

11- Aysu YÜCEDAĞ

Sentimental Drama and Yeşilçam Movies

Sentimental drama which is based upon the sentimental notion that men are naturally good is born as a reaction against the previous drama style, comedy of manners. Society, morality, and propriety were believed to be ruined in the Restoration period. The stage was full of sexual themes as cuckoldry, gossiping, swearing, and nudity was at the forefront. The newly emerging middle class, the bourgeois whose literary taste is different from the high class found this drama immoral and decided to make a change in drama under the leadership of Jeremy Collier. Features of this kind of new drama which belongs to the middle class were different from the comedy of manners.

But these features and themes are used in a different region's cinema culture even after many years. Turkish Yeşilçam movies bear a resemblance to the sentimental drama. One can find some similarities between the sentimental drama and the Yeşilçam movie, *Çiçek Abbas*. In the movie, the protagonist Abbas is a very humble man who works with Şakir in bus. Şakir is a trickster man who amuses and wastes his fiancée's time. So, there are two types of characters which are contrary to each other. Şakir is bad and Abbas is good, so the characters are either good or bad like it can be seen in Sentimental theatre. We have a female character Nazlı and she is a virtuous woman who is loved by Abbas. Abbas saves money to buy himself a bus and to run his own business to marry Nazlı. After Abbas buys the bus, Şakir gets jealous and steals the wheels of Abbas's bus. But Şakir's sister brings back the wheels to the Abbas. Because he is a good man, he gains his own money rightly, he continues his own business and is able to marry Nazlı. So we can see that even a poor man becomes rich and rise by his virtue. Marriage at the end of the movie refers to the defense of marriage in sentimental theatre. All that Abbas wants is to marry Nazlı so he works hard and marries her in an honorable way. Their love is based on the union of minds, not bodies. The poetic justice that punishes bad men and rewards good men which we have in sentimental comedy is also seen in the movie. People love and trust Abbas so they get on the bus of him. Şakir becomes poor because the majority prefer Abbas's bus. So Şakir loses his money and fiancée while Abbas marries Nazlı and starts to make more money than Şakir.