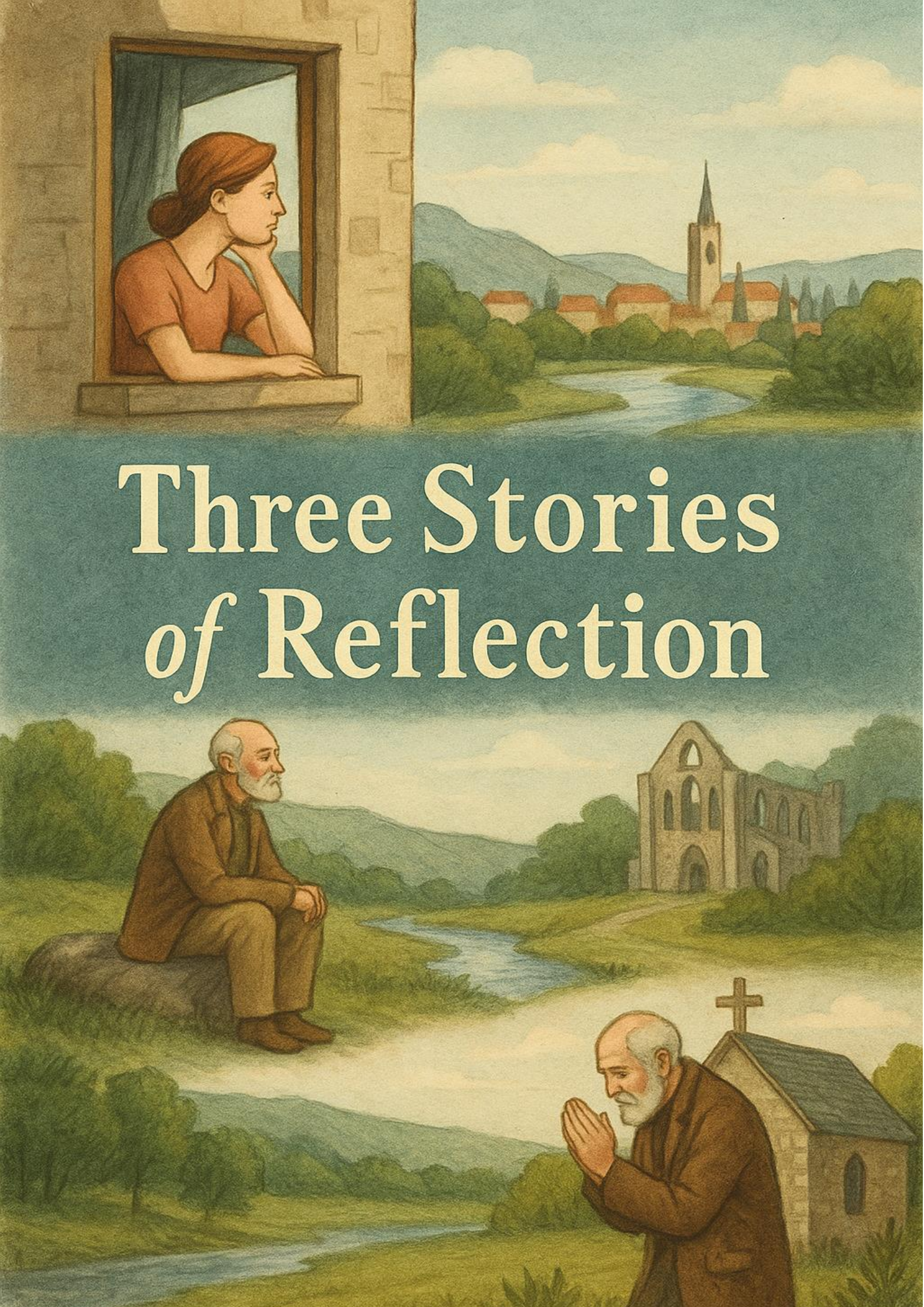

Three Stories
of Reflection

📖 Ön Söz (Spoiler) – Stories of **View,** Memory, and Forgiveness

Sevgili okur,

Bu kitapta üç farklı hikâye bulacaksınız. Hepsi farklı mekânlarda, farklı kahramanlarla başlıyor. Ama aslında hepsi aynı soruya dokunuyor:

👉 İnsanı insan yapan şey nedir?

