

GELİN (The BRIDE) 1973

Lütfi. Ö. Akad

Overview

Gelin presents human portraits from an increasingly concentrated period of migration from village to city in Turkey since the 1950s. In this film of the trilogy, Akad tells the story of a family who has come to city recently and struggled at all costs and set their head to hold on to it.

The film has a claustrophobic atmosphere, often in the homes and shops where the family lives and works. It is a film that the big city outside does not show itself, except for the opening, but makes the audience feel its existence fully in the life of the family and the tensions. This family on the periphery of the city has not yet had the means to penetrate the city and become a part of it, but it tries to expand its capital and get closer to it and open space there. Gelin is also a very powerful film with its metaphorical narration.

People

Meryem Meryem (Mary) is the bride in a family who immigrated from the village to the city recently. Osman's mother. Veli's wife.

Hacı İlyas He is the eldest in the family. The father of Veli and Hıdır. Meryem's father-in-law. He runs a grocery store.

Veli Meryem's husband. The younger son of Hacı İlyas. The father of Osman.

Hıdır The eldest brother Hacı İlyas's greatest helper in his work.

Kaynana Hacı İlyas's wife. Meryem's mother-in-law. Mother of Veli and Hıdır.

Synopsis

Veli comes to Istanbul from a small village with his wife Meryem and son Osman. The rest of the family, his father, mother, and brother, and his family came to Istanbul before him and settled. The family all live together in a slum of Istanbul. They run a grocery store here. Their biggest goal is to achieve prosperity by opening a second and larger shop in a slightly more central neighborhood of the city. They are expected to make sacrifices from everyone in the family while working relentlessly. Meryem and Veli's son Osman has a disease they do not know what it is. Meryem is very concerned for her son, but other members of the family think it is trivial, and they oppose the doctor's control with their bigotry. Meryem takes her son to the hospital with the help of a neighbor and learns he has a significant heart condition. Although Meryem tried to explain the importance of the situation and asked for help from the family, Osman's disease is neglected. The family is completely obsessed with the new shop dream and is uninterested in anything else, and they expect the same dedication and work from Meryem. Osman's treatment is postponed day by day. The shop opens and work continues. Osman, who is unable to receive treatment, dies on a holiday. Meryem confronts the family and leaves home to start a new life for herself. However, that is something the conservative family cannot accept. Veli is infused to kill his beloved wife.

Scenes

Arrival Meryem, Veli, and Osman get off the train at the station. They are greeted by Hıdır. Meryem and Osman are baffled by the crowds and the size of the city. It is the first time they have seen the sea. Hıdır says the city is much more gigantic behind the visible. They go home. Hıdır takes Veli to their father's shop, walks him around the neighborhood.

At Home Veli delivers the money to his father for the field he sold in the village. Hacı İlyas mentions about the neighborhood grocery store that does not return good profits and plans to open a more central and larger shop.

At the room Meryem and Veli speak in their room. Meryem hopes that she will get used to this place and love it. Their little boy Osman, who sleeps deliriously. Meryem is concerned about this situation that Osman often encounters. Veli thinks it does not matter. He thinks his mother's pray can make Osman good.

At the shop Hacı İlyas tells his son Veli about the greatness of the city and business opportunities. He says the actual city and the opportunities are for the center, not in where they are located.

Osman gets worse Osman faints while Meryem and the other bride work in the garden. Meryem is desperate. The neighboring woman who is there advises taking Osman to the doctor. His mother-in-law is furious about it. She finds the doctor unnecessary. He tells Meryem not to see the woman next door that she is corrupt here.

Wine Hıdır mentions that he sells wine in the shop without the permission of his father. He says his father does not question the source of the money. Hıdır and Veli laugh.

Money and health Veli tells Meryem about his experience in the shop that day enthusiastically in the evening. Meryem is worried about Osman. Veli tranquilizes her, that there is no need for a doctor. He keeps telling her about the dreams of a new shop.

Osman faints again Osman faints again while he plays on the street. The neighboring woman who sees this helps. The neighbor recommends that Osman see a doctor. Meryem says her family will not allow it. When Meryem returns home, her mother-in-law scolds her.

