

## SYNOPSIS

*Snow* is a novel which portrays the politics of identity practices toward Kars Muslim, indigenous of Turkey people. The story centers on the conflict between the state and Kars Muslim. The state changes the structure of Turkish to be a secular state by modernizing all aspects in Turkish in western context. The state flings all the things in name of Islam from public sphere. Meanwhile Islam has long history in Turkey. Islam is both as a religion and the tradition in the long of Ottoman period.

*Snow* is about a three day journey of Kerim Alakuşoğlu (the acronymic nickname Ka instead) - a poet and a political exile who returns to Turkey after twelve years in Germany. He comes to Turkey not simply to attend his mother funeral but also many reasons mysteries aiming. Taner, who writes political commentaries for *Republican*, gives him his valid press card to enter Kars as a reporter. He always says to the people that he goes to Kars to report the municipal election and investigate the reason of women committing suicide. But actually he comes to Kars because he hears Ipek, a radiant friend of Ka's youth, lately divorced, whom he has never forgotten. Ipek is a daughter of a former old-guard secularist whose sister, Kadife, is having an affair with Blue. Blue is the leader of underground Muslim Islamist. He would meet Ipek not only headlong toward the unknowable Ipek, but also into a 'game' of a military coup controlling the local Islamist. Ipek's ex-husband is a candidate of major in Kars who comes from Islam party.

It is told in the novel, though Ottoman used Islam regulation, the eclectically system makes Kars rich in culture. Moreover, Kars was the border between two defunct empires, the Ottoman and Russian. It is a business station of many people from different religions, ethnics, cultures. They are from German, Russia, Georgia, Tabriz and Caucas. They live in plurality and could live peacefully till the first years of secular state. Until one day, the state uses Military to diminish the entire in the name of Islam from public sphere.

By the time, the state uses Military to destroy Kars Muslim identity. The state and its military repress, marginalize and reconstruct Muslim identity. All the Muslim movements are spied by the military. The state converts the western values through television program and theatre performance. It bans the veil from the class and also arrests the Islamist. The Kars Muslim's life is destroyed. This condition brings contradiction with the Ottoman life. Some Muslim follows the state rules and some Muslim also tries to against which are called as the Islamist, such as Muhtar, Blue and Kadife.

The most of Muslim have not braveness to against the injustice; they have no power. Because whoever against the state will be punished in the state 'fundamentalist' jail. Sheikh Saadettin as *Ulama* in Kars Muslim society has special approaching to against the state. He uses the moral values as the basic of religion in his lodge. Meanwhile, the Islamist uses the frontal way in facing the state's repression. Muhtar joins Islamic Party and becomes the candidate of Kars major. Kadife leads the demonstration against the ban of the veil in the school. And Blue makes the statement to the West Country.

Facing with this condition, the Kars Muslim has no choice except surviving their life and following the condition. Though there are members who struggle toward the injustice of the state the power of the state and its military cannot be defeated. Thus, they are still under control of the state and its military in the end.