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HALDUN TANER AND “FAZILET ECZANESİ” (THE VIRTUE PHARMACY): A PLAY SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY IN TURKEY

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Haldun Taner (1915–1986) is a well-known Turkish writer and pioneer of epic theatre in Turkey. His works, stories in particular, were translated into almost all the major world languages, which brought him international recognition. He initially studied politics and economy at the *University of Heidelberg* in Germany until a serious health problem forced his return to Turkey where he graduated from the *Faculty of German Literature and Linguistics* in 1950. He also studied theatre and philosophy at the *University of Vienna* between 1955 and 1957 under the direction of Heinz Kindermann (1894–1985).

The presentation discusses *Fazilet Eczanesi*, one of Taner's early and notable plays. This three-act play was originally adapted from a short story entitled "Eczanenin Aksam Musterileri" (The Evening Customers of the Pharmacy), written in 1952 by the author himself. The play is based on the events that occur in the pharmacy of Sadettin Dertsavar. Its value, in terms of understanding the history of pharmacy in Turkey, lies in its accurate description and observation of pharmaceutical practices, how a pharmacist is related to customers, types of pharmaceutical preparations used during the 1950s, and so forth.