Bir manzara mı, bir hatıra mı, yoksa bağışlama mı?

1. The Window of Dreams

Genç Anna, Floransa'da kaldığı otelde ilk başta istediği manzarayı bulamaz. Ama bir yabancının iyiliği sayesinde nehir manzaralı bir odaya geçer. Orada tanıştığı Marco ile şehrin sokaklarını keşfeder, birlikte dans eder ve hayatında ilk kez özgürlüğü hisseder. Fakat ayrılık vakti geldiğinde, yanında sadece Marco'nun verdiği bir çiçek ve kalbindeki anılar kalır. Hikâye bize şunu gösterir: bazen bir yolculuk bize manzaradan daha fazlasını verir — hayatımıza dokunan insanları.

2. The Valley of Memories

Genç Thomas, yıllar sonra Tintern Abbey'in yanındaki vadiye geri döner. Çocukluk hatıralarını yeniden yaşamak için geldiği bu yolculukta, doğanın sadece geçmişi hatırlatmadığını, aynı zamanda bugünde yeni bir güç verdiğini fark eder. Vadinin sessizliği ona huzur ve umut kazandırır. Şehir hayatına geri dönse bile, doğanın sesi ve görüntüsü kalbinin içinde yaşamaya devam eder. Hikâye bize hatırlatır: bazen hatıralar sadece geçmişi değil, geleceği de taşır.

3. The Road of Forgiveness

Yaşlı Peter, geçmişte yaptığı hataların yükünü taşır. Her akşam Tanrı'dan bağışlanma diler, fakat içinde korku vardır: "Ya günahlarım çok fazlaysa?" Sonunda kilisede dua ederken gerçek bağışlamayı bulur: önce kendini affetmesi gerektiğini anlar. Köyünde insanlara yardım ederek yeni bir hayat kurar. Ölüm geldiğinde korku değil, huzurla karşılar. Hikâye bize şunu öğretir: bağışlanma sadece istemek değil, aynı zamanda vermektir — hatta kendimize bile.

The Window of Dreams

In a small hotel in Florence, there was a young girl named Anna.
She came from England to see the beauty of Italy.
Her room was simple, but she wanted a room with a **view** of the city.
She asked the manager, “Can I have a room with a **view** of the river?”
But the manager said, “All the rooms with a **view** are full.”

Anna felt sad, because she wanted to see the lights of Florence at night.
While she was thinking about her wish, an old woman spoke kindly.
“You can take my room. I don’t need the **view.”**
Anna smiled, happy to have a chance to see the city.

The next morning, Anna opened the window.
She saw the river **shining** in the sun and people walking on the bridge.
She felt free because she could watch the city.
While she was looking outside, she saw a young man with a book.
He looked up and smiled.

They met later in the garden.
His name was Marco, a student from Florence.
He said, “I like reading here to feel the sun.”
They talked for hours, learning about each other.
Anna felt warm, because she had a friend to share the trip with .

One evening, Anna and Marco walked in the city.
When they reached the square, music filled the air.
People were dancing by holding hands, laughing together.
Marco asked, “Will you dance with me?”
Anna’s heart beat fast.
She had never danced outside in a square before.

She took his hand, and they danced while the music played.
The world felt small, and she felt alive.
In that moment, she knew this trip was **special** because she had found joy, not only places.

The next day, Anna had to leave.
She packed her bag and looked once more at the river.
Marco came to say goodbye.
He gave her a flower from the garden.
“This is for you. Remember Florence with this flower.”

