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In Naguib Mahfouz's Litrature



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First edition

2014

Spell check: *Ahmed Sobieh*

Technical output: *Mervat El Nahas*

Cover plate: *Heba El Madawy*

Dedication

To My Professor Dr. Rasha Hmoud Jaber
Al-Sabah...
To the one who supported me to out to where I am...
And whom I placed in my memory and
Ambition to be a shining figure of hope
Rights to access it...

To Professor Dr. Rasha AlHamoud Jaber
Al-Sabah...
I extend my thanks and gratitude to you for presenting me through
The book of "The woman's fall in the literature of Naguib Mahfouz "

Introduction

This is a critical essay based particularly on the way in which Naguib Mahfouz considered, in his writings, the status of the fallen woman working at dirty places or the deviant one doing immoral jobs whether the falling reasons were economic or social ones.

On the way to monitor this phenomenon, the author particularly selected three characters of the most important ones presenting the phenomenon in question, throughout Naguib Mahfouz's novels. These characters are: Hamida in *Midaq Alley* because of being ambitious and ignorant, Nafisa in *The Beginning and the End* because of being poor and being seduced by the one who was able to help her and Nor in *The Thief and the Dogs* for living in a rotten milieu.

Each character presented a reason to fall whether to achieve ambitions or out of need and temptations from others around her. The author refers that all three victims share the same public level from which they couldn't see through the future. So the general condition drives them to more and more falling. But this falling is just a part of the biggest falling of the world as such, including financial, administrative and moral corruption. This falling, as well, is paralleled to the mood of lustful fun, including prostitutes and bad companies. As well as the social class injustice in Egypt at that time to harness the poor's power for fulfilling the rich's needs.

Each character attempted to change her life and her Social statusaccording to her grasp and education with normal marriage. But the failure urged them to fall.Therefore Hamida failed with Abbas; Nafisa failed when she got into Mohammed Al- full's car and Nur failed with the wanted, Said Mahran. Although she had affairs with a lot of men to earn a living, Nur did love Mahran and wished to be for him alone in pursuit of a

stable life.Despite psychic traumas those women had, the pursuit of safety wascertainly the mean concern for them all. So they imagined loveand pleasure would reduce their suffering. But every character had fakeor fleeting love and was deprived from her beloved.

The author was interested in presenting the basic character in its relations with the rest of the others within each story separately to show the reader the general and private circumstances drove the female character to harlotry in a country under British rule during these events. The train of chapters, on the other hand, creates a mirror with which we could balance between three women. It also creates a feeling of rejecting these characters behaviors for they allow penetrating through family relations.

It is a feeling of social, individual rejection towards this type of persons turned to be a desire to criminalize such behavior.

This rejection, I think, means driving us to free woman from reasons driving her to sell body or betray the family. We could see this book as a mirror reflexing the vices of living in such a way and the importance of protecting families from deviation. To be sure, the realist Mahfouz depicts the world as it was, but in such a way that makes us criminalize this behavior as it comes clear with the tragic ends of the three novels.

It is a beginning to study the rest of Mahfouz's works and that what we expect from the author.

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Introduction

If we consider that the literature as a mean

to portray the reality in many forms, starting with pre-classical, through the different doctrines over the long history of human , The woman has been, and remained the cornerstone of the eternal conflict between the duplication between the "good and evil." and the woman and the abyss .. Is the issue through which the author Nermin Al Houti weaved her artistic view? She had adopted from Naguib Mahfouz's literature her patterns after choosing stories of three women in which the images of the three women were similar to a large extent in their fall but in different ways.

In my opinion, the author has successfully gathered boldness and risk, when approached this idea, which resulted from these novels, of a great novelist with his distinguished level not only in the Arab world but also overseas, where his works have been translated into several languages and become the leader of the realism in literature in the Middle East.

If the writer has chosen Naguib Mahfouz as one of the leaders of the Arab literature generally and the Egyptian literature particularly, the purpose of this choice was the great echo of these novels and which had witnessed the presence of other great authors such as Taha Hussein, Al-Akkad, Timour and others, but the diversity of Naguib Mahfouz' s literature was encouraging to select a tiny issue from the various issues in which Mahfouz had dealt with and achieved within the different visions of the issues of the day time, exceeding an area of the future.

The Prominent place, Naguib Mahfouz, has achieved in the Arabic literature , exceeded all limits known, in the form as he did not comply with one or several forms, but overstepped in his works the renovation and dealt with the mingled curves of life

and the conflicts between its components all this had given Naguib Mahfouz his distinguished place.

Among those, affected by the status and implications was the starting point of fulfilling the dream of dealing and discussing one of Naguib Mahfouz's various issues and analyzing its components to reach the results which can be drawn from the context of the events and attitudes.

As for the choice of this subject, the whole world witnesses the story of a oman's fall as a natural result without inspecting the reasons or the real cause that brought the woman to the brink, even without a sense of social justice.

the writer found in this case a bold start which she wanted to invade with little cautious . she had her excuse as the article, which she dealt with, is a part of Naguib Mahfouz's well known literature to all the intellectuals of the Arab nation and the world. Specially, being the only one awarded the Nobel Prize in literature on the level of the Arab world, and then had the choice of some of his work, but specifically three of his, which are "Al medal alley", "A Beginning and an end", and "the thief and the dogs" which focused on the fall of the woman.

The writer found in this point, an issue must be raised so as not to direct any accusation to a particular one without a specific defense from near or far.

The final arbiter is the only thing taken/ believed by the people, but the causes, circumstances, conditions, environ ENT, and many other obscure reasons or persons. One of these could be the real criminal and the other one is just a victim. This issue is what Mahfouz discussed in his three novels, in the context of discussions, situations and a series of events through which our issue could disappear.

So, it was a deliberate choice of this subject to clarify a vision which was anonymous in the context of these novels. And in

order to reach a logical judgment resulted from the defenses which the writer had gathered from the small events of these novels and away from the self-influential.

As for the issue itself , has a power which would make whoever is interested in literature and the novel, attracted as it is not a local issue but it even exceeds beyond the space and time .and it has lasted since the very beginning of humanity so far and beyond. It is the question of good and evil, which is the eternal conflict between people. Thus, the strength of presenting this large and complex issue tempted a lot of people to pause to think of and analyze it.

On the strength of this approach was the beginning of the choice and the compilation of all the threads of the main character, which is the heart of the events , its dynamo and its lines till its end, the tragic fall, its reasons and causes, and the general atmosphere, which gathers the events and conflicts between the world of the small bourgeoisie and the other changeable world with its ever-changing current flowing in the face of the stony gab between social standards., the epic of the private life according to Naguib Mahfouz gives general indications .

The literature of Naguib Mahfouz had formed portraits that tell about their components of hot and cold lines and colors according to the situation. The woman was a common factor through which the event develops and ends and even the names of those characters were not a coincident but, through a study and a philosophy up to the implications of profound significance for those who connected names and characters with the events and attitudes, then the meaning of all these names, "Hemeida at Al medak alley" and "Nafisa at A beginning and an end" then "Nour" at "the thief and the dogs" and these names have a verbal indication from the vocabulary word with His Majesty and moral values which are rare (according to the Arabic language) however, the tide of vice had the greatest influence.

As for the reasons would be found through the events and the worst of all was the social injustice which oppress the will inside the human soul.

The writer had found an issue which was so rich that it encouraged her to deal with it from different views and to exceed in analyzing to various visions but at the end , she successfully managed to limit her analysis as she planned to enter a world full of an intellectual ,political ,philosophical and social events at the same time. But those names sometimes overlap in a way that is difficult to dismantle it, but the writer was able to analyze without changing the intellectual essence of thought for each person, the sole objective, which follows in the footsteps of women is the foundation.

The choice of the writer to deal with this issue is considered as an adventure, but she accepted it boldly after gathering all the threads and the pictures which were well understood and reaching a primary result which encouraged her to continue and what encouraged her more was to experience the intellectual atmosphere of that great writer "Naguib Mahfouz" as she wanted her start to be from the Summit.

It is quite obvious that the time and place in the literature of our writer had an influence on his philosophy that controlled him during the socialist realism that he had connected between Freud and Karl Marx in many of his works the former, revealed the rules of the inner world and the latter revealed the rules of the outer world. And the comparison was between two social standards and mostly the poor. That's why Naguib Mahfouz focused in his novels on the location which stored the majority of helpless people rather than the minority of wealthy luxurious people who were separated by a huge gap.

If Naguib Mahfouz has taken that location as a theatre to present Events through which he exposes the political systems, the time was also an important common factor which provided

the reason behind the creation of a great gap that divided the same society into two separate standards one of which had sunk in the bottom and the other settled on the summit. The writer had experienced each of them according to his upbringing and education.

Then, the novels of Naguib Mahfouz had associated with the Contemporary period then and post-thirties of the twentieth century which the writer had witnessed and revealed those events from its reality and that's clear in his famous tripartite " BAIN Al KASREN – AL SOKARIA " then " KASR AL SHOUK " , and to another three novels which the writer mentioned in this work, to reveal the writer's philosophy, and his aim at delivering his concept to the people who had suffered the poverty and oppression and could be one of the reasons for the revolutionary change, which many people had paved for it before 1952.

The writer has been able through this work to shed light on the effect of Naguib Mahfouz in clarifying life with its various dimensions and the location of the weaknesses that leads to the prevailing of injustice which causes in some cases to the downfall of humanity.

A. Dr. Rasha Hmoud Jaber Al-Sabah

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(1) Al Medak Alley

The place chosen by the author in order to produce a group of events, which represent the problems of a whole society with its different levels... The story starts with the lower class which is the most in the alley starts with the "GEDA" a helpless husband with his wife, Am kamel " a pastry" , Abbas al helo " the barber " , Sonora , "the waiter" and the ballads' singer whose art has vanished because of the emergence of radio .. ..etc.

In this alley which was like an isolated area from the whole world we find various social standards one of which was the middle class which is represented by Mr. Kersha who rose over the poor class with his income from the café.

And, Mrs. Saneya Afifi, who is a landlord and the income of renting that house allowed her to raise over that lower class.In addition to Mr. Radwan AlHusseini, who was considered the richest among those of the middle class as he owns some acres of land.

The alley also, had a representative of the actual upper class Mr. Selim Elwan the great merchant who had inherited that trade and who was envied by most of his neighbours from his regular fatty meal which they believe ,it's full of vitamins and minerals which strengthen the vitality of men.

Therefore, the alley was an entire world that included different categories of people. Meanwhile, the woman in the alley did not come out of only two types... the middle and lower class. "Hamida and her mother," stood for that class. Hamida's mom's job was to bring suitors to young girls (arrange marriages). And the money she earned wasn't enough to get by. Therefore, Hamida the young pretty girl who had beauty and femininity exceeded the alley's level but, she wasn't apparently eligible to it .The second type, was Mrs. Saneya the owner of a block of flats and a bakery. Then, the wife of Mr. Kersha who

could hardly earn their living. All the above characters were considered from the middle class.

This, then, the image of the life of the people of the alley and among them all , there was the penniless ,the swindler,….and others.

Here we would focus on a specific character, Hamida whom we introduced as a member of the low social standard in the alley. She will be the center of our study in this chapter of the play "Almedak alley". As, she was extremely beautiful but not virtuous so, we collected all the details of her life from the very beginning till the end.

That case was not the result of chance or that justice was vigilant and was manipulated by Hamida to steal moments of that cruel time, despite the prevailing of light. But the case prevented natural and logical events, as, we embodied the cause which was created and chosen by man and insisted on nothing but seizing others shares while believing that they were actually his right.

Hamida, this girl who was described by the author as, "In the twentieth of her age, medium height, slim, with a bronze spotless complexion. What's really distinguished she was her beautiful wide black eyes, but when she stared with her eyes , she gained strength and rigidity none of the women had gained such a thing. Her anger hadn't passed easily in the alley." (25, 26)

So, she is considered a mixture of the womanly beautyand passion and the manly aggression which was avoided. She was like a wild cat which attacked whoever dared to annoy her with her sharp nails. And the source of her vicious was her sharp tongue by which she hurt whoever annoyed her or whom she disliked. Therefore, even her friend dared not to annoy her in order to avoid her sharp tongue so none of the alley's inhabitants dared to exceed the limit while talking to her.

Her invulnerable weapon was her beauty and sexy body as she was described by the writer, a beautiful mature attractive

girl, full of vitality and wild feminine, which made those who were attracted to her, to avoid uttering a word, reflecting their desires they only expressed their desire by stealing glances. On the other side, we find that she was aware of her beauty and that she possessed what no one but her in that narrow district which included the alley and the other surroundings , possessed.

She knew well that she was the prettiest of all in spite of their wealth and expensive clothes which she had never had one of them. But…, the poverty that cursed genie which she had considered as her enemy which had accompanied her throughout her whole life. The author had considered poverty as the main and vital issue in that novel; he showed the contradictions in the society through poverty not only in Egypt but everywhere as well. So, the reader has the right to adapt with t h e details of the issue and to appoint himself a judge who will give the sentence at the end.

That was for the twenty years old girl with all the beauty she had which was hidden under the torn clothes. So we might think that it's the law of nature and justice that people can't own everything and that was proved through the rest of the people in the alley as the healthy ones were penniless while the sick were wealthy. It's enough for each one to have one privilege and leave the rest to another one. But Hamida wasn't satisfied with that law and didn't accept her fate as she was convinced that she was supposed to live in a better far place from that dark narrow one where there was no true man who actually deserved her. And that what she had literary told her adopted mother when she surprised her that Mrs. Sania who was fifty years old , wanted to get married in that age while Om Hamida , no one paid her any attention. At that time,

- Hamida s a i d : "I'm n o t a f t e r marriage, but marriage is after me... and I'll refuse it for long."
- Her mom mocked her by saying: "off course, you're a

princess."

• Hamida ignored her mom's mocking and proceeded: "Is there anyone deserve being considered in that alley?" (27)

Here is the fall that would lead her to the end, but not before going through events that would take time to reach her aim... The girl admitted that she was apart from marriage, which chased her wherever she went and she felt and saw those lovers. And especially the two examples the first was Mr. Salim Alwan who had the money and the other one was Abbas El Helw who had the youth and strength. And many others who could barely earn their living.

But she had just rejected them all. As her beauty which she was greatly aware of, according to her was more precious than being owned by anyone.

But, what she actually wanted no one knew as she was completely aware of her social standard and when her mom mocked her and called her a princess, she couldn't have answered her mom as she was completely away from that. But, she knew well that she possessed what princesses failed to possess.

Hamida possessed the overwhelming beauty and feminine and these qualities could be better than a good social standard. So, Hamida preceded her words to her mom by saying that No one among the people of that alley deserved to own her neither the old rich married man nor the broken young man who could hardly earn his own living.

So, the girl was living in the middle of a very low social standard and despite her poverty, her expectations were exceeding that level and between reality and expectations, there was a great gap. But, in spite of that, the girl was dreaming of overstepping this gap. But how she could do that. That what puzzled her. She used to imitate the working girls and the Jewish girls in wearing black and white.

That's how Hamida was rebelling against her social position which she couldn't change it. But, at least she didn't stop

announcing many times to her mom, with sharp shrewish tongue.

• "What a pity, Hamida! Why you're here in that alley. And why your mom is that woman who can't differentiate between gold and dust."(29)

It was the rejection of such life, which she hadn't chosen and lived since her birth and till that moment, aiming at something better which was nothing but a new dress or a clean house , in a better place than that gloomy alley, in which nothing had changed since her early childhood. Everything in that alley repeated accurately and never changed... The bakery bakes bread everyday, and the people of the alley eat it. The café gathers its regular customers daily who never change or increase, the barber and his known customers and Am Kamel the Pastry with his regular dessert which they accustomed to it with its taste and shape.

Thus she felt the rebellion over these shapes and these worn out clothes. Although the other girls wore new clothes, there was a great difference between her beauty and theirs that's why , she said at that moment , that just the presence in the alley was a massive loss, not for the alley, but for her .. As she found her life expiring, day after day, without any progress... the routine which she used to do with the same movements... without anything new... But to continue up to b o r e d o m . She w a s e v e n a g a i n s t t h e woman who adopted her and wished to have another mom rather than that woman who submitted to that bitter poor life in the alley. But, she had figured out that that bitterness was nothing but an unacceptable suffering... And she hoped and imagined a better life in which she could be different and better and to move from living in dark caves to a bright life like others. But the mother refused to let her live the dream, which could not be achieved...

That's how Hamida wished, objected, and even rebelled. And the mother didn't accept all that. She wished her a good stable marriage ended with having babies and possessing a man, there would be no harm to be one of the young men from the

alley who were many. . . but Hamida had created her own world in which she would be something different. Was there anyone in the alley who deserved to be her partner? There was no one who could play that role as all of them were penniless no one could afford that.

Even though it was a great dream to most of the people in the alley.

The writer had created that character, with all these expectations in her mind which couldn't be afforded by any of the people in the alley except for Hussein who could solve that dilemma but, he was a half brother to her.

He was the best looking and he earned much money but, unfortunately, he was of no use for her so she dropped him from her mind. There was no human being whom she could consider as a true man.

Hamida was looking forward to impossibility, and sought it. But could hopes become true? And how could that happen?! That what she was dreaming of and aiming at even in her dreams and thinking how could that happen In spite of her old clothes and her worn out shoes, she knew well how to deal with these things to be the center of attraction and concern whether from the people of the alley or those outside it. All this happened during her afternoon walk with her working friends who were going back home wearing fine expensive dresses which Hamida had dreamt of having.

But how could she own such dresses with these pennies she had? As for her friends who were working and earning much money, they had plenty of these dresses. But, According to the alley's people it's a disgrace for the woman to work. So the afternoon permanent walk was the only source of refreshment which provided her with vitality which was buried in Mrs. Sonia's house and in that alley, which was rarely visited by the light of life .

As the alley was locked on its people except for Mr. Selim who was living in a far castle apart from the alley which he

considered as the place of his business which he had inherited from his late father.

So Hamida adopted the habit of the afternoon walk to release the depression which had loaded her soul. But at the same time, new loads and depressions were earned due to the great difference which was clear between her and her friends whom she was laughing with. But, deep inside her heart she envied them.

But, she had nothing to do towards that.

But admitting a fact by which she had believed d u e to the poverty through which she was living and the wealth through which her friends were living.

• The Jewish women's life is the real life.

Her mom replied angrily:

• You're the devils' follower and I'm against your sick thoughts.

Hamida preceded her words to annoy her mom more by saying

• Couldn't I be a daughter of a wealthy man even if it's illegal (42)

This dialogue was a clear proof that Hamida was completely rejecting her real life.

At the beginning, her rejection was a kind of superiority on the alley's people and a kind of evaluation to the rest of the people in the alley.

But, actually reality never changed with words. There had to be an incident or a real action that would change it. But, she had nothing in hand to do but the words to her mom. According to her mom, life is a blessing which she wished to last. While Hamida, considered it a curse which she wanted to get rid of in order to be replaced by heaven. Then, Naguib Mahfouz had increased the heat of that conversation as a preparation to the coming change but it needed certain introduction which was converted in that conversation. The rejection of her life in the alley just as a kind of rebellion on reality. Then the conversation

created a different kind of rejection when the mother stated the reality of that life. She had envied the life of the Jewish girls who enjoyed remarkable freedom and wore modern clothes unlike her traditional clothes. So, Reality of life according to her was to have these expensive modern clothes and to be free from the restrictions of the inherited customs and the sacred traditions

Hamida had confirmed her rejection to the life in the alley and her longing to a life which she knew well that she couldn't reach as long as she stayed in that alley which followed the traditions literary... But that was nothing more than a dialogue... a discussion between the daughter and her mother, but, the rejection did not stop at this point... but it increased the heat till the mother cursed her daughter by calling her a daughter of a devil for rebelling against her life and preferring the life of the Jews to the life of the Muslims and that was completely denied specially by people who were raised in Al Hussein area which was known by its religious spirits. That what made the mother reject her words. Even when Hamida continued her words with her mom, they contained the same meaning but in different words. As the rejection was the base of her words and the rebellion was her way just for hoping or dreaming that dream which she wanted to come true.

As long as the life of the alley was rejected, could not be changed at that moment and as long as the life of others was a fact that the life of the alley was a lie...How, then, is salvation. . . and her words were hinting to two levels . First it's a distant aspiration which may or may not come true. So here question was a rhetorical question which she knew well its answer.

Couldn't she be a daughter of one of those wealthy men?

Of course it's impossible. But, what she had ended her question with, was her real failure and later, would lead to her downfall. "Even if it was illegal."

She is by that statement or that wondering with its known

answer which is considered a hope rather than a question which she believed in and accepted even if it was illegal as long as it would allow her to achieve her dream of living a better life. And that sentence which would actually come true and bring her what she had dreamt of .and more. The events would prove that in time.

That hope to her was just a kind of rejection and a way to rebel on that life which she hated.

Was the poverty which she considered a ghost that controlled their life, the reason behind that desperate hope of moving from that alley to a wider place. The answer would be found through the words of the author which he had described accurately as if it's a painting in which the poet was successful in drawing the main lines and using the suitable colours which reflected the heat of the events and made the reader feel it according to each situation.

The answer was of course not... This would be proved through the progress of events... The girl was carrying inside her a natural desire of accepting the change for the better according to her own point of view.

And to pay any price she was asked to pay regardless of its type or value.

And another proof was her revolt against the reality among which she was raised and with an adopted mom who provided her with care and love as much as she could and didn't deprive her of anything she could afford But, she didn't have enough money to satisfy her greed and expectations.

Those expectations which grew bigger and bigger aiming at achieving a better life which suited her beauty and charm. No one in the alley could secure her dreams but two, one who was a wealthy married man and she would have accepted if he hadn't been married in spite of his old age as long as she would achieve her dreams. And that was a kind of payment which she would pay in return of achieving her aims and it's her youth. On the other side, there was a young handsome unmarried

man who could be the dream of every young girl but his poverty would prevent her from fulfilling her dream. In spite of being deeply involved in love with her and dreaming of marrying her.

.. Therefore, the latter opinion is the best for her as long as the solution wouldn't come out of the alley, and whenever they meet at the afternoon walk, he expressed his feelings and desires, and told her about his hopes and expectations and walking together side by side in spite of the current attempts from the young man Abbess to win her approval on a private conversation. Hameda, in accordance to her superior look to the people of the alley.

Through which she believed that the youth of the alley were not fit for her so her refusal came accompanied with passion and charm which was her way to capture men's hearts. And he exceeded in his conversation but with very short words from her side and ended the conversation with words which reflected outer refusal but actually it reflected an inner approval.

- "You have gone so far....no ...no ...

Leave me." (44)

So, What's meant by these words which reflected her refusal and in which she repeated her refusal four times and ended the words by saying "leave me" in spite of not touching her , he was just walking by her side. And she could have ignored him to end that situation... But, as she had exchanged the discussion with him regardless of her acceptance or refusal. So that situation was done and the refusal was just a kind of passion derived from the superior look from one of them to the other as according to Hamida, they weren't equal. She was Hamida who believed she was higher and greater than that poor barber who could hardly earn his living day by day so how he could fulfill her dreams of a comfortable life so he wasn't worth her. But, at the same time she thought accurately if it wasn't for that good looking poor barber that she would give herself, for who else in that alley she would do!?

That's why her refusal was accompanied with passion to

keep for herself that upper standard but in her inner heart , she was tending to that flattering which made her feel her precious value as a female.

And that was reflected through the author's words on Abbass's behalf:

"She has exchanged long conversation with him and if she aimed at ignoring or stopping him, she would have done it easily ... so she didn't hate him ...May be she's acting like other girls or may be its shyness which made her escape to stop his words." (45)

That was Abbass's view to Hamida's behavior most probably, he was partly true, not completely ..... And from that view he didn't give in. And for Hamida, she didn't hate him ... but it wasn't love which meant a deep love relation but the destined end of marriage, having children..... etc.

This is typical of life in the world, or in the alley. So she saw no harm in keeping him for herself for the time of need and no more... If life got worse and failed to achieve her dream so Abbass would be the one whom she could spend the rest of her life with. But she was still seeking someone who could fulfill her dreams which were suitable to her beauty and femininity, which exceeded the rest of her gender whether inside the alley or in the neighborhoods. She had no doubt in fulfilling her dream and she continued dreaming hoping to fulfill even a part of that dream or a temporary dream which she would live and feel but quickly, she woke up and realized that it was just a dream.