Veli and Hıdır at the shop Veli learns to sell in the shop. Hıdır complains that they cannot reach an agreement with the owner of the new shop they want to hire. Veli also embraces the sale of smuggled wine. Hıdır tells him that they are going to make a lot of money with the new store.

Prayer Mother-in-law prays at home with her daughters-in-law. After the prayer, she rebukes Meryem for not fulfilling her wishes.

At the hospital Meryem takes Osman to the hospital with the help of her neighbor, unaware of her family. The doctor examines and asks to come back for the test results.

Turns out Meryem went to the hospital. Veli defends Meryem. Meryem again expresses her concern. She asks her husband for help. Veli claims that Osman is healthy. He does not want to go to the hospital with Meryem, claiming he is busy in the shop.

Meryem is back in the hospital When Meryem failed to get support from her husband, she takes Osman back to the hospital for the results of the examinations. She learns that Osman has a heart condition and needs surgery. At that time, Hacı İlyas and Hıdır negotiate with the owner of the shop. Meryem comes home. Others are happy to hire the shop. They do not believe Osman should have surgery.

At the dinner Hacı İlyas finds the health system commercialized and sees the surgery unnecessary.

The new shop The new shop opens. Hacı İlyas hangs a prayer on the wall: "The earner is the beloved servant of Allah". They sell more in this place, which is bigger and more modern than before.

Home account They count money at home and calculate. Hıdır's wife brings her gold and delivers them to her father-in-law. Hıdır needs more money to develop the shop as planned. Veli wants Meryem to give her golden jewelry too. Meryem says she sells the gold for Osman's treatment, angering the family's money ambition. Veli slaps Meryem.

At the park Veli and Meryem speak in a seaside park. Meryem says that the new shop has increased their debts and corrupted their situation, that Osman is not well. Veli comforts Meryem; defends his parents.

Meryem hands money Meryem apologizes and hands the money of the gold to Hacı İlyas. Hacı İlyas promises that they will take care of the disease soon when their condition is better.

Meryem works Meryem works both at home and in the shop relentlessly. She reminds them of Osman's condition. Hacı İlyas wants her to wait for the holiday to pass.

Holiday Osman and other children have fun in the playground on Ramadan Holiday. Veli who is happy and spending time with his family, but Hıdır calls him to shop to work. Meryem is unhappy.

The new shop The new shop is full of goods and customers. The business is developed. Hıdır is happy. However, the old small shop loses money.

Sacrificial ram Hacı İlyas purchases a sacrificial ram for the feast of sacrifice. Osman wonders what this is. İlyas tells the story of Abraham the prophet and the sacrifice. "This ram is yours until the festival of the sacrifice," he tells Osman. Meryem watches anxiously.

Grocery shop Osman gets worse playing with the ram at home. Meryem takes him to Hacı İlyas to remind him of the promise of treatment. İlyas counts money. He complains of financial hardship. He says everything is going to be okay after the holiday.

Evening at home Meryem tells Veli she is pregnant. Veli promises to move to a separate house. Meryem wants Osman's treatment first.

Holiday morning Osman kisses the hand of the elders. Hacı İlyas sends Veli to open the shop. Osman cannot bear to see it and runs away while the ram is about to be sacrificed in the garden. He falls down the street and dies. While Osman's funeral is taken, Meryem releases the sacrificial ram.

Face off Meryem arrives at the grocery shop and stands against İlyas. She says she is going to sacrifice her newcomer baby in his way. İlyas sees Osman's death as a divine appreciation. Meryem wants her money back. They overturn the gas lamp when they argue. The store lights up.

Escape Meryem runs away from home. Veli is upset, but Hıdır says he has to accept and hold on to all that.

Honor Hıdır learns that Meryem works in a factory. Hacı İlyas tells Veli it is a matter of honor. He gives him a gun to kill her.

After work Meryem and Veli face off at the exit of the factory. Veli asks her if there is a job for him in the factory too.

