is lots of dialogue, with sections reading as if they are a play. This gives a lot of freedom to a switching point of view, with a feeling of togetherness kept by the backdrop of the Chukurova plain, the Dekenli plateau and the Taurus Mountains.

Important sections of the book are pure descriptive narrative. These are important to give the story a context and a direction towards progress. The characters like Memed are struggling out of feudalism. It becomes possible for Memed to leave his village and defy his Agha Abdi, though this is totally impossible for his mother, Deuneh. The character Big Osman towards the end of the book represents a view of reconciliation and forgiveness for the crimes of the past, after the amnesty. Aunt Huru represents the desire for revenge, along with the fear that Abdi will return to become a feudal lord over the villages again. Memed chooses to back the latter point of view.

Setting

The setting of the book is southeast Turkey, between the Taurus Mountains and the sea. Much of the story takes place in the Dikenli Plateau and nearby mountains, and the nearby lowlands of the Chukurova. The government and police generally have control over the Chukurova, while the highlands and mountains are often under control of the brigand bands. The roads are often unsafe and travelers can be easily robbed by the brigands, who then go hide in the mountains. Memed's hometown Deyirmenoluk is on the edge of the mountains and not far from the area where the brigands hold sway.

Not to far from Deyirmenoluk, the land flattens in the Chukurova, which is now fairly safe and patrolled by police. For Memed to make an attack on Abdi in Aktozlu village is a true act of bravery, since this is already in the Chukurova plain. Likewise, it is considered by Jabbar to be impossible to ambush the police escort with Hathe and Iraz on a road in the Chukurova. In this deed, Memed shows his unbelievable courage. Then, Memed is able to retreat to the Alidagh peak to a hideout cave there, high above the village of Deyirmenoluk.



Language and Meaning

The book is originally written in Turkish and seems to be translated into English in a competent manner. The reader is able to understand by context or by provided definitions the meaning of foreign terms such as Agha. A more subtle point is made in the book through the historical context. In a long narrative passage in Chapter 16, the history of the area is given. This area was controlled by the Ottomans, who defeated the nomad tribes in the area and forced them to settle. After a while people grew attached to the land, and then landlords tried to seize it from them. During World War I, the Ottoman Turks were defeated, and for a while the French occupied the area. After they were thrown out, a new government was formed in Turkey with its capital at Ankara.

This new government gets rid of many of the old traditions. It is mentioned that the brigands wear a red fez. This hat had been prohibited by the new government. It is interesting that later it is mentioned that Memed stops wearing the red fez and instead wears a blue kerchief. This may signify that Memed is no longer part of the old traditions and has now accepted the new government. The existence of the general amnesty is also an interesting feature. It seems extreme that all prisoners are pardoned at the same time, but this is done to celebrate the anniversary of the new Turkish Republic.

Structure

The book *Memed My Hawk* has thirty-eight chapters that vary from two to over thirty pages long. In chapters 1 to 6, Memed runs away and then is brought back to his village. In punishment Memed and his mother are forced to give more of their crop to Abdi, and come close to starvation. In Chapters 7 to 9, Memed is eighteen and runs away with Hatche. They are chased by Abdi, and Abdi is shot and wounded. In Chapters 10 to 11 Hatche is in prison and complains to her mother that she is innocent. In Chapter 12 the story has its first big change, where Memed breaks with the outlaw Durdu and refuses to allow Durdu to force the nomad chief to strip naked.

Now that Memed is running his own brigand band, he is kind to the poor and gives them their money back instead of robbing them. Memed searches for Abdi in Deyirmenoluk and finally has Lame Ali track him down. The result is that it is believed that Abdi is dead, and the village of Aktozlu is completely burned down by the end of Chapter 15. The fight widens as Abdi draws the landlord Ali Safa Bey, and they attempt to get the brigand leader Kalayji to kill Memed. Memed has survived this as well by the end of Chapter 20.

Chapter 21 begins the final part of the book, where Memed decides that he must see Hatche again, siezing her and her friend Iraz on their way to another prison. For the rest of the book Memed is on the run, and at a crucial point, even Sgt. Asim refuses to bring Memed in when he sees Hatche has just given birth to Memed's son. Memed goes to seek Hatche, rejecting a comparatively safe situation. Again, at the end of the book, after the death of Hatche, Memed rejects accepting the amnesty. Instead he kill Abdi and disappears into history as a liberator.