Hamida had never felt what destiny had saved for her... As she continued her regular hobby. whether the afternoon walks or at the early night , walking in the side streets of the alley and discovered in the presence of the people their feelings .when she became satisfied with what she had watched, she returned home and so on doing the same daily. Hoping that one day she could accidentally meet the one who could fulfill her dreams but when!!! Then, Abbass retried again to win a word from her .He

never lost hope as he was trying to arrange everything by the help of Hussein Kersha, who was earning money by working in the British camps. And that what Abbass had rejected most. . Could he leave the alley which was considered a house to him? It was like the water to the fish if it left the water, it would die. But his deep love had given him a push and motivated him to leave the alley temporary to earn the money which Hamida wanted to fulfill her dreams as he knew well that she dreamt of having so many things. That's why he had arranged that travel and settled on that decision … So he decided to meet Hamida to report the great news to her. Hoping to win a date with her. On the other side , we found Hameda trying to show a rejection accompanied with her usual charm to his offer till she heard from him about his plans of traveling and earning much money by which they could fulfill all their dreams.

Hamida had commented on that with a few words only:

•"Really? When will that happen ..?" (84)

So Abbas, was involved in wrong when he led that route which he hated but he was ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of his love. He knew well all about Hamida's expectations of wealth which exceeded his financial abilities especially with his situation which he hoped to last forever. But his love to Hamida which forced him to do so. That was difficult to leave the alley and the worst of all was to apart from his beloved and not to see her for a long time. Hamida the one whom he loved and was ready to sacrifice everything and to do impossibilities to make his dream of having his rebellion beloved with him come true. As he was sure that she would never accept him as he was … At the same time we found that Hamida's cruel and haughty tone was softened and she gave up her rejecting the moment she heard about his traveling. As she knew well that it meant gaining money which would satisfy her needs and new horizons of happiness that had nothing to do, from near or far, with the alley.

The hope of having a good, luxurious life would come true

with the man whom she liked and accepted for nothing but to prove the permanent life between a coupe, One of them had the wealth which would provide her with what she had dreamt of, and a man who could be a good image in front of her friends who had dreamt of no one better than him even if, he was poor.

Therefore, till that moment, Abbass was considered a victory to be won over her friends. And if he was put in a comparison with Mr. Selim Elwan, he would win immediately by her heart due to the great difference in age and that he was a single man whom she would be his only wife. According to that change, Hamida had converted her rejection to a limited acceptance without revealing what's inside her, hoping that her luck would change. As in spite of encouraging Abbass on his project, she was still hoping, she could meet someone who would be better; she would never hesitate to accept him without considering Abbass's feelings. Perhaps, it could happen but how? And when? She couldn't predict. That's why she followed the idiom which says: "A bird in hand is better than ten on the top of the tree." And Abbass was that bird whom she controlled and imprisoned helpless without any feathers to fly. So there would be no harm in looking for a falcon, not just a bird. And perhaps, she could find it and at that time, she would open her hand to throw the bird away. And that what was actually running inside her mind and heart.

So, she wasn't a girl like the other girls but, she exceeded them with great arrogance that had no limit. She wanted something, but things. Actually she wanted everything ... How? It didn't matter, but she wanted to possess everything and what she had in hand wasn't sufficient to her. As, she wanted more...

Although She had approved and accepted by Abbas as her partner, it wasn't out of her love or that he had convinced her... but it was out of possessing the best of those in front of her or in the alley She was completely the opposite of Abbas, who accepted that situation and made sacrifices which were unbearable to him for her sake. As he considered her the only

hope for whom he lived and ready to do anything for her. Everything, even leaving the alley which he considered the air which he breathes and he preferred to leave, to sacrifice his life to win her and to make her happy. It was a true, virtues love as he had no expectations but winning his beloved heart.

Hamida had accepted his plans without considering his sacrifices as long as it would end up with a great wealth, money, luggage, a change and a break of the reality. All this was enjoyable even if the price was the depression of the soul which accepted that sacrifice. And she just rewarded him with her selfish by which she wanted an assurance that what he said was true. And asking him to hurry his travel as she wanted him to repeat his plans in details not generally. Then, she added when? As she was in a hurry to change the reality in which she lived. And she continued with the hope of a new fruitful era with which she would achieve her dreams.

The author ended that agreement by saying, And walked together, with her hand sinking in his warm hand and felt his fingers tightening up with tenderness and heard him saying: “We’ll always meet, won't we?" and they were parted but that time there was a …. Promise!!! As Hamida had accepted and was satisfied with that promise but that was against her will as she wanted to keep Abbass in case, she didn't find someone better than him. As she had expectations which greatly exceeded her reality. But, here there was a change provoked from the alley and, in spite of being less than her ambition; it was considered a good chance till she could find a better one.

The poverty and misery ended up with her to seek impossibilities in comparison to her reality in that alley and her miserable breeding which lacked everything even the presence of a family. And, in spite of all the above things, she asked for extremes, counting on her remarkable beauty and passion in comparison to others in the alley or outside it and that was clear through her daily afternoon walks and even in the Olympic cinema which she used to go with her mom and watching the

movie stars. She had never seen any woman who was prettier or more attractive than her. Therefore, she's not less than them so she deserved a man who could provide all what she had dreamt of and even more. But Abbass could give her a small part of her expectations in case of failing to find a better man.

Hamida with the entire struggle inside her about her life in the alley made her seek impossibility and all her qualifications for that was her beauty and attraction. But the problem was the absence of the men of power and wealth who could evaluate her beauty and appreciate it.

If Mr. Selim was one of those men but, his martial status as a married man who had grown up sons in high ranks and a well bred wife would prevent her from settling and feeling secured in such marriage. That's why she considered him unfit for her.

On the other side, Abbass El Helw who had better qualities or may be all the qualities but what he actually lacked was the major point which was wealth and she had learnt everything about him since his early life as he was raised in complete poverty which made her refuse him without hesitation.

But, finally she had accepted him temporary as a suitable man for her in case of travelling and gaining a good wealth which could provide her with what she wanted and that also under the condition of not finding a better man than him.

So, wealth for her was the base of her choice as the suitable man through her point of view was the one who owned the money by which she could satisfy her needs and make it up for what she was deprived from throughout her previous life.

So Hamida had accepted Abbass's offer after getting tired of thinking and comparing between him and that imaginary knight whom she was dreaming of and had no existence ... but she had made a survey about her working friends with all their nice clothes and the money they earned and living a better life than hers. The major question was if any of them could have a man who's better than Abbass? And the answer was: NO. So if none of her friends could have a man like him

so, she considered him better than nothing.

Then the days which had witnessed their dates which were full of dreams and expectations through which Abbass was mostly denying his choices and dreams to be replaced by hers. As Abbass had proposed to her mom and engaged her. And she started to be convinced that h e w a s the most suitable one for her in the absence of her imaginary knight. She was even introducing him proudly to her friends as:

- "My fiancée, the owner of a barber shop."

She was in such confession trying to show superiority by saying: "If any of them was engaged to an apprenticed at a café's or at a forge's, she would consider herself lucky. While Abbass is a master and an owner of a shop."(102)

That how Hamida was seeking the best of what's available around her. And that "the best" was measured according to her friends' level as they could accept an apprenticed at a café's or at a forge's. While Abbass was the owner of a shop and wore the gentlemen's clothes so he's not a local common man who wore the traditional clothes "el galabeya"

Therefore, in comparison to her friends, she was the best and that what she aimed at. And then, it's time of his departure and he rejected mere shaking hands but insisted on having a warm farewell and she agreed.

- "I can't say goodbye coldly or as if I'm doing something wrong…
- "So, where do you want it?"
- "Go to the house and wait for me downstairs."

And the author had described their date as he wanted by saying: "he surrounded her with his arms tightly and held her strongly to his longing, tender chest, and then he kissed her nose first then moving to her open lips which were ready to his kisses." (106)

So Hamida had reached in that situation a point of an involuntary surrender to Abbass's will who was not convinced

with a mere farewell words of praise and shaking hands, but he wanted to a passionate one in which they exchanged kisses and hugs which provided e a c h o f t h e m with the other's essence Perhaps, that s i t u a t i o n would be a good memory on which they would live when they departed.

But, Hamida's submission to Abbass wasn't a coincidence, but she was ready for something like that or expected it. And that was quite clear in the conversation that took place between them. When Abbas expressed his rejection to a mere shaking hands but insisted on having a warm farewell without clarifying that warm farewell. She accepted immediately and replied: "Where?" not "How?" which was more suitable. But, she was ready for more than that. She followed him blindly and without hesitation. And it was in a dark place away from the people's eyes and it ended after Abbass had reached his satisfaction. Hamida had reached all this after becoming sure that she had a man who was ready to do anything for her.

If she didn't find a better one, Abbass was ready and about to earn the money she dreamt of. Till that point Hamida had fulfilled a great part of her dreams of changing the reality and succeeded.

She made Abbass who was against leaving the alley, leave it willingly in order to fulfill his dream of winning her and so, she would achieve in return not all her dreams but the minimum which was leaving that dark place which had rarely been visited by the sun and go out to the new world as her rebellion on the reality would lead to breaking it and to the coming of a new life which was lived by people. All this could be achieved when he returned home and till that point, it was sufficient to her as long as no better man had appeared in front of her. And that had actually happened after Abbass's departure. When Mr. Selim Elwan had informed Hamida's mom clearly about his wish to marry Hamida … A long discussion had taken place in which Hamida's mom informed him about the agreement which

had taken place in which Abbass proposed to marry Hamida.

Her mom promised to convince Hamida with Mr. Selim who was, according to her hundred times better than Abbass with all the money he would bring. Mr. Selim didn't comment on that situation as in spite of his old age, he wanted Hamida earnestly as he was healthier and more vital than any other young man and thanks to his fatty delicious food.

Till that point, it was just a discussion and didn't come true.

The mother rushed to her daughter with the great news and which she described that it was a change of luck. And that the heaven had poured luck and fortune over them without limits or expectations while thinking of the great wealth of that man.

The news was a shock to Hamida. Was that true or it was in a nightmare? Was all what she was thinking of, few days ago came true so quickly? It can't be denied that she had chosen Abbass by her own will but till the appearance of a better chance.

And maybe, she had thought of Mr. Selim who used to stare at her window before. But, she had never expected that he would declare that news which she described as a black one (bad) ... but why wasn't that news as white as milk (a good one)!!! In her inner heart, that news was great, happy one as it was reasonable and expected for her.

But, the news of the marriage of Mr. Selim Elwan and Hamida was unreasonable, untrue or maybe its effect on her was a shock as it was unexpected and unusual. News.

Then, the other side of that issue was her engagement to Abbass which she had accepted so, it was a kind of commitment which they had announced and assured it with many long dates, long discussions and a passionate farewell one. All this could be ignored and forgotten by her with the news of the proposal of Mr. Selim Elwan to marry her ... of course, she had refused that marriage before but that was in her dreams. In her inner mind.

But, if that news reported by her mom about Mr. Selim's

intension to marry her. And who's that man!!! It was considered a mine of gold or a magic ring which could fulfill all her dreams and more without considering any consequences … So, Hamida had accepted that news and didn't discuss anything with her mom. As Mr. Selim was married, had grown up children who were in great positions in the society or even his old age. All these things weren't in her mind. All what happened to her as the author described:

- "her face became brighter and murmured whether out of the surprise or happiness." (138)

Then, in her eagerness during her conversation with her mom:

- "What did he tell you? Tell me what he had said, every single word?"
- "What will the people say about us?"
- "Let them say what they like to?" (140)

So Hamida had become completely the opposite. What inside her was like an active volcano which she wanted to change her reality by any means?

Hameda had lived her life since she became mature and her beauty started to be clear on the hope that she could find a chance to change her life and she didn't give up. When Abbass proposed to her and left the alley unwillingly, to bring the money which would fulfill her dreams of a better life according to his point of view. But, according to her, the departure of Abbass could provide her with the minimum of her ragged expectations.

In spite of all this, Abbass was considered a winning card for her not to the expected level but it's better than nothing. That was Hamida's point of view, Abbass was considered a step on the road and that step was a changing point away from the alley.

But, Mr. Selim was considered the second and the vast step which would not only take her out of the alley but also would lead her to superiority and permanent light. The man was worn out of old age but he was filthy rich and his money would convert her life to permanent happiness not only her but her

mom as well. That would never happen with what Abbass would bring from his departure and who knows how long it would last or he would fail to bring the money.

Therefore, Mr. Selim was the best choice and securer than Abbass. And the commitment with Abbass, his engagement could be cancelled as if it had never happened and no matter with what her mom saying about that engagement as she replied: "Throw it in the bin." So, Hamida had made a final decision. Concerning the people's opinion, Hamida had never worried about what they would say as she had never put their words in her consideration.

Hamida didn't deny the news or reject even with the usual words.

Thinking of that issue, made her drop the past with all its events and calculations. She made a new start and considered her life a blank sheet.

She wanted to forget all what had happened between her and that man .She thought of that issue from all its sides and started to count her financial benefits without any sacrifices or risks.

That's how Hamida had arranged her thoughts q u i c k l y . She had j u s t made a simple replacement as if she was replacing two pieces of chess to kill the king and win the game. And actually, her decision was the death of one of the two. And logically, the one who would die in such situation was Abbass who had sold everything and left the alley which he considered his life.

He had deserted his people and dealt with the English and he knew that it's a rough thing but, he did so willingly for the sake of providing his beloved with what she had dreamt of not him. And after all the sacrifices, he would find his beloved with someone else which would actually lead to his end or death. And that result, had made no difference with her. Abbass could die in order that she could live that comfortable life, she dreamt with. And she built many hopes and the mom was as happy as

her d a u g h t e r . As she was thinking that she would gain the same comfortable life as she was the mother and the one who arranged for that marriage with its happy or sad end the same. As long as she would live that change of luck with Hamida so, to the hell with Abbass and those who would criticize them.

But the fate which agreed on choosing one of the two to be a victim, had chosen Mr.Selim to break Hamida's logic and that when the news of the old man's serious illness spread and that he was about to die . That end wasn't expected by Hamida, but it was the fact which had to be accepted by her. And that Abbass's chance of winning her was still available as it was. And what Hamida had dreamt of was nothing but illusions.

Things stayed as it was … Hamida was waiting for Abbass to take her away from that alley. And she returned to her belief that Abbass was better than nothing as after the loss of Mr. Selim, Abbass was considered a good shot till she could find a better one. So, according to her, there would be no harm in keeping him as her step out of the alley.

That's how Hamida lived; she was like the winds which was blowing east and west and never stick to one direction. And she wasn't less movable than the wind in its violence, calmness, cruelty and breathes. And submitted temporary to that humble share, and hoping to find a better one.

The afternoon daily walks was not only breaking the heavy, gloomy routine of watching the regular life in the alley but it exceeded to a try of discovering what's new outside it.

The new in everything , different views, continuous movement, in the presence of people who live their lives away from the regular routine of the alley where the days were the same neither more nor less. And finally, in the hope of winning a lucky chance which could revive the dream which was killed by Mr. Selim's illness. And taking her away from that obscure life with Abbass. Actually, her walks would lead her to what she wanted but, what did fate keep for her?

She met him while walking aimlessly, she noticed his daring

looks. She didn't know that he was her destiny. As when she saw him it was nothing but a chance when she was trying to figure out the reason of that gathering around a huge tent where she found singing, dancing and music and everything was allowed by everyone.

As one of the crowd, she was allowed to look everywhere till their eyes met.

She tried to look somewhere else but she felt that she was surrounded by his looks and whenever she looked on his way, she found him gazing at her.

She didn't let the chance go away… when she returned home, she continued thinking of that stranger who focused on her all the time… was it a coincident and a moment of many which ended by her departure…. Or it was deliberately. When she looked out of the window, she found him still focusing his eyes on her house so it's a new thing.

And the man was looking good and maybe better than Abbass. But, what's inside him was still anonymous. but she had shown him great interest through her window… and in return, he stayed for long times in the alley at Hussein Kersha's café focusing on her window without seeing her, while she was watching his long stay, every tiny movement he did specially his fat wallet from which he got the big pound notes to tip the waiter.

Difference between him and Abbass. From all sides. She resulted from his behavior that he must have been very rich. Perhaps, richer than Mr. Selim Elwan himself. And that was shown through the author's words:

"And Hamida was waiting for his coming day after day with open eyes, but she stopped her usual afternoon walk due to her worn out clothes." (156)

A new game, Hameda was busy thinking of. As after the failure of her engagement to Mr.Selim from the first day which was out of her hands. Destiny had failed her plans … so Abbass was still her winning card who was occupying a big part of her

mind till she could find a better one otherwise; he would be destiny whom she wouldn't escape…

But all of a sudden, fate had sent her that man to the alley and their eyes met, he succeeded to occupy part of her mind and she wanted to continue that game hopefully, she could find what she wanted.

His coming to the café and as long as he stayed and till his leave. Till she became definitely sure that he became a regular visitor to the alley for nothing but her sake.

And the looks, he used to steal to the half shut window through which couldn't allow anyone to see what's inside while allowing her to see all the alley…That's how he attracted her attention and she prepared herself to go through this experience perhaps, it would be fruitful otherwise, she would lose nothing as Abbass for her was a real hope.

Hamida had stopped her afternoon walks for many reasons, as she was going to refresh her vitality away from the alley… to look for something or someone new could allow her to reach her aim so if that aim was in the alley .why she should continue going out. So there was no need for going out at least till she could know what's behind that out comer who came daily to the alley. And she was watching all his features and movements with great concern. So the situation was clear and on her side... But, for how long it would last like that. She was hiding behind the window and that out comer waiting and looking patiently so, she decided to break the ice by going out of the prison. Perhaps, that could lead to any progress. But, what prevented her from going and doing that was her worn out clothes.

But, in spite of that and under a great stress and complete challenging to that man who had shown complete daring which she hadn't met in her shameful position behind the window and her excuse was that her clothes were worn out .. Therefore going out and confrontation were the most suitable

way to achieve her aim or to search for a better opportunity. And so was it. She went to the square to meet her opponent to end it up.

The luck was the common factor which the author had created to Hamida in an ascending order in different situations starting from Abbass and increased till it reached its climax by her engagement … and then another luck appeared with Mr.Selim and it reached its climax in her soliloquy and her discussion with her mom but she wasn't part of Hamida's struggle with her soul. And then she was starting a new luck with Farag started at the tent of the elections and increased and continued it's increasing. And that luck was expending endlessly. .. And by her going out, the confrontation would take place when Farag made up a conversation with her and that what had actually happened.

In that situation Farag was more powerful than her. As he was the man who knew well about women .As for Hamida, In spite of going deliberately for that purpose but, she tried to show refusal and talking briefly while Farag was talking much. The most important thing was that the incident had happened and the man ended the conversation on the hope that they might meet again and he was sure of that:

"We'll see. I'll leave you now unwillingly …but, I'll wait for you every day and I'm not going back to the café in order not to attract anyone's attention in the alley. But I'll wait for you everyday… bye. My prettiest lady. (165)

That meeting ended and Hamida returned to her house in the alley to evaluate the situation. She found that Farag was the stronger. He was the one who started the conversation and ended it and forced her to accept certain situation with a great confidence. But, what happened to her. She didn't react or reject his behavior but, for what reason. He proved to be a gentleman with polite manners and she had thought he was not. And she had the strength and confidence the same as he had. And he had left for her the choice to meet him in a far place from the alley.

Assuring her that she would come. And he would wait for her daily and then ended his words by praising her with words which she had never heard before.

So, it's a new adventure which deserves to be experienced … therefore she had to join that battle and she had thought of the consequences before. If she didn't win, she wouldn't lose anything… Moreover, He was the one who had taken the first attempt in that relation. First, by his wild daring looks, then his daily visits to the alley, his interruption to her loneliness and starting a conversation, his concern and choosing a suitable place to the expected date. As if he was controlling her and giving her instructions and was quite sure that she would follow him blindly without any objections. All her boldness and wildness had disappeared in front of him but she decided to overcome that strong passion – in spite of her approval at first – and to break the deal which he had made from his side. As, he had to return to the café first then she would decide what to do… She had stayed at home the next day and waited to see his reaction.

Hamida set that plan, motivated by her inner rebellion and pride which emerged from her awareness of her beauty and she dealt with it wisely by using softness one time and rudeness several times. As at the end she knew the power of her effective weapon and controlled it …. And if Farag was a handsome man and in a good shape reflected his high social position and the plenty of his pound notes reflected his wealth, had made a deal with her with discussion. But the primary agreement was made from his side at their first meeting. That man with no doubt, had in hand the starting point and even the end… as what he had done was an unusual admiration. as there was an admiration which lasts for a while and ends quickly or lasts a bit longer and ends…but that one which started till that time and hadn't ended yet ….

As the other side insisted on preceding the conversation and the event otherwise, he wouldn't have left his work and stuck to the

café on that previous days. Then chasing her as soon as she had left the alley for her daily walk. Then daring to talk to her. All that had one meaning that he was keen on having her. But, the question here was what the real motive behind all that is? And the logical answer was the same … his great admiration. Exactly the same as Abbass who was an admirer then he tried to talk to hero her ,and succeeded and these talks lasted till the happy end, their engagement and the promise of marriage, and he had left the alley unwillingly aiming at collecting money which would allow him to fulfill all the dreams , through his point of view.

Then, that admiration was confirmed by Mr. Selim Elwan who was in no need of leaving the alley for the same reason which pushed Abbass to do so. As he was very wealthy and in no need of money when that man who was deserted by youth many decades ago, thought of marriage no one but Hamida was chosen by him and he made up his mind to accomplish the deal without any hesitation .

And she had felt that she had achieved all her dreams and her mother's too…but, the fate stopped that marriage and she hadn't complained as Abbass for her was under her power... Therefore, that man whom she liked and felt satisfied with, had nothing towards her more than what Abbass and Mr. Selim had love and admiration…a couple of dates and a plan of marriage and in that case he was better than them both and he was more handsome and decent than Abbass and wealthier than Mr. Selim and that what she thought due to his way of spending money easily so he excelled them both in their distinguish sides.

So, he was a good shot to her from all sides … and she insisted that she was the one who would take the lead that time not him. As he gave an order and was sure she would follow. But that time, she insisted on leading so she decided to defy him. She wouldn't go to meet him in the place and the time he had set and he would wait till he got tired. So if he failed to fulfill what he planned to do so he would try to see her…

or at least to be close to her. And no way for that but going to the alley and sitting on his usual chair in the café in front of her window and at that time she would see him with the eye of challenge and victory…and that was her decision which she had fulfilled ..Late at night, she saw him coming with a smile of surrender on his face. She was waiting for him and they exchanged looks through the opening of the window. And when their eyes met, it was a deal and an apology from his side.

Farag had accepted that reconciliation …and she had accepted his surrender and she found that she had to arrange what she would do on the next day.

And then we find that the author w a s stressing on Hamida's attitude towards all that till the following date:

On the next day, at the afternoon, Hamida left her house with a heart full of passion, challenge and love of life. And no sooner had she left the alley then she saw him on a distant standing a t t h e crossroad of El Ghoureya and El Sekka Al gedida."(180)So, Hamida refused to follow his bare order till he had shown complete submission to her plan which was nothing but an inner order and the condition of accomplishment was from her side.

And as Farag had accomplished that condition without discussion and surrendered to her and came with a smile on his face reflected h i s tolerance and submission. She wasn't less than him in following that condition.

She had prepared herself and got ready to that date with the hope that she could win a proposal from him… and concerning her complicated character, the author had described her as a woman full of passion and longing. That feeling which made people pays their life to see her beloved. And at the same time, a challenge and not surrender to the other controlled her. And beside these two contradictions we find, her passion was over whe lming her. So, they're complete contradictory feelings. But that wasn't strange on the character of Hamida which held inside

her the same contradiction. One was in her genes and the other was acquired. Since her early life, she obtained the beauty and feminine and all these natural qualities. She w a s b o r n w i t h t h a t b e a u t y b u t i n addition to that she had experienced a great poverty and that was acquired as it was easy to change. Mr. Selim was able to change it except for the illness which conquered him. And even Abbass was able to change when he would come. So Hamida was living the contradiction therefore there was no wrong in keeping it inside her.