Themes

Immigration Hacı İlyas and his wife immigrated to Istanbul with their two sons, two daughters-in-law, and grandchildren from a village in Anatolia. The family, who worked as farmers in their hometowns, started to run a shop in the city. Although their neighborhood is a part of Istanbul, it is far from the center of the city, where they have just begun to form in the corners of the city and share it with other farming families who migrate like themselves. The great city is still standing before them as a fortress that must be conquered, a land of fortune. His father introduces the environment to Veli, who had just come from the village: "Istanbul is behind those blocks. Once we're holding it, no one's going to stop us. There is a dime here, but twenty-five cents in the heart of town. You know, shopping here with grams,

but there's a kilo over there." To his brother Veli, who sees the big buildings on the opposite hill, Hıdır says, "There's a part of the big city, we're going to open the new shop there." Veli responds, "Big place."

Hıdır: "Big?... It is not enough to describe. You'd be amazed if you see it. We had lots of troubles until we got used to it when we first came!"

Through solidarity, the family tries to adapt and stand in these new and difficult conditions, while leaning to their beliefs and traditions. His mother-in-law reminds Meryem on the day she first arrives: "Istanbul is outside this courtyard. You'd better think this place hometown again." On the other hand, they are trying to reconcile by waiving their values day by day in the face of the new conditions brought on by this new environment.

Money The money theme is one of the core elements of the film. Money and money-related issues appear in many successive scenes, remarkably.

The characters always calculate the amount of money. How much money they have, how much for they sold their properties in the village, the rent and other costs of the new shop they want to keep, the bargains with the owner, their debts and savings, the dreams of making money, so on. Money-related issues are widely covered in many scenes.

Money has a priority in cross-character relationships. Little Osman's treatment is constantly postponed because it requires money. Meryem frequently requests help for the treatment of her son, but they do not respond to her demands. The family is focused on accumulating capital to expand their business.

Besides, each member of the family is obliged to expend their money to serve this so-called common purpose. The father, who dominates the traditional family structure as the elder of the house, is expected to make these decisions and other members are expected to adapt to it without objection.

Although they look extremely religious and traditional, two brothers sell wine in the evenings at the grocery store, contradicting their religious beliefs. Their father appears to be unaware of the situation but seems implicitly confirm the situation by not asking the source of the money from this well-earning sale.

Hacı İlyas and his son Hıdır negotiate with the owner of the shop they want to hire. While all this is going on, little Osman is examined in the hospital. Akad provides a critical moment in this scene concerning the issue of money and the health of the little boy through parallel editing. Meryem learns Osman's illness and its vitality. Surgical operations and a significant amount of money are required for this. On that day, Hıdır and Hacı İlyas hire the shop near the big blocks as a result of their negotiations with its owner.

Religion The family in the film ultimately cares about their religious beliefs. Prayers and rituals belonging to the Religion of Islam are frequently represented. Allah, the prophet, and other religious references are widely contained. The father, Hacı İlyas, frequently goes to the mosque for worship. He tells religious stories. Whole family fasts during Ramadan. Prayer, repentance, and destiny are other common religious motifs.

Religion is indisputably at the center of their lives and they see it as a solution for every strength. However, their over-emphasis on materiality contradicts their beliefs. When it comes to financial interests, religion is waived or contradictions are easily ignored.

Hacı İlyas takes medication from the pharmacy for knee pain, but avoids taking his grandson to the doctor, and recommends "prayer" as a treatment.

The conflict between religion and money in particular, and the choice of money at all times at the end, has been strongly given by Akad. The most concrete example of the effort to

reconcile religion and money manifests itself in the words hanging on the wall at the opening of the modern shop: "God loves the earner."

Oppression and the exploitation of women's labor Women's labor has an important role in the well-being of the family. Meryem and the other bride are expected to work continuously. Women work nonstop in the making and housework of some of the products that men sell in the shop. However, the time and value of the work spent by women cannot find any place in the monetary issues mentioned above. Women do not receive any financial compensation for their labor. This situation is naturalized and ignored in this traditional family order. Women also accept this situation and demand nothing. They continue to work submissively without questioning.

Not only their labor but also the general interests of the family are confiscated by the pretext of what they had before. The elders of the family, who still find the contribution of Meryem insufficient, want to capitalize on her ornaments. However, when Meryem realizes there will be no benefit from the family, she considers hiding them for use for her son's treatment expenses.

Younger women have no word in decisions on family matters. They are also prevented from making decisions about themselves and their children. When Meryem wants to show her son to the doctor, she gets a reaction from the family elders. She finally goes to the doctor secretly. When Osman is diagnosed, Meryem's family does not allow her to follow the doctor's advice. They prevent her to get a treatment for her child.

