* Male members of the family also depict the expectations and roles of the man conditioned by their gender. The father of the narrator in ‘Karawanserei’ in many ways exhibits the typical traits assumed by a father in a Turkish society. He frequently will use physical abuse as a consequence of his daughter challenging social norms that are expected of her and he assumes the active role of trying to provide for his family as they relocate from place to place as a result of Turkey’s unstable economy during the 1950’s to the 70’s. Although his role is very much determined by his gender, the implications of Westernization of Turkish middle-class society are clearly indicated by the acts of the father as he seemingly loses his Muslim identity as visits brothels and drinks alcohol to deal with not being able to provide for his family’s monetary needs. Additionally, it is evident that Westernization has had some obvious influences on his lifestyle and desires. The father’s Chevrolet and his sporting of dark glasses are indicative of his attraction to the ideals of America and Hollywood. This notion is also consistent in the character of Fuat, who also wishes to achieve materialist wealth and is infatuated with images of Westernization after watching American movies- he is obsessed with cars, the image of drinking whiskey, moving away somewhere and he also drinks to numb his hardships and the disappointment of his failure to achieve this.
* Ozdamar depicts in many ways an accurate depiction of a traditional father figure among a Turkish society but also is able to portray the implications of the historical context as it influences the father and ultimately the fate of the family as they are in a constant state of relocation. The fact that the impact of Westernization has such a carryover across both the characters of Fuat and the narrator’s father illustrates the prospect of many other men who ultimately chase financial prosperity, leading many moving to Germany in search for work.
* The father of Gul can be examined in stark contrast to that of the narrator’s father in ‘Karawanserei’. Timur and his relationship with his daughter Gul is one that was marked with love and tenderness from the outset and he very much played a role in his daughter’s as he welcomes her into his workshop and the two bond over his trade:
* Er [Timur] hat sie [Gül] gern um sich, meine Tochter, die meine Uhr gefunden hat, nennt er sie, oder auch die Tochter des Schmieds Timur, er nennt sie Schatz und meine Rose und Glanz meiner Augen, wie ihre Mutter es häufig getan hat. Oft nimmt er sie mit, wenn er etwas zu tun hat, er freut sich, wenn sie in die Schmiede kommt. Egal, worum er sie bittet, sie sagt nie, sie habe keine Lust, wie Melike es häufig tut. (81)
* After their mother’s death, Timur quickly remarries another woman. In one aspect this act can be seen to adhere to Turkish tradition by which the significance of the maternal role is important in a Turkish household but when viewed more subjectively, this act can be considered as a sincere gesture by Timur as to not burden his daughter with the responsibility of assuming the maternal role which unfortunately becomes the case.
* Although Timur can be held in stark contrast to the narrator’s father in ‘Karawanserei’ as he is considerably a much better father who provides for his family, a commonality between the two can be seen as Timur spent his younger days in Istanbul getting drunk, portraying it as an escape from death, marriage and the harsh reality of the responsibilities of being a father. Much like there are societal expectations for females to adhere to and assume certain roles, there is very much an expectation of males and particularly fathers to be the provider for their family and there are also immense pressures that come along with such a role, given also the context of Westernization and Modernization which can act as obstacles and in order to deal with these pressures they indulge in the act of drinking. Perhaps a notion that is looked over in the two texts that primarily centralize around the hardships of the female protagonists, but one that should be acknowledged as to illustrate an accurate portrayal of many migrant families.