She was preparing herself for her afternoon walk but that time; she wasn't aiming at enjoying her time with what she would see on her way as usual. But she was expecting surprises might happen and what her reaction towards that man would be when she met him. Was she supposed to ignore him completely or talking slightly with charm was her best style... Would she exchange words from the first moment or wait till he became frustrated then she would give him hope.

Would she smile as soon as she met him or look a bit firm ...All these thoughts passed in front of her eyes and in the middle of all these probabilities which she thought it was sufficient for that date. And to become the leader of that situation and while leaving the alley.

Hardly had she had few steps out of the alley when she saw him and started to apply her first steps of challenge. When she ignored him to continue one of the ways, she had thought of. but, the unexpected surprise that he had neglected her ignorance and came with steady steps towards her and held her hand as if he had known her long ago.. And that was enough to destroy her plan to keep her pride .as that behavior had broken all what she had prepared to control that situation and as usual, he controlled the situation and became the master of that meeting from its beginning to its end a s he started his conversation after holding hands:

- Good evening my dear. (180)

And ended his conversation and date after it became fruitful:

• Don't forget our date tomorrow.

We'll start a new wonderful life .... I love you. I love you more than life itself. (195)

That incident which was considered a turning point in Hamida's life, didn't last more than an hour but it was considered a whole life in comparison to the great shift she had achieved and she didn't know what fate had kept for her. But from her challenging view, she wanted to prove to herself and Farag that she was a stubborn opponent to that bold invader.

And through that challenging point, she accepted to leave her hand to him as if she wasn't concerned but in her inner self she was living a moment full of passion which she had never experienced before. But it was that stubbornness through which she refused to reveal what's inside her.

Farag wasn't such a naïve man that he didn't let her play that role so his conversation was a kind of challenge to push her to go along with him to reach the point he wanted. So, she accepted to have a drive with a taxi which she had never used before, with him. And that was the tip of the thread .the taxi had taken them far away from the alley to street which she had never seen and watched a type of people whom she had never dealt with before many through the movies only. But she was watching them with her own eyes and to socialize with them.

That was Hamida who wanted to prove that she was greater than that experience and she was believing that that man would propose to marry her exactly as the others had done not long ago.

Therefore, she believed she was safe. Even she didn't refuse his invitation to visit his house, challenging him greatly. As if they were two opponents in a wrestling match and she had to hold on as she was sure of her victory.

Hameda had gone so far with Farag without showing her fear and at the same time, she had experienced great happiness which she didn't want to admit it in order not to make him believe that she had surrendered.

And if Farag had spent some time with her and she was accepting his company without any hesitation and walked with him, took a cab with him and then entered his house or as he claimed it was. Then he started to reveal the reality of her life in the alley which she was in no need for anyone to remind her of. As she had stuck to it since her birth and till that time. But after allowing her to experience that new life and to feel the vast gap between the past which lasted till an hour ago or more. He had created a bitter conflict inside her in comparison to that new reality. That struggle inside her was her way to the downfall which started since that moment. And the clear rebellion on a fact, she lived and rejected without learning anything about its contrast. But, now after practicing a new life which fascinated her.

So the rebellion had taken a different trend as it became the bright opposite to the gloomy fact. And the struggle divided into two clear poles controlling her at the same time and she had to choose between them.

From the very beginning, she was against the first pole, the alley's life with all its dirt, narrow streets, boredom...etc. And Farag had created a new world for her to make her choose. And did Hamida after spending all that time with Farag claiming that she was his equal .And even after taking her back home in a taxi instead of walking she didn't ask him to meet her the next day as he wanted. And that refusal was nothing but a kind of self satisfaction and she knew well that she was a trick not refusal.

The strangest of all was that Farag himself knew that well. He had even admitted her reality to himself which Hamida hadn't known about herself.

Farag had made her witness reality which was completely differed from hers with all measures as if he wanted to cut it short in order to move her to his world as he knew well her expectations through her looks which revealed what was inside herself... and that new fact was nothing but a clear vision

for a life which she hoped to live the lowest level of it whe ther by marrying Abbass or Mr. Selim... But that new comer made her see the maximum level of what she was longing to .and left her to spend her night thinking and he was sure would come the next day. She had enough chance to take her decision which was to surrender when the comparison between the two facts was the judge. And a girl like Hamida with all the expectations she had and the worn out clothes were on his behalf. and that how those hours had passed with a great conflict between the two facts … She heard noises coming from the café and its customers which she bored and rejected many times since she realized the meaning of life, even few minutes before meeting Farag .. She had rejected that reality without seeing other alternatives, on the hope that she could fulfill by marrying someone who could completely move her from that alley regardless of his age or looks as long as he would take her out of that alley to a better level …so Abbass, Selim, Farag whoever as the motive wasn't love or the simplest passion but it was money which she was seeking and would allow her to forget a life she hated to a life she sought.

According to that Farag won over Abbass and Selim with his wealth which she witnessed and saw for a while. Moreover he was better than Abbass in his appearance and Selim in his wealth. Therefore, he could provide her with what she wanted. That's how she spent her night. Two clear images which prevented her from sleeping till she settled things down. As she had to choose a life and forget all about the other. Regardless of the consequences she would never retreat from choosing the new life as she had rejected the old one before.

Although Hamida sought the new life, her pride prevented her from following Farag's orders so easily. She wanted to do anything to be his equal as he had won over her in all the previous occasions. She went to see him with the intention of accomplishing her desire to take the lead even for once... but even that hadn't happened. When they met, he didn't show

any concern and she expected him to repeat the same script of the previous day, to hold her hand in order to take it back but he didn't give her the chance to do what she planned to. When she saw her friends, she tried to return to avoid their sharp words. So he met her and started a conversation that ended that situation on his behalf:

- Why did you come back? She was a bit hesitated and murmured:
- The girls of the workshop.

And he answered comfortably:

- Then to Al Zahra, no one sees us there.

That's how the events evolved to reach its climax after Hamida had submitted to him without hesitation at least in that situation. If she had paused for a while before answering him, she would have reached the point she wanted. But, she answered him quickly and that what had comforted him. As her reply was, according to him, an approval from her about what would happen from and to her. She wasn't reserved in her answer and that reply had a clear positive meaning according to him. She wanted to return because of the coming of her friends as she wanted to avoid their sharp remarks. So going back to him and escaping that situation was a salvation of her.

So, if it hadn't been for those girls, she would have continued her plan till he followed her. And that incident was enough for him to clarify her approval of what he would force her to do till certain point. And he would see, whether she would continue with him or not. But, he was sure she would. As long as she had come to meet him after thinking of that situation all night, she would continue as she did it with all her will.

Therefore, her excuse here was her fear from the girls, nothing more so, he became comforted and took the lead by choosing the safest way and she followed him blindly.

The rebellion and her desire to change the reality which she got sick of. And her confidence of her beauty and overwhelming

feminine by which she had excelled the other girls who lived in the alley or the other alleys in the district. Moreover, feeling that her mom wasn't her legal mom but she had only brought her up in that alley and that her appearance and beauty didn't fit that alley .therefore, rejection was a main point in her life and continuous expectations to the best which she didn't know how to fulfill but, only heard about from Abbass and dreamt of it all when her mom reported to her Mr. Selim's proposal to marry her. But all those were just words would happen after a year or more if she got married to Abbass who was erased from her mind after learning about Mr. Selim's proposal. And then, the reality there was clear in addition to her former intention to rebel against her life. The only obstacle was her feeling that Farag was the one who took the lead and she had to obey and that what made her try for only once to take the lead and to be the master.

Even taking a cab for the third time, he was leading that situation and he had done what he wanted. She wasn't refusing but only rebelling , just to make him feel that she could excel him in something as long as he was the one who was seeking her love not she. So she could accept or refuse and that wasn't away from him and he wanted to give her what she wanted and to fulfill a dream which she couldn't till that moment. And that was at the time he welcomed her to convert her from a life, she lived for about twenty years to a new one with all its features. And that was considered a bit difficult on him but with all his experiences he had paved to that change with a confession which he didn't mean any tiny word of. :

- "Only God knows that last night I didn't sleep an hour. Oh dear, you don't know what love is. But today, I'm very happy and I'm feeling I'll go crazy of happiness oh God

I can't believe my eyes. Thanks my love thanks. Iswear I'll make the happiness like rivers which you'll step over, how marvelous will the diamond be round your neck (and touched her neck), how beautiful will the gold be on your hand

(and kissed her hand) and how attractive will that lipstick be on that lips (and he was about to kiss her lips when she moved her face away so he kissed her cheek) what a rebellion attractive woman."(202)

Since Hamida saw Farag , She had felt his superiority as his wild looks which had chased her and she couldn't challenge him .she had just glanced in his direction out of shy or fear . She couldn't challenge him with a long look as he had done. And what he had done by coming to the alley and n o o n e knew the real reason behind his regular visits to the alley but her. Was that because he was the man? Maybe, but that excellence had lasted later. Even after she had submitted to all what he wanted. But perhaps she got bored of that superiority and it was time to prove that she w a s a woman w h o m h e wanted otherwise he wouldn't have spent all that time and money to win her. As for him, Farag knew through his experiences with women and wanted to give her what she wanted in order to reach that turning point easily without that rebellion which he had felt through her behaviors. So when he confessed his love and suffering, he didn't mean any single word in that statement but the situation evolved and he had to show her some loyalty to make her feel even once that she was the leader as that was enough to satisfy her arrogant . And he was sure that she would feel satisfied with his words. As he had confessed his suffering and insomnia since their last date and till that minute and then she had exchanged love words but at that time, her words were sincere , not a compliment. His confession was sufficient to remove the sense of challenge inside her. It made her the leader and he would be lead. And that what she wanted and planned to fulfill it. Then, he evolved in his discussion. As he had paved the way by telling how important she was to him, the word "love" became the question to pave another way which he knew well that it was locked. As Hamida through his point of view, had been created for love but for something else and he was glad with that thing but that thing was the center of his concern but

there would be no harm in mentioning love as it means a lot to all girls. There would be no harm in using that word to reach the aim he was seeking. And from Hamida's psychology, she couldn't do anything but submitting and that was what all Farag had aimed at. Therefore he continued his words to discover her weak point and because he was an expert with women , he started by stating her outer qualities first was the neck, then the hand and kissing it, and finally the lips which Hamida prevented him from kissing it but he kissed her cheek. At the end, he made a try which was a great success. And then, he planned to continue the conversation which would lead to her complete surrender and in spite of that he wasn't on a hurry to end his plan. But, he wanted her to feel that she had taken the lead of everything, even for one night, just to satisfy her arrogance. According to him, there would be many nights and he would achieve what he wanted and she would be his follower after that. She had fallen not then but at the moment he had seen, discovered, chased and fulfilled what he had thought of literary. He was a master of profligacy.

And, because Hamida had the beauty, feminine and a permanent poverty of a life full of misery and expectations due to watching different life outside the alley and on the cinema where she saw a bright picture of people from different level in comparison to her she excelled some of them. Then, the chance, she had with a man with such power and wealth. She had realized that what she was seeking would destroy her, but it would allow her to live a life which she had dreamt of. And Farag had started to state every kind of jewels could suit each part of her body which till that time, she hadn't realized how precious it was. She had surrendered from her inner self but, as usual , she insisted to be the one who would state the time of that change which would destroy a cruel past in which she used to live with great honor and purity then creating a shameful present but a prosperous one in which she would fulfill her dreams. Then, it only a matter of stating the time and for the

place, she had settled in and liked it and on the other side ,Farag wasn't on a hurry as long as his prey became between his hands with her own will. So Hamida had started her life by exchanging her old, worn out clothes with a bright dress as a start to a different life. And it was her first step to her downfall and destruction but it fulfill a ragged desire of a new life which she had longed to, and searched for without any hope. She was ready to accept any man without any conditions but to be rich. She didn't put in mind that the man could be a lover not a husband. But as long as she didn't find what she wanted in a husband, no harm in accepting a man who had the money as a lover. That what she had ended up to by taking off her old, worn out clothes. She had destroyed a whole life on the way to a new one which she had started with those new clothes. She was like snakes which change their skins. She had taken off the shield which had protected her through her previous life. Although she had done what was in her mind by spending the night alone away from Farag and he had accept to be deprived from that honour temporary, he was on his way to erase all the features of the past and the new clothes was just the beginning as in the morning he had changed the name which she had bore since her birth and till that moment even after changing her clothes. And the name "Teti" had replaced "Hamida" Teti is the present and the future which had destroyed Hamida, The past which she decided to end. Hamida didn't reject the new name exactly as she didn't with the clothes.All what she had done was repeating the name with a bit wonder …Teti! And Farag said while kissing her hand: "that's your new name, study it by hard and forget all about Hamida as she doesn't exist anymore!

Names are not a trivial thing my dear. Names are everything. If you know that life is nothing but names. (213)

So the new clothes and the name which had nothing to do with her realone were considered the huge barrier which separated between two lives with all measures and Hamida or

Teti had stepped a new land.

Hamida didn't reject that new reality after she had got bored of her old life which lasted for a long 20 years and she wasn't satisfied with. And her rebellion had evoked from her attempts to change that life... She wasn't seeking the life of princesses and living in chateaux. But at least, to change that extremely poor life. A move that would take her out of that alley even to another street in the same area as long as she would leave that place which she hated so much. And, she had accepted Farag as a savor while she wasn't concerned much about her life with him as a wife because love wasn't a part of her relation with him. But changing the place was that part which she sought or the whole change even slightly but it's considered a change. That was the same with Mr. Selim for whom she had abandoned Abbass, inspite of her commitment with him for the change. And that was for two reasons, first that Mr. Selim would fulfill her dreams immediately and not after a year or more and perhaps he could fail in his mission. Second, Mr. Selim's change would be great and clear due to his great wealth. So, Hamida wasn't concerned about the man rather than the way by which she would fulfill her dreams regardless of other qualities. And if Abbass had left for an unlimited time, maybe a year or more he might return with or without money or maybe wouldn't return at all. And what had happened to Mr. Selim was a shock to her as it had shattered all her dreams and expectations which she had spent a whole night planning to fulfill and it was ended. She returned as she was and she was rushing the change. So, what the third man had presented was a thing that she couldn't refuse. All what she had done was exercising her usual hobby of having the upper hand in dealing with things but she failed in that with Farag who finally let her practice that feeling of controlling things in order to settle things down with her to be able to lead her to the end without retreating. And he let her spend her first and last night alone. But that was after taking away part of her past by

making her change her old clothes which was connected to her old life and then the name which was related to her past twenty years, her whole life. He had erased it with some letters…Teti and it was. And here, Hamida had thrown all the past behind her back and she accepted her new life which she hadn't known what's behind… but it didn't make difference with her as she had stood on a clean ground and her sight fell over elegant things so it's a great difference.

So the life in the alley had come to an end and it didn't come down but continue steadily with Hamida who had started a new dramatic line.

From its beginning, but it was a rapid one unlike the alley with its anonymous rhythm … As Hamida had earned in less than a day a new dress and a new name. And she wasn't hesitated or rejecting even when Farag led her to his own school to learn dancing with different styles. She was only keeping a question about her destiny. Would it end up with her like those dancers?!! And she didn't receive a sufficient answer but, it was a short one through which he had reserved part of her pride as he had made her choose that life and that submission with her own will . And she had chosen without refusal or creating a discussion with him and the events passed quickly. And Farag reveal his meanness in his first soliloquy before making her non- virgin as he had given her to another man who would pay him fifty pounds to spend the night with her. So, Farag had taken off the veil of decency and revealed his real mean character without any acting when he said: "wait…wait, the English officer wanted to pay fifty pounds willingly as a price for a virgin."(221)

Hamida had surrendered with all her will and let that man who had shown her a new world which completely different from hers, lead her. She accepted to do anything to keep that life whether by becoming a dancer or else. A she had prepared herself to the great change in which she would find a solid ground to stand on without any reservation. and to satisfy a

desire which she had practiced with both Farag and Abbass but, it wasn't a real one as it was accompanied with other feelings. With Abbass, it was a feeling of worry from being seen and that ended with a scandal and with Farag, it was a kind of caution to avoid falling and she was still living in the alley so it would lead to terrible consequences. It meant that she had received that desire with great worry and fear.

But then, while she was in that world and that small room which was locked like the alley but with great differences. So she was ready and discussed it with herself accurately and agreed with herself that the price had to be paid immediately and she would gain more desire and passion without reservation as there would be nothing to fear. She was ready and waited for that as Farag had to take the lead in that step. She had wished since her first meeting with Farag to take the lead but, he was always leading her which frustrated her as she had to follow all the time but, in that situation she would never accept to take the lead. As that would lower her pride which became worthless.

But that could ruin her as a female…that's why she waited for his attack. And, although he was about to do so, A fifty pound note became a b a r r i e r between f u l f i l l i n g t h a t desire or not. He preferred that the start would be done by the British soldier in return of the expected money not by him. And that had never been expected whether by Hamida or Teti. She wanted to give him the honor of making her a prostitute and to keep it forever.

But, he didn't and her reaction was a fight which ended by slapping him in an attempt of revenge to reach his weak point but, he slapped her back violently which made her completely surrender after being tamed by him.

And Hamida answered her desires call which she lived whether with Farag or the English officers or others in return of a generous g i v i n g t a k e n b y F a r a g w h o i n return give her a small part. But, in comparison to her near past it was a great

generousity. She had forgotten all about that past as she was grabbed to the deepest level of profligacy which she couldn't retreat and she had learnt that well. Although she got tired of that life quickly. Besides, she could hardly see any light that could lead her. That was her life which she had started and cut a long term in and she had to continue as long as Farag was there and she started to be close to him by making love with him as she hoped he could marry her. But, that man had never believed in that commitment and started to believe that it was expired between all people. And that what made her desperate in spite of the jewels and the clothes, she wore.

Hamida's lifestyle had developed rapidly, when she went along with that new life, at first, she was impressed by and satisfied with all what she gained from wealth and jewels. And what she saw of different kinds of people, alcohol she drank and dyes that she wore. All those things had grabbed her so quickly till she was about to reach the climax which was difficult to descend before reaching it completely. So, when she had asked Farag to marry her, she wanted her descend to be through him. He was the one who led her to that point which she couldn't retreat as long as he was in front of her and wanted her to continue or at least to keep the place through which he collect wealth. So, he was the one and no one but him could let her Return to the starting point under his protection and would be his partner. That what Farag had refused and fulfilling it to make her understand and submit to the reality by her own will and without any pressures. She felt that she had given away a virtuous man for nothing but it's too late. That was Hamida's reaction from Farag and the life she had reached not forced, but by her own will. Even if that will was under the pressures of various circumstances like the unknown parentage, the permanent poverty and the ignorance then her expectations of a life which didn't fit her. Therefore, when facing her first experience, she fell in a bottomless hole.

We find that the events developed so quickly and that by meeting Abbass. He had returned with the hope of fulfilling his happiness and dreams of marrying her. But he lost her and looked for her everywhere but it was in vain. He found her accidently and they argued together. He was attacking and she was defending and the continuous stress from him which he didn't bore made her confess what she had done and what he had learnt. And out of her desperation from continuing that crooked life and what Farag had refused to correct, she found in Abbass her salvation. But then she was looking to Abbass a completely different look after experiencing another man who had meanness led to her downfall. And the promise which Abbass had previously given to provide her with a good life. Perhaps, it's less than hers but the difference between them was great. Not only Abbass's life but even her life in the alley.

Hamida, who had many experiences due to her work, had grown too wise to let such opportunity go without investing it in many ways. She had confessed to Abbass the truth about that man who was the reason of her downfall and the reason of destroying his happiness; she laid the blame for her guilt on that man who had grabbed her to that way. By that confession, Hamida was trying to defend herself slightly by claiming that she didn't go to that way willingly, but she was deceived by that man. In addition to her feeling that Abbass's words were sincere and he could do something serious by which he could save her from that life.

And that thing was nothing but revenge from Farag. But how could that happen without leading Abbass to a bad end? And at the same time, get rid of that man? Abbass wanted to kill while Hamida wanted to get rid of Farag by other means. That was clear in their conversation in which Abbass reached his ultimate anger. He answered in a ragged desperate:

- I'll smash the head of that pimp…

And Hamida replies after thinking of his words:

- Don't let your desire of revenge destroy your life. Beat

him, disgrace him or even grab him to the nearest police station to destroy him for his crimes. (268)

We conclude from that conversation and situation too, the great desperation which Hamida had reached. That experience through which she had achieved nothing of her dreams but the new outer looks. But, her inner self was in complete destruction and shattering which she got tired of. She tried to rescue her soul by amputation that shameful part of her life by her marriage to Farag. When he refused to fulfill her wish, she felt more desperate as her last hope was vanished by that refusal and she had no other alternatives but continuing that life of shame and disgrace. As she had completely lost hope and her retreat became impossible. As long as Farag was around and she had learnt his reality. And till that time, she had no hope as all roads lead to the same end, her new dirty life which provided her with much money. That money which Farag won the biggest shares of and gave her the pennies. But, in comparison to her past in the alley, it was much as she had saved a lot of money and bought a lot amount of jewels. But for that wealth, she was seeking her salvation from that shame. But there was no way to escape that destiny for a while by drinking, dancing and many other things.

Therefore, her meeting with Abbass which caused her a great embarrassment for a while and that was due to the unexpected surprise. As that man was her past.

The past which she had rejected and challenged the whole world. She was seeking a better place and a better life away from the reality which she had lived in, in the past and still. And she had thought of deserting that life but Farag turned her down and he was the only one whom she trusted and believed in. There was another golden chance between her hands which she had to keep as if it was wasted, she would never find another one. That's why she played the role of a victim in front of the one who adored her and was ready to do anything for her sake. And he was appeared to her as the great revenge seeker who wanted

to kill who caused the destruction of his career and his plan to fulfill a dream which was about to come true. As he had engaged her officially and publicly and blessed the engagement by reading Quran and bringing sweets. Everyone was blessing that engagement and it was only for the money to achieve their happiness. He had fulfilled part of the dream and bought the wedding ring to be more official in front of all the people of the alley. Preparing for the second step which was moving from the alley to a better place that would suit the bride. Unfortunately, all that had been destroyed due to that man who had not only deprived him from Hamida but also destroyed her. So, he deserved nothing less than death and declared his intension in front of Hamida who had found in that intention a rescue and a way of escape that life. She had never loved Abbass and even at that time she didn't love him but she had accepted his loyalty and devotion. But she would never accept his destruction to be the price for his loyalty. She was grateful for what he would do for her. Especially if he caused her liberty and leaving that way, she would be more grateful. So at least, to keep his life safe to live it as he wished. At the same time, she would give him a promise to disappear from his life forever as she knew well that Abbass was a type of men whose pride was more precious than his love. Of course, she knew that he was in love and it's not an ordinary love which led to his deserting to the alley in which he loved his life and giving away his shop which he considered his most precious property and finall, dealing with the English. That idea which he had completely hated and rejected. But he had accomplished all these things for her sake and her love in order to fulfill her dream. But, all that love had never equaled her downfall. So, by her promise, she had freed him from all promises and it's enough to help her as any of the girls in the alley.

So, Hamida was thinking in a double benefit way and the rescue which wouldn't harm the rescuer. She didn't want death which would rescue her alone and the best choice which had no

risks, fear of anyone.

At the same time, it would control the career of the savor who was the old lover who had sacrificed everything for his beloved's sake. Moreover, he was a member of the people of the alley in spite of hating it with all the people inside, that was in the past before her downfall and at the same time, she was afraid of the consequences of that destiny on him.

She motivated him to fulfill her hope of living a good life with dirty money but it was all what she could do. She wasn't seeking Farag's death for the sake of Abbass's life and she was sincere in that. As she would never accept the destruction of the one who would rescue her from that swamp of plague in which she had fallen. Due to that, Hamida had clarified the various ways to get rid of him instead of killing. Those ways would affect and hurt Farag without any consequences on Abbass like beating then disgracing him publicly and finally, reporting him to the police which would lead to his imprisonment after a trial. Therefore, she would completely get rid of him for a while whether it would be long or short, she would have the chance to escape out of that place. And at the same time, Abbass would be in complete safe.