The only female in the family who has authority is the mother-in-law of Meryem.

Sacrifice The sacrifice is a vital theme of both Gelin and other films of the trilogy. Those who come from rural to large cities through migration try to adapt to the new environment. They try to survive by losing in a variety of ways. Family members are often sacrificed for financial gain. Akad vigorously pursues the sacrifice theme that begins with this film in other films of the trilogy.

In Gelin, Osman, the youngest of the family is sacrificed. The treatment of Osman's disease is disrupted day by day because of the greed for money. Akad emphasizes this theme with bold lines by combining it with the tradition of sacrifice, an important religious ritual for Muslims.

On the feast of sacrifice in the Islamic tradition, Osman, who is lovingly connected to the ram they will sacrifice to Allah, runs away from home with sadness. However, he falls on the street. Osman's heart stops.

Meryem releases the ram while Osman's funeral is taken from the house. Ram goes after Osman's coffin. Eventually, sacrificing accomplished, and religious duty has been fulfilled. There is no more need for sacrifice.

In religious stories where miracles take place, a sacrifice is sent to the prophet from the sky and he is free from sacrificing his son. However, it is futile to expect help from the heavens in the story of an ordinary man. Meryem and Veli sacrificed their only child for the sake of the family's dreams of wealth.

Character Analysis

Meryem Meryem, the film's main character, is a woman who grew up under pressure in traditional conditions. However, she is about to be individualized and questioning. For that reason, she is isolated. She finds meaningless and exaggerated to give central importance to the money. She is extremely altruistic to his wife and child.

Lonely and helpless Meryem is a lonely character, even though she is in a crowded family. Meryem's loneliness and the problem of communication with her environment are

frequently highlighted. The dialogue on the scene, in which Meryem tries to explain Osman's situation to her husband, sums this situation dramatically:

Veli : "Trade is another thing, dear. The money flows from one palm to another palm. It's not like farming".

Meryem: "Veli, today the child has been worsened.

Veli: He's a child, he's fine. You would have my mom to pray for him.

Meryem: We already have prayed?! ...

Veli: You won't be surprised to pay off the money. It's the first thing I've learned. It costs 435 cents, isn't it? The customer gave 10 Liras... First...

At that time, Meryem stands at the foreground with an anxious facial expression, while Veli at the background continues to speak.

Meryem: My baby convulsed like a bird.

Veli: It's the climate change. It'll pass when he gets used to it. Then you won't say no if they ask for a non-stock good. You're going to say it's out. This is different; I wish I was like my brother..."

Meryem seeks help from her husband and other family members to find a cure for her son's illness, but she cannot receive any support and is silenced. No one in the family wants to believe her. They claim that Osman is weak, and blame Meryem for not being a good mother enough.

Meryem would go to the hospital for the second time to get the results of the examinations. She waits for her husband's support. When she realizes that he will leave her alone, she decides to take care of herself. Despite Veli's objections, Meryem makes her choice in favor of her son and goes to the hospital alone with him.

The fact that Veli loses himself with the dreams of a wealth of Hacı İlyas and Hıdır. This further the distance with Meryem.

Questioning Meryem has a questioning personality. Meryem dislikes the ambitious and oppressive behavior of those around her and their attitudes. She does not share their dreams and finds meaningless the obsessive ambition they feel to achieve these dreams. In other words, a way of life is more valuable for her than money, where human values come at the forefront.

Meryem expresses this critique in various ways: "It's all about the shop... They are delirious of the shop in a fever."

In another scene, Meryem questions the bigoted view of her family who criticizes the neighboring woman who works in a factory, by asking, "Is it a shame to work?"

Meryem is not afraid to tell her husband that she took Osman to the hospital. She insists Osman is sick. Although Veli rejects this idea and claims that Osman is healthy, she does not accept the situation. She cashes the gold she owns for his son's surgical operation.

Meryem, sitting on a bench by the sea, talking to Veli, says that they are getting poorer with the opening of the new shop. Meryem understands the approaching danger and tries to explain the situation to Veli.