Quotes

"I'll look after your beasts, I'll say, and I'll plow your fields and be your child, just that." Chap. 2, p. 8

"'Nothing's happened to him,' retorted Ali. 'It's his cunning. He's left them like that on purpose. He's gone to that village, Memed has.'" Chap. 3, p. 26

"'Yes, child. That infidel was already your father's enemy.'" Chap. 6, p. 45

"'Going to Siyringach, two brigands jumped out and stripped Abdi. They took his wife too. I heard about it. Abdi came and begged me to help, so I went and got his woman back.'" Chap. 7, p. 56

"'My child,' replied Colonel Hasan, 'what Agha? How could this town have an Agha?'" Chap. 7, p. 65

"She no longer felt any fear. Her whole body was exhausted, crushed." Chap. 8, p. 82

"Your couple of months with Durdu will give you enough experience to head your own band. Don't stay with him too long; he's no brigand, just a plunderer, a thief." Chap. 10, pp. 100-101

"They all repeated what Haji had just said. 'The girl was taking aim. Where did she learn that, the daughter of a scoundrel?'" Chap. 11, p. 123

"Then he had quickly pulled out the pins and hurled the grenades at the machine gun. First one, then another, then a third." Chap. 12, p. 146

"'Unless you want to die,' answered Memed, 'leave the man and get out of the tent.'" Chap. 12, p. 163

"Memed's eyes filled with tears. 'Jabbar, give him back his money,' he said in a kind voice. 'Here, take it!'" Chap. 13, p. 190

"With one hand Jabbar pulled the dagger that hung at his waist and plunged it into the woman, who fell to the floor with a cry." Chap. 15, p. 205

"He was saying: 'I'll catch Abdi Agha too and kill both of you together.'" Chap. 15, p. 223

"Then she returned and brought out an oak chest, some saucepans, rugs, bowls, quilts, and , last of all, a huge quilt rolled up in her arms." Chap. 15, p. 234

"The struggles of Ali Safa Bey and the villagers lasted for years, but Ali Safa Bey showed the cunning of a fox and always found new ways of wresting the land from them." Chap. 16, p. 248



"One moment he was tall as a poplar, then small again. Bullets can't harm him." Chap. 18, p. 267

"'Kalayji has invited you,' he said, speaking very quickly. 'He wants to meet you. He's very curious about Memed.'" Chap. 20, p. 288

"'The villagers sent this, my hawk. Thank God! Excuse me, but I must go now and take the good news to the village.'" Chap. 22, p. 299

"Memed had discarded his fez and now wore a blue silk kerchief. The nomad chief had sent him his pistol and its holster, both of which were embossed with gold." Chap. 25, p. 318

"'Not until the end of our days, only until the amnesty.'" Chap. 28, p. 332

"'You villain,' he shouted. 'You're the Agha's steward, you eat his bread, and at the same time you're hand in glove with Memed.'" Chap. 34, p. 353

"'Woman-hearted Memed! See all the villagers staring at you. ...Will you bring Abdi on us again?'" Chap. 38, p. 367



Topics for Discussion

Discuss Memed's transformation from a poor son of a widow to a mythical figure. What is his point of change from being a kind-hearted brigand to becoming a legend?

After Memed becomes an outlaw, what acts of his distinguish him from the usual brigand? What acts are the same as other brigands?

Discuss the relationship between the friends Hatche and Iraz. How does Iraz's fight to avenge her son fit in with the book's theme of the fight against slavery?

Discuss Memed and Hatche's relationship. Does Hatche understand what she is doing when she elopes with Memed? Does she later mature as a person?

At the time of the amnesty, Jabbar accepts the amnesty, while Memed rejects it. Discuss why these two characters have a different reaction to this event.

Discuss Big Osman and his idolization of Memed, who he calls "My Hawk." Why is Big Osman and his fellow villagers from Vayvay unable to defeat the landlord Ali Safa Bey without the help of Memed?

Discuss the burning of Aktozlu village. Why is Sergeant Rejep so happy to see Aktozlu burning, and Memed so sad?

Discuss the symbolism of the burning of the thistles. What do the thistles represent to Memed? Is it important that after Memed is gone, the thistles are burned every year in Deyirmenoluk year before beginning to plow the fields?