That was how Hamida's mentality arranged thoughts in the words while determining the target without having a bad impact on Abbass. In addition, she gave Abbass, the opportunity of taking revenge for the honour of one of the girl's of his alley. And finally to escape that life which she was sure that her end would come out of. But, it was the only fate which had sent her Abbass, the rescuer and the avenger for the honour of the alley… Al Madak alley. And through that view, the agreement had taken place between them. She was sincere and honest and he was serious in his promise. And Sunday was the due date for accomplishing the plan.

and if Hamida had betrayed that oath, and that through Abbass's point of view who accompanied Hussein Kersha, Hamida who was like a brother to Hamida to show him Hamida

and inspect the place where he would fight Abbass to fulfill his promise. Abbass arrived with Hussein whose eyes lay on Hamida in a position which he couldn't bear. She as sitting around a group of English soldiers in an odd way. Then, that was Hamida whom he thought a victim to that man Farag. Therefore, their judgment was that she wasn't the victim but it was the complete image of betrayal and the death which was supposed to be Farag's punishment, she deserved it best. Therefore the accomplishment would be at the same moment.

Abbass didn't figure out the whole truth as Hamida had given him part of the truth or its base. But as for the rest she had kept from him in order not to overburden him. Farag was a man whom he could challenge and stop by the help of the police, but those soldiers were above the law and they were countless so, neither Abbass nor the whole alley could stop them. Hamida became the betrayal and the accused one in Abbass's eyes in a moment which he didn't plan for. He didn't go there to watch her; he had just gone to locate the place where he would fight Farag.

When Hamida set a date in which Abbass would accomplish his mission, she didn't imagine that he would surprise her at any time like what he had done. If she had practiced her usual job and Abbass had seen her in that odd position, that was nothing but a repeation to a life, she lived and practiced for a long time and nothing new or even strange in her regular behavior day and night. Destiny had its own plans which opposed Hamida's. When the destiny planned to fulfill its will, time changed due to that. Therefore, Abbass's arrival became earlier to save Farag's life and prestige.

Abbass had lost his life by the English soldiers as a price for attacking Hamida and causing her serious injuries. Hamida stayed as she was or much less after she had lost her beauty due to Abbass's injuries. As for Farag, he wasn't affected by what had happened and he was searching for another Hamida.

The author had embodied in Hamida's character in Al Madak

alley the duplication of the human nature but, in different levels. He clarified through that, the individual expectations resulted from the severe poverty. And that quality if it was mixed with the early upbringing in which the ignorance was the main base of its development.

It meant a ragged ambition which wouldn't be control logically and that was supported by her natural beauty. All that made her loose and fell easily and willingly on her first experience with a man, aiming at a change in luck and life which she longed to and couldn't wait any longer which was her waiting for Abbass who was sincere. But, she wanted to win the available chance for fear of Abbass's failure.

Therefore, the struggle which was resulted from Hamida's inner self was due to the change into the better, among a social standard which had all means of the luxurious life and left nothing to anyone else. And that was what Hamida was after till she reached but it was mixed with the loss which she couldn't stand or live with. But, Farag didn't give her the chance to fulfill that dream. So, Abbass was once more her savor, but the agreements weren't accurate and the destiny wasn't on her behalf. The tragedy ended without any change and if there was one, it had reached the lowest.

That's how Hamida was a victim of her poor upbringing resulted from a society which had kept life for its people and left nothing but spines to the rest of the people among that was the alley in which he gathered some of those miserable people.

(2) A beginning and an end

If Naguib Mahfouz had chosen "Al Madak alley" as a title to his novel which represented a place and at the same time, it was a symbol of that poor small world and then the whole world. So, that alley could resemble the real alley and then it could widen to cover Cairo or even exceed to cover the whole country (Egypt). And if we widened our view, we would find that the whole world was El Madak alley. Therefore, it represented the whole world and some of the critics considered that place with whomever inside it as the main hero of the novel. But, over here we focus on a single female character that had carried on her back the burdens of the events and their movement and reached with and by them the end which the author aimed at presenting. And it wasn't the absolute end, but an end of a certain period which symbolized the absolute time in an event which happened in the days, the months and the years of that alley.

And as a continuity to the role of the woman who carried, in Naguib Mahfouz's novels the responsibility of the struggle and rushing the events in all directions. After Hamida in Al Madak alley, the character of Nafisa was presented in the novel "A beginning and an end" and we will track her from the beginning which Mahfouz stated and till the end which he stopped at and it was an absolute end too. And the beginning wasn't the first start but the author had focused on a section of the life, the reality and the time between two points a beginning and an ending.

And on the same trend which Hamida in Al Madak alley had traced, it was repeated with Nafisa in "A beginning and an end" but, with some noticeable changes. Despite the poverty was a common factor between them. And the poverty here wasn't rooted in Nafisa's family as it was in Al Madak alley. But, the author started his novel from that point, and reached with that girl through the development of the events to a dead end as he had done with Hamida.

And Naguib Mahfouz himself answered one of the critics who

asked about his choice to the character of a prostitute in a lot of his novels by saying:

"That judgment wasn't built on an accurate reading. What can be said that mostly, the prostitute, in my literature, is filled with kind emotions and nothing weird about that? Anyway, the prostitute is a human who is comminuted with pain and disgrace despite all the fallacies, and that situation sometimes emerges from wicked souls and sometimes from complete desperate and miserable souls." (97)

And that confession or that answer of the critics question had covered the case which dealt with woman as a prostitute starting from his triplicate "Ben El Kasrein, Kasr El Shouk and El Sokareya) and more… And more focusing on that woman in the novels which we are dealing with. The start was with "Al Madak alley", and then in "A beginning and an end" the character of Nafisa was presented as the author had described by saying:

She had a long thin face, a short lumpish nose and a pointed chin. She had a pale complexion, and a humpback. She was far from beauty and close to ugliness. (17) That girl with all her accurate dimensions which Naguib Mahfouz had successfully

Presented all her features accurately and put her in a frame which suites her. And he had excelled in mixing and choosing colours accurately to be at the beginning or at the end agreeable with her behavior later on. If we added the loss of the father who was considered the fortress of the whole family, the source of secure and protection since the very beginning and till his death.

If the author had given an accurate description to Nafisa's features and shape, we mustn't ignore the other side of her life with a family consists of five members. The mother who looks exactly like her except with the age, then, the father who wasn't included for his death but his three sons had taken after him the good appearance which completely differed from their mother's whom Nafisa had taken after her the humble appearance. As if Nature was unfair in that situation. Finally, it was the fate which would give a moral; no one would realize it till it became too

late.

In spite of her appearance Nafisa wasn't that complicated or introverted girl. So, Destiny which had deprived her from the beauty of face, the beauty of manners was one of her traits. As her early life had a role in acquiring that quality from her mother exactly as acquiring her appearance. So, that girl who was till that point and for her long previous life which were 23 years was taken by the author as a beginning for the whole family after the father's death. So, before his death, the family was living a good life in comparison to a lot of those who lived in that area "Shobra" which gathered inside various contradictory standards one of which was the wealthy man "Beik" who lived a luxurious life in everything starting with his big palace and ending with his expensive clothes and cars. There were too, the mobs that were penniless. The people of the middle level and others… That quarter was gathering them in great harmony and had made limits to everyone which couldn't be exceeded.

And for that, neither Nafisa nor the rest of the family was worried about the burdens of life till the death of their father leaving behind a whole family with no income but a widow pension which wouldn't be available for months. Through that all the family members were discussing their situation and stating their opinion, Nafisa's opinion was nothing but words filled with faith and morals as she was saying:

- "No one dies because of hunger in that life. God would support us. But the real crisis which nothing can compensate is his death. Oh dear dad." (20-21)

Nafisa in that dialogue which the author hinted to as the beginning of the life of a family whose keeper had passed away, without leaving anything to keep them. Despite the mother had admitted clearly the seriousness of their mysterious situation, and the two sons standing speechless, Nafisa stated these words to soften the seriousness of that situation on her family and she was addressing her brothers who were still in their high education. And she didn't want that situation affect them

negatively. Her words were like a cool breeze in a hot summer for the two brothers. So, Nafisa from the very beginning had a great amount of ethical values inside her and wasn't affected by poverty or any other thing. She kept seeing their life exactly the same as it was before. And she didn't realize the real consequences of that crisis as her mom did. The reality of her life hadn't changed inside her yet. She was still living the same life, the circumstances and the situations hadn't lessened her balance of everything. But, who knows what life has kept for him? Nafisa wasn't affected by anything except the loss of her father himself as he represented many good things in her life the best of all was giving her the hope of living without the outer beauty. Although she wasn't completely convinced with his complimentary words, she was accepting them and she reflected those meanings in

Her jokes which weren't stopped whether with her mom or brothers.

So, she was living her life with great satisfaction and hope. The events had continued and developed because life goes on. But, certain change had taken place… the death of the father, the cease of money, the continuity of life, looking for another source of money, the brother's education. The elder brother wasn't working so; both Nafisa and her mother had to face that as they were the house provident in solving that cursed riddle. Nafisa carried that share of responsibility due to that change which was to the worse. She was the one chosen to support the family by making clothes which was her hobby, but it became the main source of the family income.

That was the mother's idea which had found no other alternatives but that one without realizing that she was lowering her daughter's level. Working as a tailor the girl who was till the near past, spoon fed and rarely went out. But, the circumstances had changed and due to the fact, they were living in. Nafisa didn't refuse as she was obliged to do so. As little pennies were better than nothing.

That was the early start; she had taken the house as a place for her work. She started with the landlord who was exerting much effort to help them without knowing that she was leading the girl to her downfall from that start. So, the first money earned by Nafisa, was from that woman, the landlord, Mrs. Zeinab who wasn't satisfied with that little money the family earned and wanted Nafisa to have more clients. There was a bride who was in need of a lot of clothes so she made a recommendation and the bride accepted. That was Nafisa's first step out of the street for work and no one would reject neither the mother nor her brothers as long as they were desperately in need of that money. Therefore, her legs had stepped a new way outside their blocked street in Nasr-allah area which was like an alley. She also watched and discovered a lot, the bride's house which was, in comparison to hers especially at that time after emptying_its contents to cover up their need of food. Then, its location at Shoubra Street and not in that narrow street. Then, seeing that girl who was younger than her but surpassed her in beauty. And finally, the bride's passionate welcome to her fiancée and at the same time, Nafisa was just a tailor. All that was the beginning of a great struggle inside Nafisa. That situation was also considered as a beginning for Nafisa to discover a new world which had touched her feminine instinct which wasn't less than the instinct of any pretty girl. Regardless of her ugliness, she had all the constituents of love and the same requirements. But, she was living in her dad's house and she didn't have the chance to experience such situation.

That was the beginning, as she had seen the bride and her bridegroom in a position which was extremely normal for them. But, for her it was a shock, an emotional one, as she felt that being a girl, she longed to such feelings which would never come true neither now nor late.

Nafisa went out of her street seeking money, but she returned with new ideas and views about a new world in which she was nothing. She had started a career as a tailor inside her house.

But, that time was her first outside her house, to see what she had never seen before. And to experience new feelings which she couldn't drag away. That welcome had evoked previous memories which was inside her and was nothing but daydreams. As due to her ugliness which prevented anyone from proposing to marry her, she had achieved that step to herself by choosing a minister whom she saw on papers and another, who was completely out of reach, her neighbor Farid Afandi. She had a relation with him ended with marriage and she planned to farther than that by avoiding his wife. She went completely far from reality in her imagination to build a whole marriage as if she were an author who was about writing a well knitted novel with its details and events. She created that trick to fulfill a desire which she was sure it was impossible in reality to come true, there would be no harm in fulfilling it in her imagination. That was in the past and she hadn't witnessed a situation like that at the bride's house. Therefore, she was at that time, in a desperate need of a real experience not an imaginary one. As she had witnessed a real emotional situation and she had a frenetic desire to imitate. Perhaps, it would end up as she wanted. She didn't find in that world except Soliman, the son of Gaber the grocer whom she glanced while buying goods from his shop. He didn't suit her but, he was a man after all. A man who had all the qualifications of the youths who were better than him. Exactly the same as she had the same qualities of the women who excelled over her in beauty. At the end, Sex was the difference in nature in all its sides. Therefore, Soliman was her aim as long as no one had proposed to marry her and that would never happen for many reasons some of which were lack of the qualifications which would attract anyone. She wasn't rich or beautiful. Perhaps, she was of good origin. But, her dad had died taking away that privilege so she had none of the qualities which would attract anyone who would seek any of. So, let it be that man who could consider her his opportunity of life as he wasn't better than her in any way. She suited him in form and character.

As he was nothing but a mere penniless apprentice at a grocer's who wasn't handsome at all. So, according to him, she was a rare opportunity and on that thought, Nafisa had built that situation. She wanted to live the situation of the bride with her fiancée. Just a woman and a man… a girl and a boy were gathered in an emotional moment which she was deprived from, till she became twenty three years old without experiencing that feeling even once. As long as she had witnessed such a thing, there would be no harm in trying it. That idea was acceptable to her and she felt the same with that man Soliman. So let it is. Perhaps, that idea would lead to a happy end which could help her to fulfill her settlement like the rest of her sex and it was her right.

Hamida's going out for the first time was considered a violent crash between two realities. One which was lived in the past through different circumstances in which the father was her source of safe and secure.

And a reality in which she started her first steps at the present and which she ignored what was hidden for her by the fate.

And there was the real confrontation in that reality which had affected the inner oppression that had depressed her without succeeding in fighting it. But, at that time, she had a huge amount of freedom because of that job which had given her the chance. P.7

To go out without being questioned by anyone and she stayed for limited time but finally it was a long time spent outside the house.

If Soliman was the only suitable man for her there would be no harm in experiencing her first love affair with him. Who knows perhaps it would end happily and it had to end like that as through her point of view, that young man couldn't win who was better than her as she was a blessing to him from the view of their social standards. She was the daughter of Mr. Kamel the respected employee, the former one but it was a fact while he was nothing but an apprentice at a grocer's. So, anyway, he was

the winner in such a relationship which had to end up with their marriage. That was her feeling towards that relationship.

Areality which caused her satisfaction and therefore, she took confident steps in it. She wanted to feel the moments of passion which she had lived many times in her imagination but now she wanted it to come true. A girl with a man alone together exactly the same as the bride and her groom. She wasn't less than any girl and if her ugliness was the obstacle so Soliman was the most suitable one as he wasn't completely better than her so it was god's willed.

And a conversation took place between them as a start. Aconversation that would create a real situation which would …. Her way which she wanted to reach another starting point. She found a great respond from the other side and sufficient encouragement to go forward without hesitation. She had given him the chance in return to confess without fear asking for a date which she had longed to by saying:

• I can leave the grocer's for a few moments … so wait for me at the main street!

She looked at him in confusion and disturbance. She found a conflict inside her as she wanted to meet him but at the same time she refused to submit easily without pushing for his side. So she said:

• I'm afraid, I might be late. (87)

That was the start… Soliman didn't take that step until he had felt a great respond from Nafisa who had accepted his begging and pushing which wasn't said but it was seen through his looks which were considered his attempt to seduce her whether to succeed or to fail. But, anyway he wouldn't lose… The man knew well that his father had chosen him a bride the daughter of grocer like him following the proverb saying: "Birds are all alike." In addition to the father's greed that was after the business of the bride's father so it was a successful bargain through the merchants' views. Soliman wanted to satisfy his desire as long as it was available so no harm of trying.

Therefore, he asked her for their first date which would lead to another one and another through which he spend good times? He had nothing in mind about a happy end like that in Nafisa's mind and on which she had built her hopes and became sure that she would fulfill her dreams. And if Soliman had met Nafisa without his father's knowledge that was due to several ones which he had achieved before her actual approval. And if she had refused literary but, her approval was included her reply when she said that she approved but she was afraid of being late. She meant that she didn't mind but the date had to be limited and she wasn't afraid of being seen. So, she was afraid of getting late but wasn't afraid of being seen. Till that point and even after the first date, Nafisa was controlling the whole issue.

Long discussions had taken place between them. Begging was from his side to accept a long date away from the whole square during which he could reach what he longed to. And which could be allowed during that short date. He couldn't be late without permission from his dad and in return, she was afraid of being late. Therefore, their first date was controlled by time which provided them with few minutes to arrange an unlimited date.

As for Nafisa, Despite approving both the time of the date and its location, that wasn't easy as it came after a long rejection which was out of fear, caution and sticking of at least one value which was to reveal her reality that she was completely far from those girls who made love affairs out of low birth. She had said that and stressed on it and she was sincere as till that moment she wasn't aiming to anything except a legal end to her love affair. And she had thought that that beginning could lead to that end. That's why she answered Soliman by saying that she wasn't that type of girls who were misjudged by men. She wanted to reach certain point which she had built her hopes on and acted according to it and didn't reject in order not to waste that hope. And in return, he had made his plans accurately to reach certain aim. That's why, he was begging and pushing to reach the

starting point and then he could reach any point he wanted apart from marriage. From that point, both of them arranged and agreed on that date but for completely different purposes. But, it was the beginning which was wanted by them. At the end of that quick date, they set the date and the time and there was a hope inside them:

•Shall we meet next Friday?

She hesitated for a while and then murmured:

•If god approved. (89)

Nafisa had approved that date and she was conquering the fear and hesitation inside her after stressing herself to accept that man as there was no one else and would never be. She thought that that relationship with Soliman was a humiliation to her and her family as she didn't know how they could accept him as a husband to their sister as he wasn't suitable to their social standard. She was aiming of achieving a positive step which would lead to other steps on the same way and would achieve what she had dreamt of. As for him, he had a desire which completely differed from what was planned by her. As he saw her as precious prey which could be hunted easily and at the end, he would appease his desire by a passing date which would soon end to look for another one.

If Nafisa had accepted on that date, her refusal would have led to the end of that attempt without fulfilling her aim. As she thought of that man as there was no better than him and she believed would never find any other alternative. So, there would be no choice except approving. they met many times till she addicted that habit through which she had felt great concern which made her feel her feminine and that she was desired as any other girl who was very beautiful. That beauty which she had lacked evens the minimum of. But that man, Soliman had pulled her out of despair to the peak of hope and the price till that time was nothing but holding hands and hugs and she didn't mind as long as that would lead to a legal marriage approved by god and that could happen. As she had witnessed the same

situation in the bride's house.

The dates were multiplied which lasted for long times. In the darkness of the alleys and narrow streets, he used to meet her alone without being noticed by anyone whether an envious or whoever they were afraid of, to reach with her a higher level which he didn't reach before. He was developing his relation whether with his words or his hands which weren't rejected by Nafisa. That was the beginning which Soliman had planned and Nafisa was living on, hopefully to achieve her aim. And she had seen a situation which had pushed her to exceed in that without any hesitation. Her brother's wish to propose to their neighbor "Baheia" a starting proposal leads to an engagement and ends with marriage. That situation moved her desire to reach that end too. Her brother Hassaneen was still a student and Baheia was about 17 years old and she found who proposed to marry her officially so what about her who was older than her with many years! That was another motive to accept and surrender to all Soliman's limited requirements.

In return, Soliman had felt that surrender which was surrounded with great cautious so he had to break that great cautious to reach a deéper point which he hadn't reach before.and that he was in his beginnings with her and that he had to progress in his devilish plan as long as she was answering his calls and didn't reject his trivialities. Soliman had reached what he planned for as she had found in him what exceeded her thoughts. A real man who had made her feel her real value with his sweetie words which he excelled in and repeated. And he had found a great approval from her side. She had even felt a kind of handsomeness derived from her concept that he would be her husband and the father of children whom she would be their mother. What a wonderful thing. That's why he was, through her point of view had the handsomeness and the nobility which were actually completely far from him.

And that start which Nafisa had cut a long part of, hoping to reach a positive point approved by her family hadn't settled or

developed to meet her expectations but it had developed to meet his. And that was clear when he offered to meet her in his empty place.

That offer was the real start to a complete change in Nafisa's life. And that limited time which she had spent in his house was considered a clear development of a situation in which she was converted from an innocent virgin to a fallen woman. That situation was a point at which Nafisa had to stop for a while to think before accepting. Nafisa insisted on refusing that date to be at his house as if she was guessing how she would look like if she accepted. But, under his stress and the given excuses which would prevent their date. And in that pressure there was a threat which was felt by her, could end their relation in which she had reached a good shot. She had lived moments of fear mixed with passion which she had felt for the first time and wanted to last. At that point, she was waiting for the moment in which Soliman would decide to move to another step and that reasons would be sufficient to accept his offer. Hoping, it would end as the other dates in which she would hear his sweetie words which she loved and he excelled in telling. There would be no harm in hearing more in that isolated, lonely situation and which no one would witness except them in that darkness. Perhaps, that was the same for the man except for taking more than he had succeeded to take in the alleys and the narrow streets for fear of being seen.

The house was deserted from his inhabitants at that time. And darkness had prevailed everywhere so it was a chance to take away as much as he could take from her. But in limits which he wouldn't exceed. That decision could be taken as long as he wasn't involved in the situation and because he was mostly coward, weak and hesitant; he decided not to exceed that point. He had met her many times and he couldn't win more than mere touches or a confession of love which wasn't actually existed in his heart. But at that time, he found it a chance to go farther as the house was empty and there was plenty of time moreover she

had completely submitted to him in all his decisions so he could take more to fulfill his thirst and the time came after a weak refusal ended up to a cautious approval and here the author had registered the moments which ended with Nafisa to nothing:

She was pushing his hand while saying:

- No, I won't go.
- Just a few moments and no one would see us our street is dark.

She followed him unwillingly and saying:

- No… (102) P 12

According to Nafisa, it was a serious thing. As she was a girl who had the virtue of a girl which was considered everything to her or

To any girl.

While he was a man who could reach the climax of the pleasure without losing anything. So it was a critical situation for her and the decision was serious. But the hope on which she had lived forced her to submit to keep him in addition to her desperate desire from her side which she wanted to fulfill but without losing anything. Perhaps that was a motive to push her into accepting or even following his will which she had never thought it would exceed the limited desire. And that was true.

So, we can't ignore the social and psychological view of men. As in spite of the repeated refusal, she didn't mind going on with him to where he wanted and when she pulled her hand from his, she wasn't serious as she had pulled it in a weak way. And she was refusing while following him

Till he had entered the house followed by her regardless of her refusal, acceptance or a desire. She had entered the place where she would be converted to another thing with keeping her gender.

The conflict which was inside Nafisa in that situation and the previous ones, was nothing but a storage of good principles which was planted, grown and pampered inside her for twenty

three years by her father and till he died. That plant was neglected but it was

Still existed and that conflict was the proof of its existence. As no offer from Soliman was accepted by she from the first time or she was the one who started. But it was the rejection not a complete refusal which was followed by her acceptance. And only that meant that there was an ethical value that was inside her but the outside was stronger and then the conflict arose between what's inside her which was the virtue and what's outside which was her need. As the virtue doesn't find a defender, if we put in consideration that everyone was usually in between the two qualities the virtue and the need. If we added that there was a strong side which was on the need's behalf against the virtue, we would reach a definite end that the conflict ended to the side of the need. As the virtue was supported by a part of her power while the need was supported by the other part inside her and the power inside the other partner, Soliman. Therefore, she lost her power and followed him despite her rejection which was followed by her approval due to her need which was strengthened by Soliman and his promises.

In spite Nafisa had fulfilled Soliman's desire while putting in her consideration which wasn't in its real mood that he would exceed the limits and she would submit to him under severe pressure and pushing for fear of losing a point which could be in her behalf. Therefore, her approval was resulted from her fear and her keenness which were accompanied by a partial desire to share those emotions which she had felt many times before with him. But, publicly and not secretly, in the dark. In front of people, not relatives but people who would witness their marriage. As for that date, it would be massive and actually it was.

Till that moment and after entering the house alone in a complete darkness. A place which Nafisa entered for the first time and it was memorized by Soliman. He was the man, the stronger, the seeker….etc. for all that; she was accompanied by

fear, cautious and refusal for fear of falling in a disaster.