Hacı İlyas Hacı İlyas, the eldest of the family and father of the boys, is a religious, conservative, and ambitious man in the business. İlyas's attitude and behavior play a significant role in driving the family into a tragedy. Trade and the profits that come from it are

extremely important to İlyas. He cares more about his work than his family. He postpones the treatment of his grandson Osman.

Greedy Hacı İlyas is a money-grabbing character. When Meryem tells her son's disease and needs for 6 -7 thousand liras for the treatment, Hacı İlyas does not find this convincing. Although the social security agency will pay a significant amount of money, he finds the cost of treatment too much. He sees it as "money to throw on the street."

Hacı İlyas wants to capitalize on the gold that Meryem has. Meryem does not want to give away this gold, which she sees as a last resort for the treatment of her son, but in the end, she has to give it away. Hacı İlyas postpones his promises on the financial pretext. His preference for money in exchange for his grandson is the most important indication of his fondness for money.

Hacı İlyas is seen counting money and calculating money in many scenes. The most striking example of this comes in the final: Osman's funeral has just been removed. His wife gives İlyas something in a tissue when he leaves the house. Meryem notices this gesture. She looks at it with hatred and disgust. In the following scene, İlyas opens the tissue in the shop. Then, he starts counting the money that comes out of it. İlyas thinks about his money, even at his grandson's funeral.

Religious Hacı İlyas is someone who tries to live according to religious rules. The adjective of Hacı in front of İlyas's name is part of this. He performs his religious worship; he gives religious messages to those around him. It is one of those moments when he tells his grandson Osman the story of the Prophet of Abraham and the sacrifice.

Little Osman asks what the sacrifice is. Hacı İlyas tells the story of the prophet who was sacrificing his son to prove his faith in Allah. God had mercy on Abraham and sent a ram ordering him to sacrifice this instead of the boy, and a tradition had emerged. Meryem observes this scene in the background. In the close-up, Meryem's petrified, anxious face is seen.

Hacı İlyas's fondness for materialism conflicts on most stages with his efforts to be religious. For example, they fast and pray during Ramadan. However, while the prayer is recited, Hacı İlyas counts the coins.

Veli Veli, who is Meryem's husband and Osman's father, is a docile man who loves his family but cannot come out of the word of his elders. He is naïve and kind-hearted, but he cannot protect his family. He is under the influence of his father and brother.

Narrow-minded and obedient Although his wife, Meryem, begs, he does not accept his son's illness and refused treatment. Veli does not see the upcoming tragedy. He looks after Istanbul with hope and believes that there is a business opportunity in every corner of it like his brother.

He objects when Meryem wants to take her son to the hospital for a second time. Meryem wants to know what happened to Osman. Veli is extremely strict. He puts his family's business at the forefront and refuses her. He cannot resist the demands of his father and brother. He does what he is told. Veli also expects his wife to be equally obedient.

Remorseful Veli loses his son and Meryem after all that had happened in the final. In violation of the conservative traditions, Meryem left her family and her husband and started to work in the factory. In the end, Veli regrets and says he wants to work in the factory too. Veli eventually understands the restraints within the family that Meryem had seen much

earlier at the expense of the losses. He also grasps that the way out was to move away from his family and live an independent life by individualizing it.

Hidir Hidir is the eldest son of the family and the right-hand man of Hacı İlyas. He plays an active role in the plans for developing the business with his father. Hidir makes commercial decisions in the family. He is selfish and indifferent to his family members.

Greedy Hidir is greedy. He wants to be successful and climb the social ladder at all costs. When he goes to negotiate with the property owner, he says no one can hire it but himself. He explains he can have it by force even if they do not agree. This shows that he can do many things with his greed.

With the new shop they open, they grow their business gradually. While making money, their debts also grow. He becomes greedier. He intends to open a white goods store with a loan from the bank.

Hidir remains indifferent to the pain of Veli losing his son. He says, "The wheel's spinning, you're going to last once. The job does not know the tears... that's it." He has no support but to give his brother advice on patience.

Conservative Hidir does not like his neighbor because his wife works in the factory. According to him, a man should not let his wife work in the factory. When they meet Ibrahim in the neighborhood, the newly arrived Veli greets him and speaks to him. However, Hidir ignores the man.



The Family



Meryem hands her money to Hacı İlyas



At the meal



Hacı İlyas tells the story of Abraham