

10- Uğurata ER

The Sentimental Elements in *The King of the Street Cleaners (Çöpçüler Kralı)*

The King of the Street Cleaners, or Çöpçüler Kralı is a 1977 Yeşilçam movie. We can classify this movie as a comedy-drama film; it is directed by Zeki Ökten. The main characters in the movie are Şakir and Apti. Şakir works as a leader of the street cleaners and he acts really bossy while Apti is a street cleaner. There is also Hacer who lives in the same neighborhood with Şakir and Apti; she works as a house cleaner. She loves Apti; however, Şakir also loves Hacer. Because of the fact that Şakir has a better economic status than Apti, he is more likely to marry Hacer. However, this whole situation changes when Apti starts to work as a singer in the casino.

This movie is not just a comedy, it also includes many sentimental elements. In my opinion, one of the biggest similarities between this movie and the sentimental comedy is the features of the characters. In sentimental comedies, the characters are either too good or too bad; we can see the same situation in this movie; Apti is our hero and he has a good heart. On the other hand, Şakir treats quite badly to the street cleaners, and the audience does not like him. The socio-economic factors in the movie are also similar to what we see in the sentimental comedies. The reason why this movie is dramatic is that the audience gets worried about the lovers because they might not get together because of the socio-economic factors. Another similarity is that the movie makes the audience feel pity and sympathy for the main characters.