As at the same time she was the weak, the humiliated and the desirable. Soliman fulfilled his plan literary starting from kissing hands to touching every tiny part of her body and darkness was a helping factor to both of them. The girl had lost her virginity in a moment of surrender resulted from the meeting of two desires, one of which was passive and the other had caused what we could call a huge instinct explosion by which he had taken away her virginity and it ended up with her as a looser to end the first beginning which would be followed by others which would lead to her early end and every beginning would lead to logical end according to each situation.

Nafisa had left Soliman's house after becoming a completely different person. A woman without marriage to face a new beginning. And the mother receives her as if nothing had happened and she gave excuses to her coming late due to work and she lived several days without being noticed by any of her brothers. And she was acting normally as if she had accepted that change even temporary on the hope that Soliman would solve that dilemma.

Another date took place, in which Soliman found an opportunity to repeat what he had done believing that Nafisa had become under his power as long as she had surrendered to him. He had revealed what he wanted openly without hiding and despite her crisis; she was still carrying a part of her pride which she had shattered, refusing that time and not a mere hesitation which made him to change his way of talking by asking about the date of their marriage without ignoring what he wanted as if the woman was the one who decided not the man. And that wondering had nothing inside him except fulfilling his desire by making her submit and surrender without any comment but shyness and wondering.

So that woman over here,Nafisa, who became a woman as she was no longer than twenty three years old girl who was still

carrying the girl's shyness inside her. As what had happened wasn't completely her choice or even by her approval as it was out of her hands and that was a fact as she was completely in a weak situation which we had mentioned before, in addition to the physical pressure of that man who had taken away her will and the surrender to the man's sexual power which was a natural instinct. All that had made her lose her resistance which had ended by her fall.

But the man claimed that it had happened due to the approval of both sides. He wanted to reach certain aim and he had reached further than that. The other one wasn't less desirable than him and for that he had created his conversation to continue what was desirable for both of them through his point of view. He had even offered her other open dirty places as his house wasn't empty anymore which was sheltered by darkness to continue what they had started, thinking that she was desperately in need of fulfilling that desire exactly like him. But, Nafisa hadn't lost everything. In spite of losing her virginity, she was still keeping her shyness which was awakened inside her. And she was aiming at achieving the hope of having a legal life and it was the only request which she had just wanted. And it was the same tone which he had played in order to convince her to submit to him to fulfill his desire as long as he would be the husband despite the rejection of others; he would stick to her and would defy his father to marry her.

Soliman had given Nafisa that promis when he found complete rejection to continue the relation which he had chosen thinking that she would submit to him. But, she was over here insisting on solving the problem without the continuity of that wrong which she had done in a moment of weakness. And there was no other alternative but marriage to fix what was ruined by him whether deliberately or obligatory like hers. Nafisa in that situation had saved what was left inside her from her pride and the events which would follow that situation had their reasons in addition to her financial and physical needs which she had practiced only once.

But that situation still had a lot in order not to blame Nafisa for what she had fallen in. as it was out of her hands and out of her conscious . She had followed Soliman in order to keep their relation strong. She used to submit to his needs not from the first time but after a refusal due to her shyness. But finally, she followed his desires whether of going out to any place even to Roud El Farag with all its contents, holding her hands in the street or even flattering her with daring words. She was hoping that that commitment would bless that relationship. And if she had accepted these things, she had done so unwillingly even going to his house as she thought according to her point of view that he was after touching her body and if he exceeded, he would kiss her lips and that was the most to her and that had been fulfilled after a long rejection accompanied by fear and cautious and not a complete approval but it was under the effect of his sweetie words which was accompanied by the hope which she had longed to. So he had promised to fulfill what she aimed at and that's why she had followed him but their weakness was stronger than their cautious that weakness which had taken a few moments in which they had lost their conscious and feelings to live that moment

In which their fear of would happen had died and there was nothing embodied infront of them but the pleasure of that situation. Despite all that, she was still having the hope that the days were able to overcome that problem by her marriage to Soliman. If that had happened, the life would settle down as she had planned to. That hope was her main issue and she had succeeded in controlling her nerves that the family couldn't notice any change on her behaviour. She was joking as usual, going out for work and living as long as she had a hope of tomorrow which would fulfill her dreams. And the beginning which she had created was still at its start and she was working on ending it up sooner or later. But destiny fulfills its own will regardless of the accurate calculations of people. And that when she heard about Soliman's marriage to their neighbour the

daughter of the grocer whom he had told her about. He denied that rumor and he insisted on his refusal in front of her and that he wanted Nafisa. Was that true? Or these words were nothing but lies from Soliman to fulfill his desire?

Nafisa ,till the last moment was stuck to that man and when she heard the news of the neighbours' daughter marriage as she was called to sew the wedding dress, she was filled with happiness. As she thought that the girl whom she had considered her rival would be removed out of her way. Therefore the danger would be released. That girl would get married to anyone but not Soliman and that's enough. She could wait till he set a date after his father's death. No problem, as she wasn't on a hurry as long as she would fulfill her dream and fix what had been broken and that dilemma ended before being revealed by anyone. Till that moment, Nafisa was satisfied. But after learning the name of the groom, Soliman Gaber the son of the grocer beside their house, everything turned upside down inside her and all her arrangements were disturbed and the hope died and vanished and the light of the future which she had imagined disappeared and nothing left for her but the ghosts of disgrace and scandals embodied in front of her. It was a critical situation and it wasn't easy to make a decision but it's a must to do something as time became like a flood which she would be buried under, if she didn't act quickly.

Nafisa had spent many days after falling in that sin and met Soliman many times in the hope that they might be gathered legally. She believed that her sin was resulted from her love to that man whom she loved him truly and saw him as a real man who had made her feel that she was a real desired woman and that what she wasn't believing in. She had never heard a comment or a remark about her humanity and feminine except from that man. That's why she had considered him her knight, the real one not the imaginary one. And in spite of that, she didn't surrender to him easily or willingly as we had mentioned more than once before. And that unexpected meeting, in that late hour at night and with that daring in front of his father which was revealing threats. That meeting was

nothing more than clarifying a reality which she had heard and caused her great pains and made her lose everything but she insisted on clarifying it from its real source, Soliman himself. She wished, he had given her excuses for accepting that marriage which his father forced him to accept otherwise he would be banished and that meant hunger and he wasn't ready to fall in that danger. She continued her discussion with him, trying every way she knew by begging, crying and even threatening at sometimes but she had nothing but a complete surrender and a meaningless reply. And when she gave him hard words and insulted him, he was completely passive in his reaction. She wanted him to act as a real man who had made a mistake and would repair it. But, he was avoiding her words and that was clear through their discussion. She was till that moment seeking an honourable life with that man even after revealing his wicked reality which was actually existed whether inside or outside him. But, she had ignored it through her concept of a flourish life which she was dreaming to live with. At that time he had revealed his real wicked character and every ugliness inside him was quite clear and moreover, he was the only one who could fix what he had broken. She tried, discussed, begged and even threatened and he wasn't responding as if he was planned to end that situation at that point. Then he gave a challenging reply in order to convince her that he had nothing in hands to be done.

•What am I suppose to do?

She felt that she was haunted by her anger and despair so she became out of her mind and rushed towards him and pulled his clothes and yelled at his face saying:

• You're wondering what to do! Do you think, I'm a toy which you play with whenever you like and destroy whenever you like?

Then, she moved to lousy words:

• Coward, wicked, dirt, traitor… (123) then, it converted from a verbal attack to a real one which caused him injuries led to his blood shedding.

That situation was nothing but a reflection to her inner struggle which was disturbed at the beginning and then developed till it

reached its climax. Nafisa had found herself lost like a feather in the middle of a storm which had thrown her everywhere since learning about Soliman's marriage. She was till that moment convinced with the promise which he had given to her in their last date.

While asking her: "When will we get married?"

And it was his last words to her. These words were considered her life boat or the continuity of the hope which she longed to.

It was a real fact in her life. She was sure of accomplishing it by a man who had taken from her the most precious thing which was her virginity. And he had converted her whether deliberately or not into a woman in reality infront of him and in front of herself but as for the other people, she was still that virgin girl. She even hoped that their marriage would be late till her family settle down and on the hope that his father might die that man who was considered an obstacle because of what Soliman had informed her about. But, what was new to her and destroyed her expectations, was unbearable to her. That situation was considered an inspection to the news she had heard. And at the same time, she wished, he could deny it. But, his submission which exceeded all the limits, assured her that it was true and converted her blame from mere angry words which she had chosen and meant that that man was a coward, wicked, dirt and traitor. She was stating his reality as he was truly coward, he didn't act positively towards her and she was in a real crisis

Which no one could help her except him? When he gave her away in order to follow his father's order after seducing her and causing her that crisis, it was nothing but definite coward ness completely apart from men's nobility. He was also a low man as he had descended with his ethics to the lowest point when he seduced her with his false promises which were nothing but misleading her to achieve his aim. She called him a traitor as he had deliberately done her wrong and he had no intention of being committed to her by any means. As he knew everything about her, the poverty and the need were the most important of

all and according to his concepts as a merchant, he would never attempt to do anything unless he had counted the profits behind that. Therefore, the father had chosen and the son obeyed as it was a profitable bargain. According to that concept, Nafisa was just a cheap cheap good. And, Soliman had used her to fulfill his desires neither more nor less. He even didn't want that situation to reach that point. As his aim was a shallow love affair assured by some words which he wouldn't lose but, he would win what he wanted by saying them. Nafisa had found a careless, helpless reaction from all directions, she had offered him many solutions and alternatives but he didn't utter what could satisfy her. He had accepted the father's decision and was convinced with it as his marriage to the daughter of their neighbour, the grocer was profitable and as for Nafisa, she was considered a loss and merchants hated that word. Nafisa wanted to find a solution to that crisis and to keep her pride and rescue her from that crisis which would explode and only she and her family would be disgraced as a consequence of that crisis. That family which the street had witnessed its nobility. And due to the psychological development, she reached the point of the actual attack and she actually attacked him by hands without any defense from his side and it ended up with injuries in his face and a blood shedding and for all that, he didn't react and he was submitting completely to her violence. As if he was admitting the crime which he had done and couldn't be solved except with….!!! And he wasn't completely ready to fulfill the deed. Therefore, he had accepted her verbal and physical insults and preferred to sacrifice his blood in order to end that situation without losing anything and he had succeeded in that. And she hadn't achieved anything. So, she had to arrange her life as she had become alone in a crossroad without knowing where to go. And he had escaped to get married to whom he considered a good bargain.

The meeting ended without achieving any progress in that situation. She found that her hope had died and she had to submit to the fate's decision as she hadn't put that result in her

consideration from the beginning. She went to the grocer's daughter where a confrontation had taken place. She had considered her an opponenant. Nafisa had seen her accused of robbing her of her savor and lover. A quiet conversation had taken place but irony was clear from her side without making the bride realize what she was aiming at. The conversation had quickly developed and became exciting as one word from the bride, had caused Nafisa a great anger as after stating the defects of the suitor Soliman and rejected the class which he was from. Badreya had nothing but calling her a tailor which meant hurting her. Nafisa got out of that situation, feeling that she had revenged from Soliman and his bride.

Nafisa had sacrificed the income of that deal just because the groom was the man who had deceived her and the bride was the cause of that problem which she had believed of solving it sooner or later according to Soliman's words. But, in the presence of Badreya who was standing in front of her and showing her the wedding dress and clothes. That situation was beyond her tolerance. Banishing out of the house was the result and losing the income of that bargain which was desperately needed by her family. And she had left the house with a great loss and left before the time with a long period as she was supposed to finish certain work which would last for a least an hour or more in agreeing on the cloths and perhaps taking a deposit. All that could have avoided her certain events. Its most important was her meeting with Mohamed El fol who had come across her accidentally. She wouldn't have met him unless she had left the bride's house early.

That meeting wasn't an accidental one as he had seen her in a disturbed state and not watching her steps. That was logically after the confrontations between her and Soliman and then, between her and his bride. But she left with materialistic loss and psychological victory.

Her look didn't reflect her as a girl who had strong will but it reflected her mental confusion and a struggle controlled by clear

contradiction between the victory and the loss which Nafisa had achieved. That look made the man misjudge her but it wasn't an unfair judgment.

The man had felt that that woman was after something, and that thing was a man. So, she was that type of women who was seeking one of two things or even both of them. She was seeking a desire and she wanted to fulfill her desire with whoever met her. She was in a search for a man. The second thing was her need of money in return of a temporary pleasure given to him or perhaps both of them together.

Therefore, he cut it short, by introducing himself to her and offering to help her to achieve one of her aims or both together. That way wasn't new for him as he was used to doing that.

At that time, Nafisa had nothing in mind but her problem which she didn't find any solution and also, earning money from her work as a tailor which made her contribute greatly in the continuity of life of her family. But, after her situation with Badreya and leaving her house in that way. She was walking aimlessly in the street and didn't know how things had developed till that point. She was evaluating things with herself while walking. So, she wasn't aware of her way that's why she was misjudged as she was disturbed. The real dangerous situation was that man who had an offer for her. He had offered to have an affair with her.

She wasn't in a stable mood to analyze these words but her reaction was violent as she was defending her honour and she threatened to call for the policeman. Till that moment, she was thinking of a way to solve her problem away from the suspicion of her family. As, Soliman had taken that decision, and despite her failure in reaching a solution or reaching a point which would keep the honour of her family she was still sticking to values and principles and she was actually like that. When she quarreled with Badreya, sacrificing her money that was out of her sticking to pride therefore, in return of that offer from that man, she threatened to call the police. That was a proof on her

sticking to values which she was brought up on and she didn't expect reaching that end.

Poverty was considered a problem in her life and she had to get money regardless of its amount. The stability of the family was falling apart and she had the hobby of sewing which had converted to a full time job because none of the family members could earn money, even the elder brother Hassan who wasn't working that's why, she found that sticking to her work was her only solution to get out of that dilemma. The poverty was the start which developed since entering other houses and discovering their lives which made her gain new ideas pushed her to join her first and last experience with Soliman. That experience which she hoped to end in a sufficient way, destiny prevented its fulfillment. And that's all. Till that point, she had lost hope in making up what was messed by Soliman. And it ended with her confrontation with Badreya. It was a very hard situation from all measures and what she had done was the minimum in comparison to whomever in her condition and all that ended by her abstractedness and recollection what she had done and made her calculations and then it ended with that man Mohamed El Fol.

Nafisa had nothing to do but getting out of her nerves to revenge for her pride from all men. As for Soliman who had seduced her and got away with his deed without admitting it but it ended up to accusing her of accepting what he had done. Then, that man who wanted to follow Soliman's lead. To that extent, she became an easy prey to all mean men or others, that's why she reacted wildly and threatened him with what he feared.

Her last hope had passed away by the marriage of Soliman and Badreya and Hassan, her brother, was the one who participated in celebrating that wedding without knowing about his sister's problem.

Perhaps, if he had done, everything would be changed to the opposite as he was a well built man who was feared by everyone. And, because destiny had set another tragic end,

Nafisa had kept her secret inside her heart. That psychological struggle had temporary settled down as if Nafisa had got used of till she addicted it. Sometimes, it increased but it reached a bearable level and then calm down again. As that problem had reached its peak and settled like that. As there would be no change. What had happen couldn't be changed and the criminal had got away with his deed without being punished or even correcting his mistake, by his marriage to Badreya and Nafisa's failure to make him keep his promise and the hope of finding another man who could cover up her guilt was impossible. So, she had nothing but surrendering to the fact regardless of its bitterness. And at the same time, she wanted her life to go on. So there was nothing but work which ended by earning the money needed to overcome the obstacles of life. Life went on monotonously, and ended up with few pennies which hardly satisfy part of their needs. And no way of increasing it. As she was exerting her ultimate effort. Moreover, a new issue had appeared in her life, the chasing of that man Mohamed El Fol, wherever she went. His words which she started to like. Perhaps, because it had given her the hope as a woman who had found a man who valued her? But she knew well it wasn't like that.

Nafisa had started a new stage in her life. She had accepted the words of that man to revive the hope inside her and that was clear as she had taken that place her regular route from work. If the words weren't acceptable as she had done previously and threatened to call the police, why shouldn't she change that route? A new struggle had arisen inside

She and it was resulted from many reasons as she had nothing to fear as the precious thing which every girl cared for, didn't exist and was taken away from her cheaply and at the same time, she knew well what that man wanted. He didn't want a sacred relationship ended up with marriage as the happy ends of the movies in the cinema. That man wasn't like that and even if he was, she became unsuitable to that end. And, she was aware of what she lacked, the beauty, the money, the good family and it

was ended up by the lack of virtue. Therefore, he wanted……..!!!

And she too wanted the same, so they had met at the same point but that time for money and not free as Soliman had done. Money was needed by her so, she would be a good, as she would receive money in return of selling her body and would fulfill a sexual desire which wasn't new. And she wouldn't be a loser that time or the coming times. The loss was only in the first time and she had done that point before. As for the money, she needed it to overstep the poverty which had prevailed in her family and at the same time to satisfy a desire. The man was ready if she showed him an acceptance. So, why was that rejection if she was interested from the beginning?

That time, she had actually fallen as when she involved with Soliman, that had its convincing circumstances, and it happened under many promises which she desperately needed them to be fulfilled. Therefore, her surrender to Soliman was a kind of temptation in order not to lose him. And, that fall wasn't planned. It had happened due to the stress on her emotions and the darkness of the place through which she hadn't seen what happened.

As for that situation, she had planned for it accurately. She was actually surprised by that man at first, as he had found in her his stray because he was an expert in prostitutes.

He had felt her as one of the prostitutes, due to her way of walking aimlessly and unbalanced as the shock she was passing through was severely painful and she had paid him back. That time was completely different, as she had taken the same incident as a permanent way of life. She could have avoided that or even to repulse his attempt in the second time and the followed attempts as she had done before. But, she didn't and his words were received pleasantly by her. She wanted to live that situation more than once. His words were resulted a great respond as the call of sex inside her pushed her to overcome the moments of embarrassment. Actually, she gathered all her

emotional strength apart from the logic of her mind temporary to end her hesitation and at the same time she found a great respond from his side as if he had deduced her approval from her reaction, to fall at that time when

She walked towards the man's car, sat beside him, surrender to his will and accepting the ten pennies as a price to his pleasure.

Nafisa had reached a new beginning. After she had gone through a severe crisis till its end without finding a way out. By reaching this point, which she considered a way out, led to the lowest point to her fall. She had taken that beginning to start her first steps which wasn't the last in that road. The man didn't know anything about her real character and the conversation which had taken place in the car to locate the place in "AL-Maza desert" and she wondered:

- AL-Maza desert? Are we going to be late?
- Till mid-night.

She became petrified while imagining her mother's and brother's faces and answered in an aggressive way:

- what a black day… stop the car please… I must be at home before dark.
- Really?!! Don't worry… we'll be back before dark. But… what are you afraid from?

He glanced suspiciously and asked ironically:

- Your family! Don't they know?!! (167)

Nafisa had fallen since she had entered that man's car… and that road wasn't measured by steps but by the distance cut by the speedy car. The road from Shoubra to Al- Maza desert was too long in that darkness. But it didn't take long time because the speed of the car had shortened it in few minutes.

Nafisa had fallen willingly under the stress of her double need to both money and sex.

Through her point of view, they were equal. She wanted the money first conjointly with her sexual desire. Although the desire of the other side was the thing that provided the price, she

wasn't concerned about that as long as she would achieve both of them together, money first or sex and that was what she had settled on by her mind connected to her desire.

And then, the crisis and the great shock were revealed through their discussion. She was experiencing a unique try in her life. She had experienced that before but it was just a beginning and with someone whom she had known and the place wasn't strange for her and she wasn't expecting that tragic end but she was trying to satisfy her partner to avoid losing him without suspecting any development which would end up to sacrifice her virginity. That was her first experience which was unintentionally. As for her while sitting beside that man in his car with all her will and she was the one who had ventured at that time. She was wondering about the place which the man had mentioned Al-Maza desert. It was a silent place where no eye could reach and where they could be free without being bothered. It was clear that the man had gone there before as he had gone over there without hesitation. As for her, she knew nothing about that place, whether it was near or far and she wasn't surprised. But what she was really feared of was how long it would take to accomplish that issue.

Although Nafisa had become involved in that disgrace, she was still sticking to the traditions which she couldn't break. And for that, when she received his reply about the time they would spend there and he was believing he was shortening the time as it wasn't his first experience but he went too far in that and perhaps he had spent the whole night with others because time equals money and women wanted to stay longer for that. And as it was her first time with him, he was the one who set the time as if it was a bargain in which he would try her, if he was satisfied with her, he could increase the time which meant increasing in money. That was his concept. As for Nafisa, that time was considered a disaster that threatened her. Till mid-night?!! What her mother and two brothers' reaction would be. And what

excuse she could give! So it was a loss from all sides and didn't worth the sacrifice. She begged the man with great humiliation and implored to shorten the time till before darkness which meant to be almost an hour or not.

Each one was planning according to a view which contradicted the others. And the man wasn't believing what she was saying … before darkness!!! That was not the style of the prostitutes. They were called the girls of darkness as their way had nothing to do withlight or day because that time didn't suit their work while the darkness of night made the prostitution's work easy and possible. So, the man was wondering why that woman

Was hurrying that thing and trying to reduce the time like that! But, because it was her first time, he accepted to return before darkness but under one condition to tell him what she was afraid from. As that type of women, the prostitutes never feared anything, but due to her attitude, he wanted to know the reason.

Nafisa replied innocently while each of them had his own view through which identified what they wanted. And then came her astonishing answer: "my family" she told him that she feared her family and through his views and experiences, he was amazed by that answer and he shocked her by his reply: "Don't they know?" "Knew"!! Then he thought she was professional prostitute and not only that but she had taken it as a permanent job. His words meant nothing but that. And if her family knew, that meant that they led the same route. The man at that point was not telling her something new. Nafisa had nothing to defend herself but confessing her origin to push that disgrace away from her family her mother, brothers and the father who had left whole life. Despite all the disgrace in which Nafisa had thrown herself, she was still clung to a part of her good roots and being a member of an honourable family. And despite knowing quite well that what she had done, wasn't related to any honour, her credit from the past was still inside her despite the oppression of her present.

At the end, she did what she had come for; she satisfied his sexual desire and hers too.

A desire which she wanted to experience for the first time by her own will and without fearing from anything except the time which she was aware of. That was her down fall which had kept her down in its darkness forever. She had satisfied her desire in that dark place exactly the same as the first time with Soliman. Darkness was a common factor in both times. On the first time she was a victim but on the second time she had done it willingly.

That's how she had found the beginning as a spacious land without any obstacles that could prevent her from proceeding her way with vice to fulfill the duplicated benefit without thinking of any consequences.

If Nafisa had accepted such a beginning to herself, the motive behind that was the poverty which grabbed her from her good limited place, her house to another more opened places seeking that limited amount of money but it was a motive for continuity of the life of a whole family which was about to fall apart . That approved step was followed by an unapproved one, started with her daydreams and considering Soliman the knight who would fulfill that dream which she had longed to, even once, and it failed. She continued involving herself in those unapproved and forbidden deeds with complete satisfaction to earn money by which she and her family would get by and to satisfy a desire which she had experienced before and she was longing to.

So what was done was done and there would be no retreat after all. Nafisa not only became satisfied with that road but she also managed to live and survive with her family without being suspected by them.

She was behaving the same as before talking and chatting with her mother and brothers to the level of discussing issues with her elder brother who was leading a life which was not better than hers, in a challenging way without figuring out what his sister's life led to in spite of being an expert in women like Nafisa or even more.

The time changed but nothing had changed in Nafisa's life, her

brother was moved from Cairo to another town "Tanta" to work there after his graduation. So, the number was lessened and men became only one as Hassan had his own life as if he wasn't living among them. Then, by the emigration of Hussein to another governorate, Hassanein was the only left. He used to disapprove her work as a tailor and consider it a shame, without knowing what his sister had added to that job which he got accustomed to due to its income which softened the hardness of their poverty and the circumstances through which they had lived.

He also didn't know that that income was stained with his only sister's honour and he had never asked about the source of that money. As he believed that it was the income of sewing clothes. Nafisa continued her regular ways as if she had got accustomed to them both and at the same time, she continued her usual family life with a high spirit and all what she could do from joking, laughing and great expectations to every one except herself, once she admitted the hardness of Hussein's departure while packing for leaving to Tanta, then she celebrated the other brother's choice of either the police academy or the military one. When he told her about his choice Nafisa replied happily:

- What a wonderful thing!

And she preceded her words by saying:

- Two years of study and you'll be an officer what a wonderful dream?

And she proceeded again:

- Don't worry; I'll manage to give you as much money as I can! (222).

Nafisa had experienced surviving the new fact with all its bitterness and managed to convert it to an irony till it became a tragic comedy. As after the last change in life, her life became nothing but scenes of a tragedy.

In the previous situation, we found Nafisa participating in a discussion between the mother and her brother Hassanein who wanted to continue his university education (high education)

which would exceed the money needed for the high school education and among that Nafisa didn't forget not only to participate and congratulate her brother for his choice but also to make it easy for him by saying that the time would pass quickly as long as he would become an officer and would rescue the whole family from that deadly poverty to another life apart from

That ghost which caused her down fall and as she had forgotten temporary about her shameful situation.

While, Nafisa stated in that discussion the continuity of that dark way, by saying that she would provide him with money as much as she could. But, how she would mange to get that money and sewing provided her with only few pennies which weren't enough for any thing. So, she knew well the other way through which she could get money and deal with various kinds of men who were seeking the illegal sexual pleasure. And from that road she had earned money which differed every time according to what the man could afford. So, she could practice that as a profession for the coming two years in order to earn more money to provide her brother with as much money as she could. She knew he would be in a desperate need of it.

When she promised to give him as much money as she could. She was thinking of that way. At first, she used to go after her desire as a priority then the money but as the situation was changed and her brother was in need of money so she would focus on

Money first and then come her pleasure.

In that situation, Nafisa was rushing to men without hesitation or thinking as her brother's career was counting on her alone. The other brother was living in Tanta and He could hardly get by his salary and he had stopped the money which he had tried to deduct from his salary to help them. And the elder brother had no existence in their life at all. And the pension of their father could hardly get the necessities so, no one left but her and what she used to earn whether from sewing clothes or from the illegal

pleasure which was given to men and received from them. She had become a common factor between giving and receiving that pleasure but everything was changed when she found herself in need of more money so money became the main issue and earning it was the main aim and as for her pleasure it became nonsense.

Therefore the beginning evolved all of a sudden and nothing but the poverty and need were the main motive behind that development and evolution. Poverty first, poverty second and poverty till the end. So that ghost was the motivation for that woman. She couldn't hold on to face that typhoon which had grabbed her to her downfall, after failing in making up what soliman had destroyed at the first time, so she continued that way as she wouldn't find any support except it. And the mother had nothing to do in order to change things.

She had made a promise to her brother Hassanein who started to act quickly to find a place for himself in the military academy He turned to a friend of his father who was in a high position to help him by giving him a letter of introduction or recommendation.

Then, he started his first steps towards a remarkable career. She had to look for those who were seeking sexual relations without choosing them. While her brother was in the palace of the rich man, she was standing in the crossroad to make a show of herself to anyone as long as she would receive the money needed at the end. She became uninterested in men whether he was a young man or an old drunk man or even awoken. She had considered herself a good which was sold to whoever would pay more. We found the author in that point didn't stress on the beauty as he had done with Hamida in "Al Madak alley" but he stressed on the profession. And we found through the words of an old man whom Nafisa accompanied without any hesitation, rejection or even shyness, stating that every woman had certain beauty in a part of her body even if the face wasn't beautiful, there was other beauty kept inside her. So, she had reached the

point of giving her body to whoever was interested. She sold her honour and body which were considered of great beauty according to that type of men who were almost unconscious. She became dealing with men who were unaware of everything as long as she would gain a lot of money at the end. But, in a situation with an old man in his car which the driver had left, knowing what would happen inside it, she expected he would give her a fortune for accepting to accompany him in spite of his old age. She was deceived by his luxurious appearance… The scene ended up as a tragic sarcasm. When the man finished with her and fulfilled his desire which wasn't equal to that to mature men and under her stress to return her to the same place, she was taken from, he threw her a coin of twenty pennies which was considered a shock to her as she hadn't expected such little amount of money from such a man. And moreover, she was in need of plenty of money to fulfill her promise to her brother.

He dipped his hand in his pocket and got it out reluctantly and threw a coin of twenty pennies on her lap. She took it and asked him in a great surprise mixed with anger:

- What's that?

He answered coldly with eyes reflecting the effect of alcohol:

- A great gift! If you don't want it, I'll take it back.

She answered angrily:

- I expected you worth more than that… (247)

From that conversation we could reach a whole change in Nafisa'a life. At first, she used to take what was thrown to her from metal, starting from ten pennies without uttering a word or arguing. At that time, she was seeking her own pleasure first and earning money second. As long as she had satisfied her desire, it was ok with the money received regardless of the amount and she was in need of it too. But the situation at that time had changed with the change of their new circumstances.

She went out of her house hoping to return with a sufficient amount of money to be given to her brother who was leading

a new life which needed more money which wasn't available to her except through her income from her night customers. That's why she didn't expect that little amount of money which considered too small in comparison to the man's appearance, from one side as she expected double or triple the price or even more but as he had thrown that coin like that she rejected that and started to compromise with him on the money and in spite of his cold humiliating answer, she was still waiting for more, at the end she accepted the money unwillingly as it's better than nothing. Nafisa had reached the point that the route, which she had led, had become a kind of trade.

Therefore through her new vision and under the stress of her need of money due to the new circumstances of her brother Hasannein who had chosen a military academy which needed personal expenses, couldn't have been afforded by sewing clothes and she had found herself completely responsible for paving the way for his happiness and satisfaction. The mother was helpless and the other brothers were not interested at all. She was the only one who had survived that situation so she had chosen that urgent choice which could provide her with more than the money needed as long as she had satisfied everyone's desire even if she wasn't satisfied herself.

For all that, she didn't mind going with the man who had worn out of old age, his features and his awful smell due to alcohols and other things, she even welcomed his offer after seeing his spacious car and his driver. Then, he would give her a big payment but what she had expected was completely far from reality. He had given her a coin of 20 pennies or nothing.

Nafisa continued her life in that way as if she had got accustomed to it but was that by her own will??!!

She had no other alternatives. It was obligatory Nafisa's life became wider after Hassanein had joined the military academy as his needs had increased in order to be equal to his colleagues who were from the upper class. His rise in society was paid for by her whether by the money earned from sewing clothes and it

was very little or from men who were seeking illegal pleasure and it was better. So she had to continue without stopping, she sold her body to anyone who could pay what would cause her brother's rise. The brother had risen over his sister's body … but, what was the alternative?! So we found that she was obliged to continue that way. She had never reflected that bitter reality in the presence of her mother or brother who used to visit them once a week to eat the best of food and receive money which he spent to entertain him by going to the cinema with his friends. Nafisa had lived a duplicated life. Outside the house, she was answering whoever wanted her for his pleasure in order not to lose a customer who would provide her with money for fear of losing him and his money which would lead to the happiness and the rise of her brother in front of his friends.

She lived among her family without noticing any change in her, as she was full of gaiety especially, while talking to her brother who wanted to spend the Fridays with them under the condition of having a luxurious lunch. Nafisa did what he wanted then, he added his demands by asking for an expensive dessert "Konafa with Butter" and Nafisa had made it for him till the conversation led to:

- And you'll have "the konafa" as a dessert exactly as you wished!

The young man added with a bit hesitation:

- If I were rude, I would ask you to stuff it with pistachio and Hazelnuts.
- But thank god, you're not rude.

That's how she escaped his request with jokes (25).

That's how she had lived her life among her family which didn't lack of jokes and laughs led to a light comedy, in spite of the bitterness which was inside her and lasted with everyone who was seeking pleasure. She had been changed and started to feel that the life which she was living would lead to her down fall. That was her character whether inside or

outside her family. The previous conversation had reflected the duplication which Nafisa was dealing with inside the house and outside it. Outside her house, she was a prostitute who met various kinds of men who differed in everything except for their payment at the end. But everyone had his own way and mood which contradicted the others whether in the appearance, wicked manners and their way of talking or style…etc.

Inside her house, she was a completely different person. She used to talk and mock everything even Baheya. Her brother's fiancée. It might be a part of her habits which she had grown up on or a kind of jealousy as Baheya had surpassed her in choosing an honorable future. But she was treating her brother in a different way by answering all his demands by bringing him all the food he liked and even the desserts which were not available especially to their social class. And that was the result of long hard nights and dealing with people who knew nothing about respect but she had borne all that for the sake of their money by which she would fulfill all her brother's demands whether of special food or special pocket money.

Despite all that she was dealing in an innocent way which reflected that she was still keeping the purity of her early life when her father was alive, she never changed unless she became alone and started to think of her life, the previous life and the recent one. What she had become and her mysterious future.

In comparison to any job when the mother suggested quitting her work, Nafisa who was still having some of her old values, accepted that offer willingly. Especially after becoming, the officer's sister who had a distinguish position. She had accepted without knowing which job she would quit. But she submitted to her brother's will as she had got tired of both ways.

Nafisa had offered them a lot, starting from her work as a tailor then, involving herself in the other route, seeking pleasure and money, then money and pleasure, then the money only in order to provide her brother with it to help in making his career and she did.

The life continued aimlessly and everyone was leading his way the brother was about to end his education and start his life as an officer, Nafisa was struggling to earn more money to cover the house's expenses and her brother's needs till he had become an officer. Although he rejected her work and considered it a mean job. He knew nothing about the other job which was the meanest the brother had become an officer he wanted to change everything. But life couldn't be completely changed. He knew that and his mother was guiding him but the youth's strength exceeded the old's wisdom and Nafisa was in the middle of that.

She started to feel the change. Could she accept it? Could she fulfill it by quitting working as a tailor and to stay at home like the ladies? That could be and by her own hands. She was seeking that life but the need of money prevented her. But, as for now, the brother had become an officer. He would earn a great salary. She would find satisfaction in that new life. But what about the other work which she had spent a long time in it till she became addicted to it. Could she leave it?!! And if she could leave it. Could that work leave her?! After her brother had provided them with a good life. But could that body which addicted that pleasure to desert that route? That was the question which she had wondered about?

For all that thoughts, Nafisa didn't give away her good spirit but she was advising her mother when she found that things went wrong between her mother and brother whose ambition made him bury all the past including his father's memory and despite all the stresses which she was carrying even after moving to a new life she was trying to soften her mother's life.

"She had entered smiling, and she was always seen in these days with a smile and hope finding her mother in a complete silence, she said happily:

• Quit that seriousness mother. There's no need of it. Our troubles are over. (275).

Nafisa had carried inside her some feelings which had

contradicted in stubborn struggles and they had completely changed to the opposite in a few seconds, she had changed from a tragedy that had torn her feelings to a good wind that released the others. In that scene, with her mother who hadn't accepted her son's demands as she didn't find them reasonable things, she couldn't do anything as he had become the family's supporter. She used to be the leader of the crew even when Nafisa was working to support the family, her mother was the decision maker but at that time and especially after moving to a new house and that was reflected on her pride that new situation in which the son wanted to make a quick rebellion to change everything and the mother was just an advisor till she had become depressed that what made Nafisa interfere and calm her mother down and asked her to forget about her seriousness in life as their life became better and stable. She added that the difficulties through which they had survived and felt their bitterness had ended by the end of the reason which was the poverty. It was only the poverty which made them reach that point before the brother's graduation and to bear all the difficulties and what they had lost whether the furniture which was sold piece by piece or her body and virtue which she had lost, without price. Everything was over when they had the money. But, could the money bring everything back. It could bring the furniture but what about her. ….!!

Nafisa was very patient. She was trying to support her mother, to accept the change, to control her and to be switched according to every situation.

Nafisa had accepted to leave the work. She tried to purify her family's atmosphere from anything except calmness and tenderness in the new house. She tried to settle things down between her mother and brother. She was feeling, she was safe from any threat or fear but the conversation had created an embarrassing situation for her with her brother. But the words which were addressed to her elder brother were like a dagger stabbed in her heart. She felt that without daring to defend the

elder brother from what he had accused him of.

- Regardless of our brother's deeds, his support couldn't be denied.

He preceded saying:

- I'm in no need to be reminded of that.

God knows how much I loved Hassan, but I can't help saying that his way of life isn't an honourable one. (276).

That's how the situation was complicated and reveals to Nafisa a reality which she wanted to forget, in that atmosphere, which she had believed would secure her life. She tried to gather the family members and to consider love as the bond which would fasten their relationship together and to make her mother forget her burdens. She was considered the peace maker among the family members.

Trough his new position, Hassanein started to worry about his career from his brother Hassan whom he knew about a lot. While Nafisa was defending Hassan in spite of knowing about him the same as Hassanein had known. But she knew another thing too which Hassanein knew and was trying to ignore, how he had succeeded to join the military academy and she meant by that the fees of the academy which Hassan managed to pay whether by legal or illegal money. Hassnein had accepted that money and it was the start which made him an officer. She defended her brother regardless of his deeds as if she was finding an excuse for herself. But, His reply was disappointing to her as at the beginning Hassanein stated what favours, his brother had done and he ended up by stating his brother's disgraceful deeds. That what made Nafisa receive those words as a bullet shot towards her heart.

Was Hassan's behaviour a shameful one? What kind of misbehaving could men do?? And… Could that equal her behaviour? It's a disaster to her. If the officer feared for his career from his brother's behaviour as he was a man who couldn't be blamed for anything. So, how would it be if he discovered part of her reality???

Nafisa had become moody without intending to do so. But the situation created that mood and despite that, she used to think of her problems without being realized by anyone of her family. She used to participate with them in all their events then she stayed alone to recall her bitter moments.

Although she had moved from that street which had witnessed her childhood, her teens and even her downfall. Her neighbours and friends then, her customers whom she had got by, for months by the money which she used to take from them in return of selling her body and honour.

And became completely attached to that desire and after deserting their old narrow street. She found her relax and her heart was satisfied but the problem was how long she would bear loneliness and stop the desire which she had accustomed to as a female. She became in no need of money for her family or her younger brother. After moving with her family to live is Heliopolis and brother had become an officer. She didn't have any problem but finally, she couldn't bear her life without fulfilling her desire of sex and added to that her brother's words which turned to be restricted orders had to be followed as he had become the supporter of their new life. So, his requests had become demands had to be obeyed. But, how she could follow an order which would make her desert ..... ?!!

The brother, after moving to that new house, wanted to destroy all their past so he had given her a specific order.

He told her in worry:

• It would be preferable to desert your other friends too?

She was disturbed, despite deserting the outer world was one of her dreams, she was unable to fulfill that dream as she was driven by a strong power so she asked pitifully: "Should I spend the rest of my life as a prisoner"? (311)

Hassanein didn't know the truth or even a part of it. He wanted to start a new life as an officer in that new house with new rules that would result a new beginning. As his mother was staying at home, he didn't have to worry. That's why

he was begging his sister to shut herself down at home and to forget all about their past and to start a new life by choosing new friends from Heliopolis, not from "Nasrallah" narrow street. As the difference between them was great. That all what he wanted from his sister. The reflection of that issue wasn't considered an obstacle in her life as she had no friends whom she wanted her relationship with to last.

No one was worth to keep her friendship, even "Baheya" her neighbor and her brother's fiancée at the same time. She didn't show her any attention so his request wasn't difficult at all But ... there was another thing which she was longing to and couldn't forget forever perhaps for days but not forever and, at the same time it's considered a past which had broken into her life and settled there till she addicted it for double purposes and it had become an essential need so the brother's request had two sides. The first was easy to fulfill but as for the other side which her brother knew nothing about, was stronger than her and it couldn't be stopped therefore she had found a difficulty in fulfilling her brother's request. As forgetting her friends, staying at home all the time with her mother and she would never move out of the house unless she was accompanied by her mother. Going out for work wasn't acceptable after living that good life so there would be no excuse to go out alone to meet whoever could fulfill her desire. That was a big problem for her. So she didn't reject her brother's request but she was wondering about an approval to go out alone as long as she wouldn't contact anybody from their old life. Hassanein had accepted after confessing his fear of having visitors from their old street to their new house which would lead to mixing the past with the present and that what had rejected. So, Nafisa's problem was solved as she had found an open gate through which she could go out to fulfill her desire.

Through that point, Nafisa had reached the climax of her beginning or the end of an era to begin a new one with a

different style as at first she led that way to earn the money needed to get by but as things settled and went well, she would start again. A beginning with a special flavour as her aim was to fulfill a desire which had been buried and had powerful calls inside her which were stronger than staying without fulfilling them. So it was the real down fall and taking prostitution as a profession or a pleasure as she wasn't in need of a repayment and even if she had taken it. That spoilt money had become a habit in prostitution and she had accustomed to it and would never refuse it as long as she satisfied her basic instinct. That instinct was her first steps towards the bottomless fall and there was no doubt that it wasn't a try but she had exceeded that point to penetrate all obstacles which could prevent her from fulfilling her desire as she couldn't quit!!!

As a continuity of the events in which Nafisa was involved, and through her dark view of life generally and females specifically which was the sex, she was supposed to be one of but she wasn't related to it. She believed that every girl tended to a legal relationship blessed by everyone as it was the nature of life and the main rule but every rule had its exceptions whether positive or negative exceptions. She was considered a negative exceptions to that rule and that was a long time ago since she was a virgin she had never gained that honour which she had imagined with great men in her day dreams and with a low birth man "Soliman" in her street, in reality but it hadn't come true and it ended up with her as a loser. That was the end of her hope to find an exit which could lead to happy end so she had viewed that world of women with an envious eye and that was revealed while talking with her family, when Hassanein planned to break up his engagement with Baheya when he became alone with her and she was very strict with him to end it up with a clear result while, at the same time, the mother had agreed on everything with Bahaya's mother.

So a contradiction arose between the mother's, the son's and Hassan's opinions and Nafisa participated in that conversation

in a way that reflected her hatred to all her sex, while Hassanein was defending his point of view through which he had taken his decision. The mother and the brother rejected till Hassanein revealed his fears from accomplishing that marriage and it meant nothing but that, he said:

- We're poor and Baheya is poor too. I'm afraid of death before the end of the journey as our father, to leave my children facing the poverty and the need as we had faced them before.

Nafisa replied anxiously:

- You're right

Then she added at the same time commenting on that discussion.

- Don't worry about Baheya she will get married if it's not today, it'll be tomorrow.

Then she added answering her brother who added to her comment that it was a rule and could be applied on all girls:

Not all girls! And the prove is that it's not applied on your sister. Her mocking had softened the general atmosphere. (219-220). Nafisa's view to women was a dark view as she had seen in them a hope which would happen sooner or later as she had informed her brother but that hope was lost for her. Therefore she was owned by jealousy and that feeling wasn't a result of the previous situation but it had its old roots even before losing her virginity when she first saw her first client "the bride" and she had seen her emotional welcome and regretted what she had missed as she was 23 years old and no one proposed to her. While those, who were younger than her, were about to get married and have a family life. The second shock was Baheya whom her brother had engaged and she was younger than her that was considered positive jealousy. But when she met the grocer's daughter who would get married to Soliman after seducing her and leaving her after destroying her life. At that time her jealousy was a destructive one and form that point she hated all girls and that feeling had

filled her heart due to an inner reason not an outer one as she used to claim that.

And for that she had agreed on Hassanein's opinion to end up his engagement to Baheya for that reason and for other reasons, one of which was that she had agreed on the reason he had stated which was his death before having the chance of raising his children and it ended by the repetition of their misery. She was convinced with his opinion as she was the only loser after her father's death the elder brother was away from them and he had led a way even before the father's death which was a separate trend. The second brother had received his certificate and had a job in another town and his life became better. The mother despite her suffering was rewarded by moving to a luxurious house then, finally the youngest brother had cut it short and became a distinguish officer that was the family after the father's death but as for her there was no need to replay the past events as the present and the fact were witnesses on the great change which happened in her life. She was the only loser after her father's death. And what a loss! A thing which would ever and never come back or repaid.

That's why she answered Hassanein about his fear with great approval to achieve two buried wishes, the first was expressing her hatred to her kind and the second was her fear from the same destiny to face her brother's children as she would never accept such a thing or for any of her family members to pass through what she had

Passed before. So, her reply was resulted from her jealousy and the fear from an experience which she had passed through and she had survived the consequences alone. She had forgotten through that conversation that her brother was foretelling things about the future as for example: was he sure that he would have babies? Could he predict the time of his end? He could have no children. Or His wife could die first and could ….and could so.; Nafisa had approved her brother's opinion through her experience and reality which had forced her to support him.

And that had contradicted her mother's and Hasan's opinion as their past had witnessed no bad experiences. Nafisa also, had reflected her reality in her 2nd reply when she said that Bahya would find another man and would get married sooner or later as she was still young and didn't reach an old age and she was beautiful. All what was stated by Nafisa wasn't actually existed in her. As it opposed her reality as if she had decided for others what was impossible for her and she had her inner reasons or one inner reason and the other reasons were clear to them all.

As we had mentioned before. Nafisa's character was a complicated or duplicated one she could control herself in front of others. In spite of what she had said before, she was still having a strong will to give a comment which could covert a miserable situation into a comic one and that was clear when Hussein stressed on her words that Baheya would get married soon if it wasn't that day, the near future would allow her to get married as all other girls.

We found that Nafisa had interrupted her brother and disagreed on his opinion in a kind of sarcasm by saying that it wasn't a rule as "she" was a visible proof as if she wanted to end a known fact that she hadn't got married and she wouldn't never so they had to accept that fact.

Nafisa's sarcasm was a double confession in its meaning. The first was known by her family that she had lacked the beauty which could allow any girl to get married and that's why she had accepted that fact. As for her, it wasn't only the lack of beauty which had deprived her from marriage but it was the fact that she had lost her virtue and virginity and that what had blocked any way or hope for her to get married.

Nafisa had reached an advanced level in the road of lust and a sense of depression was reflected on her and she had converted that feeling on her friend "Baheya" too. As she was happy when her brother had broken up with her and ended his

engagement that caused her a temporary satisfaction. Unfortunately, she had heard the news of Baheya's marriage and she hated it so much despite admitting that sooner or later she would get married and that statement had come true. When her second brother Hussein visited the old narrow street "Nasr allah" and proposed to marry her.

Various discussions had taken place with her brother and the whole family, in which she had revealed what's inside her and reflected her clear view in all her gender, represented in Baheya whom her younger brother had broken his engagement with and on the same day, she was engaged to her second brother while she was staying in a house without any hope of getting engaged but expecting the unknown. Although Hassanein was preserved, the mother was completely satisfied and that wasn't said but reflected on her face and Hussein was convinced from all sides, Nafisa had a complete opposite vision from them all and a different feeling from that of the other family members as if it was an echo to how desperate she had become.

In spite of the painful end of the engagement, which affected Baheya's family and Hussein's visit to calm them down? Nafisa answered him by saying:

- You weren't supposed to meet them to night, anyway the blame is laid on the one who had accepted a student as a suitor to his daughter and who knows, he could have used a trick to fulfill that engagement. Hassanein isn't to blame as he was still young who couldn't know what's good for him and what's bad when he became mature enough, he realized that she doesn't suit him so what's wrong in leaving her? (226).

Nafisa continued her attack through an inner disturbing feeling, she had blamed her brother for not only his deed but even his thinking in such deed as she had stated as reply to her brother's reaction: unconvincing words! And when he said that Baheya was the best choice for anyone who wanted to get married. She answered nervously "who said that it's a must

to get married?! And she didn't stop at that point but she commented on Hassanein's words, warning her brother from that marriage that it could end up by his feeling of rejecting marriage and the crisis would be repeated when he found himself not interested in marriage." Then, Nafisa had received a sufficient reply. "I hope so" (228)

Nafisa'a words were nothing but reflections to the despair inside her, which controlled her till she had hated any good for her friend and she exerted much effort to break her engagement with her brother Hussein after becoming happy because Hassanein had broken up with her. That was clear through her discussion with the family as she had laid the blame on Baheya's family which accepted a young student as a suitor to their daughter and forgot that she had supported him with money and her happiness at that time, she was dealing with the outer world through her feelings and the great depression, which she had reached in her life. She dreamt of marrying a minister or a wealthy man but it ended up with an affair with a filthy apprenticed at the grocer's who had used her and rejected her. By her judgment on Baheya that her brother was not to blame for his decision, as long as his feelings had rejected her so she had repeated the shock which she had survived with soliman, in spite of the great difference between them, as a h e a d didn't lose anything on the contrary, she was so virtues. At the end, it was injustice which controlled her and was reflected upon those whom she dealt with.

She didn't stop at that point but she went too far with her brother Hussein who wanted to correct his brother's fault and at the same time, he fulfilled a dream which he longed to come true in his imagination and it ended by Hassanein's proposal. But, He found an opportunity. Nafisa attacked him to prevent him from going on in that engagement by many ways, first she denied his thought of marriage and then, she urged him to deny the concept of marriage.

That's how Nafisa had taken an offensive position from

Baheya. Envy and Jealousy had completely controlled her and she hated to see Baheya or any other girl having what she had been deprived from.

Despite all that, she had a strong feeling which she could control whenever she wanted. She had coed the serious situation to a comic one with her brother Hassanein when he failed in accomplishing his engagement to the rich man's daughter, as if she was softening his troubles and at the same time, she saw another failure which she liked.

Nafisa had lived in that new house after she had deserted the old narrow street with all its inhabitants. She had spent a long time in that atmosphere and leading the route of prostitution and through that time, she learnt all about those who worship pleasure from every kind and place. She also learnt about the hidden places where she could practice her activity. But, after moving to Heliopolis, she was obliged to look for those places in that luxurious place. As if destiny had arranged to the family to witness its fate.

By moving the family to that new place, Hassanein realized that Baheya didn't suit him so he left her. Hussein proposed to achieve a dream which he had longed to in the past and it finally came true. Then, Hassanein's failure to reach his aim of marrying the rich man's daughter as he was turned down from "Ahmed Yousry Beik" in addition to, the tragic end of the elder brother who turned to that new house, bleeding after loosing his beloved and all his dirty money. All those events had broken out after their move to that new house.

All those things were nothing, in comparison to what Nafisa had reached in her first attempt on the route of shame and disgrace. When she went to a brothel in El Sakkakiny crossroad and she was arrested with some other prostitutes as she had become officially one of them.

Nafisa had reached in that situation to her end. The crisis had to be released by any means to fall, whether to reach a new beginning or changed to a final end.

The youngest brother was faced by the first shock after surviving other crises of his failure of achieving any of the changes, he aimed at. He had lost his fiancée to be won over by his brother, he had lost his hope in marrying the Beik's daughter so he lost his position among his mates, and he lost his prestige because of his brother's fall and the worst of all things that he had lost the most precious thing, his honour. When we found an officer who was wearing the same uniform had called for him and he had received the news like a shock:

• I'm terribly sorry to inform you that we had found her in a brothel in El Sakakiny crossroad.

Hassanein was shocked by the words which he had heard, he startled in his place and gazing at the speaker's face. (357)

That was her biggest, devilish fall which led to that destiny; she was facing her brother without uttering a word as she was deeply involved in her horrible crime which had destroyed the whole family's pride. She was the guilty one and the brother couldn't move or utter a word. What he would say in such a situation and the officer was waiting for him to end the procedures which didn't take a legal form. He had to take the role of the inspector, the officer and the judge at the same time. And the accused one wasn't guilty and she had nothing to say to defend herself. So, it was silence till she could find what she could say to defend herself. In order to break the silence which was spread in that place and was about to destroy her brother who had done nothing to stand in such a shameful situation. That's how her end had come which had begun in Soliman's house who had got married and perhaps he had children by that time and living a happy family life and she had surrendered to her destiny not only to her desire which led to her end.

The silence wasn't a kind of weakness but, she felt it like a monster that would destroy and kill her and she would be a victim in that case, and her brother would be the criminal due to her crime and that what she would never accept.

• Stop, don't do that, I'm not worried about myself but I

do, worry about you, I don't want you to be hurt because of me. (363)

Nafisa didn't want her brother to become a killer and to be blamed for a prostitute who had deprived the whole family from a new comfortable life after a long suffering which had lasted for years, and she insisted that death had to be by her own hands in order to be responsible for her guilt apart from him. At the same time, she answered his question about her ability to do such a thing, as the brother wanted to end her life to get rid of her disgrace which would affect his career, and she answered:

- What I have in life, is worse than death. (364)

In that answer, Nafisa had put a real end to her second fall which had reached its climax and it had to reach a break which would lead to a new beginning or to the end. She had preferred death to life after revealing her reality infront of her brother in that shameful way. As death wouldn't be a rest for her soul rather than a solution to that problem which she would never dare to face. Life, for her would be a slow death which she would feel all the time. That if it was destined to live.

But, the sentence was issued that she would be killed by her brother and in that situation, we found her wanted to keep him away from danger, and death would be by her suicide in the Nile River. She took the decision which would satisfy the brother and he worked on accomplishing it. And she acted with courage, despair and depression to reach the end which wouldn't be followed by another beginning and her last words to him were: don't mention my fault" without knowing that he would follow her to the same destiny.

That's how the end reached its peak and Nafisa's life became a cheap price to that end. The author's philosophy was accomplished, which he had used to create the beginnings of that character and made the poverty, need and the social systems which lacked all kinds of justice, all these negative things created the fall of a woman whose only guilt was, finding

herself responsible for her whole family whose supporter had passed away and left them in the middle of a road without reaching any secured point. And found herself in a way, she had to go through willingly or not.

(3)The thief and the dogs

As a continue to the line of.poverty and need and a result of social systems in which injustice was the basic motive to be created and embodied the female character in that novel that had taken prostitution as a source of income to get by.

That character was "Nour" who was connected deeply with the previous two characters, "Hameida and Nafisa". That connection was nothing but the poverty and the need which pushed them all to prostitution as long as that job provided them with the money needed to get by and to pay for the drink which was considered as a drug which separated her from reality and created a fake life which she used to deal with its people.

That character had not only played a n important role in the novel but also was considered as a fortress to the hero. Without her support, he wouldn't have continued till the end. She had welcomed him after getting out of prison and after being rejected from all his people and friends even his wife who had deserted him and got married to another man in spite of being the mother of his daughter.

Saeed Mahran had found no one except Nour who was in love, one side love with him long ago. That was a proof of great nobility which was found in the heart of a prostitute and which he hadn't found in the hearts of those honourable people around him starting from that reporter "Roauf Elwan" whose relationship was a mixture of friendship and compassion and ended with his wife and friends.

So, that woman who had considered prostitution as a source of her income didn't deny that man whom she had loved before and it was a one side love. Despite that, she had welcomed him at her house and sheltered him in the worst circumstances when having troubles with the police.

"Nour" had feared nothing, everything about her life was clear

to everyone in her street. The young men of the street were her customers. Her beauty was remarkable although it started to fade out due to the layers of cosmetics; she used to wear as a part of her job.

The poverty and need were the first motives behind leading that way it had become normal or maybe less. She had never thought about her future. She was living her life day by day and earning money through prostitution and spending it all on food and drink. As for love and passion, they weren't existed in her daily life feelings. She was just saying love words as an introduction to a later flirtation without losing anything and she would never lose anything as she had already lost what she could worry about, her virginity in the first time and she continued giving her body which could be considered a perfect one, if we excluded, the health side which she had never cared about.

And, as "Saeed Mahran" used to see her, she was accompanied by a young handsome man who looked wealthy with his Luxurious car. That wasn't strange at all as everybody knew that she was a prostitute and considered it a normal thing. When "Saeed Mahran" asked about her and saw her companion, he answered himself by saying "a new prey". Yes, that was how she lived and there was a daily change. Every night she used to accompany a customer who sought “pleasure" in darkness and deserted places away from the eyes of the sneakers. Nour met "Saeed Mahran in the presence of the owner of the café “Tarzan” who had known everything about her. She still loved him a pure love without any aim but his love, unlike her affairs with her customers who were after a sexual pleasure which they paid for. She was nothing for them but a mere product which could be sold. They were for her, the source of income which she had got accustomed to without a minimum thought of the future and answered the question which was a kind of asking about his health.

• I'm fine and you? Your health looks well. But, your eyes?! I know you when you're upset?! (50).

Nour, among all that changeable crowds which differed from one person to the other not only in style but in everything, had never lost her sense or quick wits when she met Saeed. From the view of her old love which still existed, she answered a question of two words, with one word and that what concerned her. It was sufficient for her that he had asked her that questions as a kind of caring even if it was a slight one. But it would heal her long time thirst of love in which she had missed him and perhaps forgotten him for his long absence but inside her heart, she had never given his love away and for that she had answered him a short answer about her. "Fine" and that was enough. But for her, she hadn't stopped at that point of asking about his health despite answering him.

She felt that that question from Saeed Mahran was a beginning of a conversation which she didn't want to end and through which she had felt a great ecstasy which she wanted to last.

She asked him in return, a question as she wanted to tranquilize her heart after that long absence that he was well and she was aware of him as she was in love with him, she didn't wait for his answer as she had done but she answered her own question and that answer wasn't spontaneous but it was a deduction after a deep speculation to his whole features. She had stated that his health looked well and that was a logic statement about him as it was a reflection to a personal feeling. She had answered on his behalf as if he had been living inside her. That was to a great extant true as she loved him for a long time a one side love which he had never exchanged it with her as he was in love with another one whom he had married. Despite all that, she didn't lose that love and kept it inside her heart for ten years and at the first meeting, the spark of love was revived and reached its climax by answering her own question with what she had felt and seen and it was the truth.

Saeed Mahran had asked a question and waited for an answer and he had received it accompanied with another question and

she didn't wait for his reply, as she had deducted the answer by just a glance from her eyes to him. She had asked and answered his question and then hers. She didn't want to let her first chance, after his long absence, go quickly. That unexpected meeting was of a great value to her. Perhaps it wasn't the same for him and it was just a complimentary one from Saeed to Nour for any reason. As for her, he was her life so; she had proceeded in her conversation and that proceeding was to be able to fill her eyes with his features.

She had succeeded in few seconds to go through him and to get closer to reach what was inside as she had reached what was outside with great cleverness. She gave a second report after reading what was inside him through his wild eyes and looks. She had wondered about his eyes which reflected a clear anger which she had known before in similar situations and here, she tended to deduction to reach a result which could reflect the truth.

That was Nour and Saeed's first meeting after a long absence. Time had never changed or affected her love to him which didn't die due to his departure twice first, by his marriage and second by his imprisonment.

She was still loving him although he had never felt the same to her as she was that girl or women who had left her body to every passer-by who could pay for his pleasure. Perhaps She dealt with hundreds may be more or less, as the number according to her or to Tarzan's words was a new man daily. All those beasts hadn't reached her inner heart any one succeeded to touch her emotions. As they were just having fun and that was an outer thing which had never affected her inner feelings and emotions and the proof was that she had lived those seconds with "Saeed" whom she had touched what was deeply kept in side him, by her expertise with men for years and years through which she had met various kinds of men each one of them had a complete different character from the other, as if she had left him for only a day or two. That character had a

distinguish strength by which she had kept something inside her, despite the huge gather of men around her. She had given them in limits and without limits in a limited area. She had never fallen in love or even affected by any other man who could replace "Saeed" although they were all very close to her and gave her much money which she had been in a permanent need of, otherwise she wouldn't have continued that route.

None of those men had won her heart or

Reached the point which she had kept for "Saeed" although it wasn't a mutual feeling as it was a one side love and at the same time, he had never ignored or avoided her. Perhaps that was the motive which made her keep his love in her heart hoping one day, she might fulfill her dream.

That unexpected meeting was a kind of spiritual support which had revived the love in her heart and was reflected on a distant past to shorten the distances between them for a moment or less.

For that, she had given Saeed the chance to say what he wanted to and to make it a long conversation. And that young man whom she had accompanied was the center of their conversation which she disliked as she hoped to be the center of that conversation and she had expressed her intention to get rid of that man if he wished her to do so in order to show her complete submission and care.

As she loved him so much and at the same time she knew those men just for money regardless of what she had given in return of it. For all that, she was ready to get rid of those rich customers in order to satisfy Saeed who didn't understand her words that way, but his thoughts had focused on another point which made "Nour" say that he wasn't thinking of her but of what he could get from that young man despite admitting that, Saeed didn't cut with her as he had seen in that woman many solutions to a lot of his future problems. And for that, he had satisfied her with a promise that he would meet her again and that was more than enough for her at that time.

As his words were like a flash of light in the darkness of her life which would make her wait that day when he could fulfill his promise.

Nour had lived her life in a complete satisfaction despite the dangers and the risks through which she had lived in order to earn money which was considered her shelter and secure from the need and the power of poverty which had been embodied in her mind as a beast whose danger threatened her unstable future life. The way, she had led, wasn't less dangerous and vicious than poverty but it provided her with money which wouldn't be provided by poverty. She had made her body, a public thing for everyone. But her heart was enclosed on only one man Saeed Mahran. Although that feeling wasn't a mutual one she had accepted to give him love in return of nothing, hoping that one day he might love her sooner or later and he had promised to meet her again and especially, after becoming lonely which made her dreams closer and closer.

Nour had accepted without any refusal in spite of her restraints from the consequence of that promise. She was worried about her life which was connected to Saeed's and at the same time, She was worried about him from the bad consequences after becoming close to her. Could she become the reason of his imprisonment again after spending four years there? And he had returned. Therefore, she was in her restraint worried about him first and then herself or her love towards him to be lost forever.

Nour had kept a pure sincere heart inside her and a rare sacrifice which Nabaweya whom Saeed had deserted Nour for, had lacked. She had deserted her husband "Saeed" to get married to another one. Nour was loyal to the love which had lived inside her despite receiving nothing in return of that love and we found her welcoming her beloved whom she had waited for to revive her emotions and passions which were hidden and survived inside her.

They had separated on the hope of having another meeting in

which Saeed would fulfill what he had planned for. Nour had accepted that result in spite of its danger, she wanted to satisfy that man as she hadn't expected more than that. His satisfaction was sufficient to her to bring her back the hope which she hadn't lost but it was resting deep in the bottom of her heart waiting for just a sign to activate it and that what Saeed's words had done.

It was love and only love, the motive which pushed Nour to an end which she had never thought of its consequences she was derived to him with great passion and desire. That was the only way to secure another meeting which was nothing but a quick meeting or a mere coincident brought to her by fate to be repaid for her love and keeping his promise to see her again was her best reward. **Nour** had accomplished what he had said literary and she arranged for the chance which he had mentioned and as a result of that, she had received a hell of insolence at the police station and she said what he wanted to keep him and her at the same time, away from any suspicions. That problem was ended to return to practice her usual job. She was still living on the hope of a date which she had considered too far to come true. She had known him well as a tough hard hearted man but she had made a thread of hope even if it were a weak one. Those words were a fact which she had received from him not brought to her by any other one.

A day and another had passed without his coming. Nour was satisfied with meeting him accidentally twice in the street. She didn't wait for him at her house as she didn't expect him to fulfill his words or perhaps, it could have happened if he had given a better chance than the reality which had been created by him.

The coincident which had gathered them before, was repeated late at night. Nour was coming back after spending the night with one of her lust customers and carrying the money which she had earned in return of giving her body to him as usual. The night was very suitable for her forbidden job. She was very tired due to the effort; she had done and made her lose her strength.

She was climbing up the stairs with heavy steps out of exhaustion but when she heard his voice coming from upstairs. She rushed to him as if his voice had revived her and given her the power and life which she had lost with the other.

Although their date was in a very late hour when the dawn was about to light the streets, she was physically exhausted due to her work all night long and her psychological state after every date. All these obstacles had completely vanished and had changed to the opposite in the presence of that man. The motive behind that change was nothing except ..... love, pure love which she had kept inside her and had revived her to receive him with great warmth and to spend with him the best time ever which she couldn't have had with any other man. Then she confessed to him frankly:

- Actually. I lost hope in your coming. (73).

Nour didn't expect Saeed who had promised her a visit, to come due to knowing him well she had known and loved him and hoped to be only for him under any name could satisfy him. All her numerous attempts hadn't worked with him but all of them had failed and after many years had passed without seeing him and she had known that he was imprisoned and he was married and a father of a child. She had known that all but she hadn't lost hope and lived with his love which had filled her inner life without being affected by any one of her customers and kept it in her heart.

That's why she hadn't had great expectations of meeting him again at least, in the near future. Perhaps, they would meet accidently again after another long period of time but not at the time being.

If she had known that that date would be after a couple of days, she wouldn't have left her house and waited for him in order to be ready to welcome his arrival, but she had no hope in such a date and that it was an impossible thing. That's why she continued her life and her usual night work, she returned home after satisfying a customer's desire and most probably after mid

night or till dawn or even till the morning of the next day. All that was according to her partner as for her she was completely submitting to them as long as the payment was sufficient to her at the end.

But, he had kept his promise and came. He accepted to wait for her alone in that darkness while she was lusting with another man who had left her very exhausted. She hated her first day with him to be in that way and on that condition. But, unfortunately, he didn't arrange a date to come but finally, she had found him face to face and confessed to him that she had no hope of his coming quickly or at all and that feeling was resulted from her previous experiences in the past. She had loved him a true love but, that love had no effect on him and till that moment she hadn't learnt anything about the reality of his family life. She had thought that he was a husband and a father and that was enough to dedicate his life to them. As for her, she was living in dreams and illusions which led to the same definite thing at the end that she loved him so much.

Saeed had promised her but she had known him well.

He cared only for profitable things regardless of the way which would lead him to that profit and money. He also had planned to achieve certain benefit which she had known nothing about. But at the end, she was considered a blue chip through the men with luxurious cars. He needed her for a limited period of time in order to accomplish his plan which was anonymous to her. That's why he acted softly and kindly with her unlike his real character which she had known and his promise to meet her was just to satisfy his temporary need and that what she had done sufficiently so he had achieved what he wanted and as for the promise, she had become sure that he had done with it as he had achieved his aim, and that's why she had confessed to him, her suspicion of his coming. That confession was a proof of her inner honesty which made her tell what she had felt and expected.

As for his coming and his presence in front of her at that moment after her long wait was considered a very important thing for her. She hoped for nothing but a mere conversation between them which would lead to an emotional balance.

But, at that moment, he was standing in front of her and in need of her otherwise; he wouldn't have come late at night. But all that was nonsense to her it was her chance to be close to him as she had dreamt before and that made her feel that she had owned the whole world.

As for her, she had considered herself in a cross road and she had to choose and keep that choice. As he was with her at that moment and it was a fact which she had never dreamt of. Perhaps, she dreamt of it but she had never expected to be gathered in the same house especially, at that time. As she had known well that he was married but he might have come for another reason, to hide at her place, to ask her to accomplish a plan or anything like that. Therefore, his presence with her wouldn't last longer. But as for that moment, he was with her and that was the most important thing. She apologized for her coming late as she had considered his arrival a great thing so what about waiting that long! That's why she had apologized as she hadn't learnt about his arrival in that time and he too, knew that he had come without telling her so he satisfied her by saying:

- "I'll be your guest for a long time." She raised her head happily and said:
- "Stay till the end of life if you wish." (74).

Saeed Mahran had learnt a lot about himself and through that knowledge, he was confident about Nour's feelings towards him.

While in fact, he had another aim rather than love. As his love to another one made him ignore Nour or avoid her in a delicate way. As for him, she was a woman who earned her living by selling her body to whoever paid the price. She had no other alternatives, as poverty was the motive behind that way

which she had led. So they were common in that point. He had earned wealth which could keep him for years but through illegal ways as he grew up without being questioned. Poverty was also the motive behind his choice to that illegal way of earning money. So, both of them were common in more than one issue. But, they were different in the love issue. She loved him and he loved another woman. No one could control love or direct it so there was no solution to that dilemma.

But that situation had been completely changed and the mutual love between Saeed and Nabaweya which wasn't true from her side had been unbalanced, although Saeed had sacrificed everything in life to win her, she didn't keep her love to him or appreciate his sacrifice that was one side and the other side was Nour's ignorance of Saeed's divorce and his freedom. That's why she had apologized for coming late on the hope that she could keep him a little longer according to her view, if he planned to stay an hour, there would be no harm in extending it to be two hours or more. That what she had hoped inside her mind and he had known about that. He was sure that staying for a few moment with her was sufficient for her to be happy and for that he asked her for a favour as if it were a burden but actually, it was a precious wish for her according to their history together as he had informed her about considering himself a guest for a longtime.

Nour was a professional prostitute who was obliged to be like that, No girl could ever accept that kind of humiliation and that destiny unless she were under desperate oppression and there was nothing more oppressive than poverty and need. But her destiny had driven her to that fall.

Despite dealing with a lot of people with different cultures and features, a very close dealing in which the bodies had been stuck, she had never been affected emotionally by any of them, like pure love and emotion to Saeed in spite of rejecting her. She had finally found him without exerting any effort, how happy she was, not only that, but it had exceeded

that wish. It was a permanent stay as he had asked and her reply was a reflection to her real feeling and a fulfillment of dreams which she had in the past without any hope of coming true. Finally, her dream had come true and she had answered him with a great generosity and welcome.

Nour who had a pure heart which hadn't been spoilt by her illegal affairs with her night visitors, was still unbelieving that offer from Saeed. As it was too much for her to believe that offer despite hearing it, she offered him to stay forever and that wasn't just a reply but she stressed on it as she wasn't definitely sure of it in addition to his lost words. "If it's O.K with you." In that situation, she couldn't answer his request quickly as she had to show him her appreciation. As for her, she considered just seeing him was more than sufficient to her according to their past. He was her beloved master even if he didn't love her. But as for that new situation, many things might change, he had the right to order her and she would obey blindly and willingly without any hesitation.

That was Nour "the woman of night and drink" who had been pushed unwillingly to that way as a result of poverty and need. The conversation between her and Saeed continued but his answers were quite short, a word or two as he wanted to end her queries. He wasn't influenced by her and was still away from her despite being at her place. But honestly, she didn't want that conversation to come to an end. She had just ended an exhausted job in which she had wasted her energy but all her energy and vitality were restored immediately after meeting him.

We found her creating a long discussion in order to receive longer answers than she heard. Then she mixed her present time with the past as if she wanted to listen to an endless detailed story especially, after learning about his divorce she said:

- I'll prepare you the dinner, I've food and drink. Do you remember how stony heart you were with me in the post?
- I had no time for love (76)

And that's how she started to make him feel safe and ease at her house and that what he was seeking. she hadn't known anything yet, she was providing him with what he wanted without mentioning any payment in return but, she had found more pleasure in another thing which was reminding him of his past cruelty with her as if she were challenging him for her victory in that moment as he was at her house and in need of her.

Before recalling the past, she cared about that present time. As she has seen him physically exhausted and looked untidy. That what she had disliked as she wanted to see him in the best mood so she prepared a bath for him to have a shower. Then she promised him the best dinner and drink. She wanted only to reach his heart. And for that, she tried to seduce him financially and emotionally and she had fulfilled the first part "Food" according to the proverb "The shortest way to a man's heart is his stomach" and she had done so then she moved to the second part, the spiritual one as she blamed him in a delicate and beloved way for his past ignorance.

She had arranged everything to make him enjoy the beauty of her present and forget the bitterness of his near past to settle with her then; she had recalled the past with it cruel memories due to his ignorance to her. It was just a blame through which she wanted to reach a new starting point or examine his feelings towards her at that moment. As she told him about a past in which he had ignored her in spite of her clear love, as if it had been a shadow that passed quickly and didn't have a real existence. He had never shown any interest in her whereas she had never had anyone in her life except him or to be more accurate in her heart!!! That questioning which was wrapped with a lovable blame, the aim behind, was to reach a real point at that present time. As it was all over at that time and she was enjoying that moment in which he was finally with her. But she was seeking an emotional word from him on which she could create her image. Her question was seeking an answer through which she would reach the truth behind his visit.

Exactly as she had expected, the answer was a short one but she had deducted many positive issues from that ambiguous answer as he had told her that in the past, he had no time for love. That answer was sufficient for her despite carrying another wondering which he had avoided as he had admitted that he had no time for love so what about the other woman whom he had not only loved and married but also had a child and risked his life for her sake and after that she had abandoned him. So that answer was just an excuse in order not to tell the truth that might hurt her or to end a subject which he hated to talk about. But, she wasn't concerned much about that point. She liked the main meaning of his words that he had no time for love to give him an excuse for ignoring her therefore, he could have loved her if he had had time for love so, those words had satisfied her and she hoped to fulfill what she couldn't in the past and time was available for them as he had mentioned that he would be her guest for a long period of time.

In the middle of that life which was controlled by lust, Nour had completely surrendered to that life and was accustomed to it. Her heart was pure and locked. It didn't surrender to anyone except "Saeed" as if betrayal had nothing to do with her from that narrow point although betrayal was considered a job from which she used to earn her living. Nour had announced her shameful job publicly without any shame or fear. She had never hidden anything concerning it she used to practice that job openly despite darkness and night were the timing of that shameful deed. But she had never given her heart to anyone. She had sold her body but her deep emotion wasn't touched by anyone. She had kept it till she had met him finally and she had opened her heart widely to him willingly. Nour had an inner virtue inside her while in fact. She had no virtue or honour according to the society and law. Her heart was pure and virtuous to the man whom she had given her love and that was a proof of her strong will un like "Nabaweya" his wife whom he had married because he was sure

of her love and her outer virtue but the days had proved that her outer qualities had contradicted her inner ones and in that situation Nour was the opposite image of Nabaweya.

That's how Nour had finally fulfilled her dream. One place had gathered them without any other person in that life as he had become prisoner in that place and that what she had dreamt of. So she had started her first steps without any fear. She spent the rest of the night with him then she slept to have some rest to be able to deal with her new customers as they were her source of income not only for her but for the new guest whom she would keep as well.

The love, inside her, was an enemy called "The Fear". She had borne a one side love for long years and then the chance had come so easily but for reasons which she had ignored. But she was sure that they were completely away from safety and secure. So, there was a danger around her which could be the cause of their separation latter on and that what she had feared most and what also caused her terrible dreams which disturbed her sleep. She woke up in horror in spite of seeing him in front of her and narrating her dream:

• I've dreamt you were going away and I was looking for you like a mad one.

He answered in great depression:

• In your dream but, in fact you're the one who would go away and I'll wait for you (77).

That conversation, which she had said, was nothing but embodying an inner feeling that made her fear that his presence might not last as she had considered his presence as a dream rather than a reality which she couldn't believe herself. The feeling had controlled her unconscious which had created the scene of his departure after destiny had finally gathered them.

She had seen him in her dream going away and she couldn't reach him. All what she could do, was her waiting that waiting was accompanied with madness. As, how she could

lose him after possessing him and she had become closer to his heart too, so that dream was just a reflection to an anonymous fear which could rob her happiness of having him. That happiness was the beginning of the thread which she would continue with till she could reach her aim to own his heart. Despite his presence with her, she feared his departure which would make her suffer from the bitterness of waiting. She had lived before long years giving him her love without losing hope.

Despite his actual presence with her at her house, she feared his departure which would make her feel the bitterness of waiting for his coming back. She had lived long past years giving him love and only him without losing hope.

The busy life she was living made her forget for a while but it never changed her heart. She was living on the hope of seeing him even if that hope hadn't come true. The presence of that hope was enough for her. After that hope had come true which she was experiencing. It was a must to try to revive that feeling of love towards him. It was an embodying of the separation and it was through a dream and that what Saeed had explained logically in accordance with the reality. That reality which completely differed from that dream as he assured her that the reality opposed the dream, what she had imagined as he wouldn't be far or leave that place but she was the one who would fulfill that dream and would go after that separation and he meant deliberately her night dates with a new daily customer to afford buying food, drink ….. Etc.

She had to work and that work wasn't a secret for him and the location of that work was unknown as the other partner was the one who chose the place as for the time it was always night and never changed. The time was known and permanent while the place was changeable according to each customer and that what Saeed Mahran had meant by "you'll go far" as he had ignored the place where she would go and then, he had to wait.

The lover is always forgiving and forgetting his beloved insults and wounds and Nour was that lover as she had forgiven all the past pains and lived only her present. As Nour had nothing more to expect from life after giving her that gift, the man who had come alone begging and asking for a refuge. It was great for her as long as he would continue without any breaking ups. So, to the hell what would come later she didn't have to worry about it and she had to hurry to pick a customer early in order to earn the money needed and return early in order to have enough time to spend with him.

Nour left and Saeed stayed alone waiting for her to come without knowing how long he could wait till her arrival and he was obliged to wait as he had no other choices. And in return, she would provide him with what he needed.

Nour left and Nour returned and between her leaving and her arrival a miserable tour in which she gave her body to a man whom she didn't know but only met few moments ago. Whether she knew or not it didn't really matter as knowing the man for several days or more, it all ended by the end of the purpose for which they had known each other. She gave her body and not her soul she gave pleasure not heart. That was all her investment and her known good which every man could touch, take .. but her hidden part was for one man Saeed Mahran who didn't deserve it, but it was love which had never differentiated between white and black people.

At her arrival Saeed had already had along journey in his imagination that lasted for years in which he had recalled a big part of his life and among that crowd Nour had a slight role in that exciting events as he wasn't in love with her and he wasn't also ready to love her despite knowing that she adored him.

That what made him take advantages on her to take what ever and however he wanted.

By her return and with what she had earned from her illegal affair, had brought what she could from food, drink and the daily

news to give once more …. A giving for a man whose satisfaction was her aim in life perhaps; his hard heart could turn one day to a soft alive flesh to reach that feeling or to become a mutual one.

His reaction for all what she had done was mere words which he thought were sufficient for that situation and he felt that Nour was satisfied... But he added in his long conversation what inflated her.

- You're a woman unlike all women.
- Believe me I'm happy with you.
- Your heart tenderness is irresistible.

All that praise from Saeed to Nour was most probable a kind of payment to what she had offered and Nour wondered as if she had realized something.

- "Wasn't I like that in the past?
- At that time I was heartless. (85-86).

Nour as a human was completely different from that prostitute whose conversation was a kind of spending time with whoever paid the money at the end. But in Saeed's company, she was completely different as they were gathered in a place and time away from all people. Her giving was unlimited and her words were very restrained. She still believed it's a dream despite realizing the reality around her but it was a fact that looked like imagination in its fulfillment. If Saeed from one side used to flatter her with his repeated words which were mere complimentary and completely apart from love Nour had considered that too much in comparison to the past. His words were like greetings or may be less as in spite of his past harshness and ignorance in his past attitudes which were plenty, she had welcomed him without any word. She had sheltered him at her house despite knowing that he was a fugitive. She didn't ask him about the reason behind it. She had offered him all what she had willingly and in return of what?!! Nothing, as he hadn't given her anything for what she had done as a repayment.

For all that Saeed's words were for nothing but repaying her in that way and she was looking forward to nothing more precious than that. But... as usual mankind is greedy and always asks for more or wonders about that generosity where it was at the past.

Nour received his words happily but she wondered about the reason of keeping that treasure which she had just received away from her in the past. As she wasn't changed and he, the source of that treasure wasn't changed too, so they were exactly the same but the only difference was that nice treatment so what's the reason?!!

Nour had ignored a fact or even didn't think of it at all that Saeed had never cared about her in the past for many reasons some of which were being busy with his successful projects which were very profitable due to his repeated successful robberies and Nour at that time, wasn't sufficient for him as she wanted a man who should be completely devoted to her moreover, Saeed's heart was attracted to another one whom he had given all his love and left nothing for anyone else neither Nour nor any other woman.

Nour didn't want Saeed as a customer but she wanted to have him forever. Although she had ignored all that, her thoughts hadn't reached those points as she wanted that situation to be refined from any hardships from the past and her punishment was just a passionate blame to avoid annoying him.

If Saeed was really honest in his words, that would be due to the change which had taken place in his life as the reasons which caused his indisposition from Nour, in the past were buried and decayed and he couldn't bear them any more, so there was no hope of returning again and his escape from the crime which he had committed and he had no other secured refuge except her house. After all that, he had found an open heart of a woman who was completely the opposite of his wife who was virtuous. That conversation could also be complementary in order to give her the hope to continue in her giving from her side as long as he would stay

in her house or perhaps, his heart might change and love her.

Despite all those contradictions, Nour had never expected from him more than what he had said. In the past, he had a stony heart; at least towards her and that what Nour hadn't realized too, that the heart, which was still inside him, was the one which had chosen Nabaweya. But, he could be sincere if the feeling was from her side.

That sentence was a source of hope in a positive change as an alternative. He was heartless and then, he had one. The past had its priority and it had gone forever or that what Nour had hoped. As for the present, the changes which had taken place, could correct an inverted situation to take its right track. And through that result, Nour hoped to fulfill her dream which had lived and still living inside her.

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All those imaginaqtions were in her mind but she surrendered to the fact which she wanted to live with Saeed and that unexpected co incident which gathered them. That's why she had clung to the threads of those moments, hoping to weave out of them their continuity.

For that reason, she had debated him to reach the purpose behind his coming and to calm down till he had surprised her by his desire of having a police officer's costume that request had created an obstacle which her mind tried to analyze quickly as she had known him well. He had planned before and fulfilled his plan to rob the young rich man, her customer and she couldn't object and that wasn't long ago and she couldn't show any objection against the law. That request reflected the continuity of his plan which she hadn't known its end yet. But at the same time, she had known how dangerous he was. He was acting against the government. He had never been an adversary to it. Therefore, the consequences of that plan would be horrible and that what she would never accept especially after he had become with her. She wanted to enjoy her coming days with him and wanted it to last even if she had sacrificed her life for that.

The result of her thinking was her honest confession to him about what was in her mind and her demands in life.

• Don't you understand that I don't want to lose you anymore? (86)

That confession was considered an attempt to stick to a chance which the fate had given to her. That fate which had never fulfilled her dream in the previous years and after the long waiting and unexpectedly her dream had come true. Could she let him evaporate easily and without any try from her side to stop his attempt which would lead to his loss? In the past, the gap between them was clear and had hardly met. Despite all that, she was completely in love with him. At that time, after that gap had vanished and they had become close. She was hesitated in following his orders. Nour wanted their conversation to continue to see its reflection on him and to come closer to him. He was intelligent enough to fulfill her wish and calm her down then achieve what he had planned to, through her. He knew well that she was deeply in love with him but he hadn't reached that point yet. She hadn't confessed that love before as their discussions had never reached that point. As for that time, he started to listen to her, while asking her questions and receiving his satisfactory answers then she admitted her deep emotions towards him while answering his questions about death and how terrified she was from that word:

• And even that fear, I forget it when time gathers me with my love. (87)

That woman, Nour was considered a group of sincere feelings evoked from a clear heart which was carried by a dirty body. She was completely the opposite from Nabaweya Elish who had a clean body which carried a rottin heart. Was the value over here in the body which could be washed up by two cups of water or the heart which a whole running river couldn't purify it from its dirt? That was the issue; Nour had a pure, loyal heart made her confess sincerely that she could forget the fear of death at that moment when she was with her beloved.

Saeed Mahran had realized well that she had adored him and he mentioned the word death to her to see its impact on her as deeply inside his heart, he was completely aware that he was about to do a serious planning which he could risk his life for or he could get away with it safely but, both ending were expected by him and Nour's reaction was what she had declared. To that extend was her love. What a rare, pure feeling which was hard to be found in others who were virtuous. Saeed's request to have a cloth for a police officer's costume, made Nour fear the consequences which could be against her tendencies, but she had obeyed his wish for one reason which was to satisfy him by any means. And she brought the cloth after receiving a hell of humiliation. Before Saeed became her guest, Nour was satisfied with a mere daily customer who provided her with the money needed to get by the whole night and the next day to repeat her previous activity in that day and the day after. That was her life. As for the time being, the house had become occupied with a guest who had his own demands exactly like her and may be more. She had to double her work but how? She did it. She didn't stop at one customer but she had exchanged the one customer with a group of men whom she didn't reach her payment with. Not only that but also it ended by a severe slam. Regardless of all that, she had brought Saeed's needs. Her sacrifices were unlimited ones in order to keep him without making him feel that there was certain thing which he had to bring from somewhere else. She wanted him with her, very close to her. That's why, she planned to sacrifice everything

In order to make him stay and to avoid losing him as she had admitted. Nour had spent a day or more with him and felt a complete satisfaction. She wished her life could last like that. She had left him wearing the police officer's costume with begging and fear as that day had differed from the day before which had gathered them. Then, they separated quickly without gaining a love word which could soften and cool her burning

heart. She was giving without receiving any payment. Despite that giving, she hadn't reached him as the other side wasn't responding or the gap between them was very wide. As for that time, they had actually met and become very close and she had satisfied her longing and passion to him. As if she had got used that satisfaction despite selling it to others without feeling it at all. She was satisfied with what she had received from him and she didn't want that source of passion to stop. She was providing him with advice to be wise in all his behaviours till he return to her again to be able to live with him without being deprived from him. She told him:

- Be wise, I'm not ready to lose you. (96)

In that conversation, Nour was very honest with Saeed and with herself too. As she had admitted through her confession to him that she had become accustomed to him in that short time in which she had dealt with him closely without barriers of any kind between them till she had addicted that new life and it had become like the blood in her veins without which she couldn't survive. She was seeking more and the continuity of that pleasure to see the world through it. That's why she was begging him to be wise. That confession had reflected too, what was inside him. Besides, she couldn't bear losing him as she had lost him many times before. As they used to meet but his heart was completely away from her. Those meetings were repeated many times but without a hope of communication. But, that time was completely different in all sides from the meetings of the past. She wanted him to stay even if her life would be the price for his stay.

That situation reflected her intense feelings towards that man after he had shown positive reaction towards her which encouraged her to reveal what was kept hidden inside her. She had lived on that new hope which she suspected its continuity as if life had become her enemy.

Nour had never imagined replacing Saeed with any other one as love was the only thing which had decided and sentenced

her to that love. When she learnt from the newspaper about a murder committed by Saeed, all her hopes were shattered and her soul had been withdrawn from her as his secret was revealed or would be soon and that what she didn't accept. She had become desperate and too weak to think of anything or to take a decision of any kind. But Saeed was very calm and tried to soften things to her till he had convinced her of moving completely but after a while. Nour had been and was still giving her pure love and wanted nothing in that life but Saeed and nothing more. If she had asked him to escape in a moment without waiting, that was out of her insistence on continuing her life beside him without fearing any danger. She was sticking to a right which had become hers after years of dreaming. Nour's feeling of love was very strong and no power on earth was as equal as it evens the power of death, was less than the power of love inside her. She was only thinking of that man whom she possessed or believed that she did. She had made love with hundreds of men and youth and was so close to them but none of them made her feel him. She had loved Saeed despite the distance between them; he had always been living inside her. As the time had fulfilled her dream, she saw the future very gloomy as it was threatening her to lose the most precious thing in her life, her beloved, Saeed. That was because he had insisted on taking revenge from everything. That what Nopur had rejected as she wanted to spend the rest of her life beside him in safety and peace and to enjoy the pleasure of love after all those years of rejection.that's why she had exerted much effort to stop him from what was in mind but he repeated his attempt to commit another crime and increase his bad credit with the police. They were tracing his footsteps and news as he had become their target. Nour had continued her usual work which she used to get by and Saeed too. She fulfilled all his demands from that income which she earned at the end of every night from a different place and a different man as her customers weren't permanent and she was

searching for them and listening from them to what was going on and transferring all the news to Saeed. She had lived terrible moments of fear from the future which she had escaped from by drinking heavily to avoid that deadly feeling of fear. The drink wasn't as effective as love inside her. It was more effective than alcohol. The fear from tomorrow was chasing her and she was feeling that Saeed was sufficient for her and she wanted no one except him. Could she leave him by his own to lose him in a second as she had found him in a second? That sense of fear was threatening every moment in her life. That's why she was begging and requesting and repeating her request to escape away far from that place or that country.

She wanted to live away from that fear. She had noticed a slight change in Saeed's emotions towards her. The emotional condition was on her side. But, was that change due to the circumstances which they were passing through. Would that change be the same in other conditions? That what she couldn't be sure of. All those thoughts and worries were waiting for his approval on her plan of escaping. Saeed didn't find the time was suitable for their escape as there were certain things inside his mind which he wanted to fulfill. Perhaps to be sure that Raouf Elwan was murdered and that his hand hadn't mistaken him that time or he was waiting for the police's keen search for him to fade and come to an end to secure his escape without any risk and that time, he wasn't alone but he would be followed by Nour. He started to be concerned about her or that what he had believed.

Nour had become his source of secure and safety who protected him and in comparison to others, whether Nabaweya or any other woman, Nour was on the top as she had loved him at the time, everyone had rejected him including his wife. She had sheltered him at the time; his own wife had not only deserted him, but also got married to a young man who used to be his follower. While Nour was giving him love and sacrifice. After

all that, could he be mean with her and deprive her from mere complimentary words? But, she deserved more than that, but at that time he was providing her with some emotional words which might be sincere but they hadn't touched her as his behaviors were contradicting his words as he was throwing himself into hell and that what she had completely rejected. She had accepted for that situation to last and even frozen like that as long as he was by her side then they would seek a safe place where they could spend the rest of their life safely and that was more than enough for her to give him love and to receive an approval to that love which could revive the hope of a good life which she wanted to last.

Despite all that, she was looking for a source of income anywhere, in a chalet, a flat, the graveyard or even the street and that wasn't strange for her as she was selling a forbidden good, her body so the hidden and sheltered places were her destination to return later on carrying his needs first, in addition to, informing him with what she had heard from the people in the street about him. She used to see the impact of those words on him as a deadly danger for her, which was reflected on him calmly and that what she disliked. She was dying of fear for him and he was calm and full of hope of everything, a hope of revenge from whomever he wanted to, a hope of escaping away safely and that what caused that confrontation and contrast in their discussion:

- I care about you. But, you don't care about yourself and you don't love me but you're more precious to me than life and soul. I've never known happiness till I lived with you but you prefer death to my love.
- You'll find me keeping my promise….. We'll escape and we'll live together forever. (117)

The love that controlled Nour was stronger than any other thing. She was the one who played with the hearts and minds of plenty of men till it had become an easy job for her which she used to get by its income.

As for Saeed Mahran, he was a complete whole world for her. She had given him her love without expecting any payment, a payment of the same type and not to fulfill a desire or making love. Despite that, she had submitted to the other alternative. Perhaps love would be born out of that sexual relation or that continuous a t t a c h m e n t . It was a s t e p which she had admitted in front of him after being controlled by great fear and despair from changing his intention to revenge from his wife's betrayal which she had relied on the continuity of his love to her. If he hadn't continued loving her, he would have forgotten her. But he insisted on his revenge which reflected that he still loved her and that what disturbed her. She was concerned about him; he wasn't concerned about himself at all and risked his life. Nour confessed her real love and her right of having a mutual feeling but she submitted as he was considered the whole life for her. Perhaps it was more than her feeling of life or even to her soul. Her love was stronger than everything, the life, the soul and how precious that love was, which was invulnerable. She ended her words by a confession about her feeling of happiness which she had never experienced before being attached to him. That attachment, she hadn't known expect few days ago despite having known Saeed for years but, on a distance and happiness wasn't known to her till she had been attached to him. The thing which she wanted to last even if it hadn't been a mutual love, she was satisfied with his attachment which caused her happiness. Despite that, he couldn't guarantee that attachment due to his behavior which would lead to his end which meant hers too. Nour's confession of what was kept in her inner heart, was honest and out of her loyal heart to her beloved and for that Saeed wasn't an ingratitude man perhaps his feelings were changed after receiving that great amount of pure love and giving without seeking any aim which led to his confession that he would never give her away and he would keep his promise to escape with her and to continue with her till the end. That

was more than sufficient for her under one condition to guarantee the fulfillment of that promise as she had never felt secured from his rage of anger which threatened his life and hers, too. Nour wanted to live on the hope, that he might fulfill his words but the fact had contradicted that promise. As she had learnt from people and the newspapers that a homicide had been committed by Saeed Mahran and the bullet which was shot, had penetrated the heart of a poor, helpless, innocent porter instead of Raouf Elwan's heart, all the police and the reporters had turned against him. She had gone crazy as she had believed his words and lived on his promise as she was expecting the moment of departure to fulfill her dream of a new life after their escape and she had just found out that he had committed another crime in order to be seized by the police who had been trying to trap him. She had bounded not only her destiny but also her whole life with his existence which was falling apart and decaying so, what's meant by her staying? Nonsense. But, what could she do? She was too weak to put an end to her destiny by her own decision and to be at the same time the weapon which would end her life. She was completely torn apart while confronting him and blaming him for what he had done which would destroy her life, hope and desire to stay as she had seen the very near end. Nour had become definitely sure about the relation between that crime and the man whom she had loved till it reached the level of worship and insanity.

And after she had lost her hope of the continuity of staying by his side after escaping as she had become sure that that escape was almost impossible. She could hardly believe that Saeed Mahran who was living with her at the same place, the same person whom she had loved and offered her life and she was expressing that in her discussion with him after reaching great depression:

• You're crueler than I expect. I don't understand you please kill me to have rest (121)

Nour had known Saeed Mahran; she had known his cruelty and hard heart which had never softened to her despite her love to him publicly and not secretly. She had put an average to that cruelty even if it increased; it would be bearable and would never affect her love to him. For all that cruelty, the man wasn't considered a riddle for her. She was trying to get close enough to reveal his mysterious character and didn't lose hope moreover; she had convinced herself that she was very close to that character. But, finally she had given in to the fact which made her admit his cruelty which she hadn't imagined in addition to her admit that till that moment, she hadn't understood him well. Therefore, the actual conclusion was her definite end but, to reach that point and she was too weak to do that. Death had become his favourite game and death too, was a way to her end which would lead to her eternal rest as long as being with that man had become impossible. Then, death was her hope so let it be by his own hands and it wouldn't be hard for him to do so. That's how Nour had made her decision or wish as she had reached a point after which she couldn't continue. As the end would be immediately after it. So she was asking for it herself. If Nour had reached an end by which she couldn't see any hope which could open a way of survival, it was easy for Saeed to soften that pessimistic look and convince her that the hope still existed.

If Nour had surrendered to his words, it was her love which accepted his analyze to the situation not her as long as the conclusion resulted from that Conversation had revived the hope that they could continue together after arranging their escape which would be postponed till the police calm and stop their search. He had found her clue by which he could grab her away from danger and make her fear and anger disappear which was just a touch or getting close to her.

The love which had controlled Nour and possessed all her passions which had conquered her mind, made her reach the climax of despair and fear not on herself but on her beloved who

had become her source of giving, happiness and hope. Then, her rage had calmed down quickly and from the same passion which found response from the other side; she had believed any promises from him and forgotten all his cruelty and any moment of danger.

She had forgiven everything for him even if her life and happiness would be the price as long as love was the controller and the master of that situation. After living with him, her life had become like an unstable sea which was controlled by the waves and the winds. Once it was calm and many times, was violated by the wind and waves. Saeed too, was like the sea from whom she had been provided with happiness and because of him she got angry and frightened. Then she calmed down and returned to her first state and so on.

Nour had lived before, a changeable life in which she had feared nothing and she had been loyal to her love which had been able by its power to penetrate that stony heart and affect it in a moment when Saeed had felt that Nour had melted like a candle after lightening his last few days. She had left and didn't return and he had learnt nothing about her to lead himself to the last destination which had nothing after.

That's how Nour had survived a one side love story, an honest, sacrificing love from a prostitute who was honest in her love. Her outer appearance was corrupted but her essence was decent and gorgeous. Those were the qualities of the woman who had played a main role in the literature of Naguib Mahfouz and our choise of those three women who had embodied the role of the prostitute who was obliged to choose that route under the pressure of poverty and need.

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- The dedication.
- The introduction.
- 1) El Madak alley.
- 2) A beginning and an end.
- 3) The thief and the dogs.
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This is a critical essay based particularly on the way in which Naguib Mahfouz considered, in his writings, the status of the fallen woman working at dirty places or the deviant one doing immoral jobs whether the falling reasons were economic or social ones.

It is a beginning to study the rest of Mahfouz's works and that what we expect from the author.

Dr. Medhat El Gayar

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