Anna smiled, but her eyes were wet.
She promised to write letters.
Marco said he would wait for her words.

Back in England, Anna often sat at her window.
She looked outside and thought of Florence.
While the wind touched her face, she remembered the music, the river, and the boy who gave her the flower.
Her room no longer felt empty,
because she carried a **view** from Florence in her heart forever.

The Valley of Memories

Thomas was a young traveler from London.
He came to the countryside to rest and find peace.
It was summer, and the green valley near Tintern Abbey was full of trees and flowers.
Birds sang in the morning, and the river shone in the sun.

Thomas remembered his childhood.
He had visited this valley once before, five years ago.
He wanted to see the same hills again to feel the same joy.
While walking on the path, he thought of his younger self, running freely with friends.

The valley was quiet.
Thomas sat on a stone and listened to the water.
He closed his eyes and felt calm because the place was the same as before.
While he was listening, he heard voices of children playing in the distance.

Later, he walked to the riverbank.
He saw flowers moving in the wind and small fish jumping from the water.
Every sound and sight felt like music.
He **whispered,** "This valley is not only a place for the body. It is a home for the heart."

As the sun went down, Thomas climbed a hill.
When he reached the top, he looked down at the whole valley.
The river moved like silver, and the abbey stood silent among the trees.
Tears filled his eyes, because he understood something:

This place gave him more than memories.
It gave him strength to live , peace to dream , and courage to hope again .
He realized he was not only remembering the past—
he was creating new feelings by standing there now.

Thomas stayed until the stars came in the sky.
He sat quietly, thinking about the years he had lived far from nature.
He promised himself to return again, not after five years, but soon.
He wanted to keep this peace alive in his heart.

The night wind touched his face while he was leaving the hill.
He looked once more at the valley and said, “This place is my teacher. I will not forget it.”

Back in London, Thomas often thought of Tintern Abbey.
While walking in the noisy streets, he remembered the quiet valley.
The sound of traffic changed to the sound of the river in his memory.
The walls of the city turned into green hills.

And so, even far away, the valley stayed with him.
It became part of his soul—
a place he could always return to ,
not only with his body, but with his heart.

The Road of Forgiveness

Peter was an old man from a small village.
He lived alone in a little house near the church.
In his youth, he made mistakes.
He spoke harshly to friends, and he left promises unfinished.
Now, he wanted to find peace before death.

Every evening, Peter sat in the churchyard.
He looked at the cross and **whispered** prayers.
He asked for forgiveness, because his heart was heavy with guilt.

One Sunday morning, Peter met the priest.
The priest asked gently, “What do you pray for every night?”
Peter said, “I ask God to forgive my past. But I am afraid. What if my sins are too many?”

The priest smiled and answered, “Peace comes by trusting . God is stronger than your sins.”
Peter listened carefully.
While walking home, he repeated the words again and again.

That night, he wrote a letter to his children.
He said, “I was not always a good father. I ask you to forgive me too.”

Days later, Peter entered the church when the bells were ringing.
He knelt at the altar, tears falling from his eyes.
He prayed louder than ever:
“God, I am weak, but I ask You to give me peace.”

At that moment, something changed.
His heart felt lighter, as if a stone was lifted.
He understood that forgiveness was not only a gift to be received—
it was also a gift to be given.
He realized he must forgive himself to find peace.

The next morning, Peter woke with calm eyes.
He walked in the village square, greeting people kindly.
Children waved at him, and neighbors smiled.
He began to help others—fixing fences, carrying wood, sharing bread.
By helping , he felt alive again.

He wrote another letter to his children:
“This time I give you not my regret, but my love.”

Weeks later, Peter sat once more in the churchyard.
The sky was bright, and birds sang while flying above.
He closed his eyes and prayed:
“Thank You, God. I am ready. I am not afraid anymore.”

And so, Peter’s life ended not in fear,
but with forgiveness and peace.
His story remained for the village as a lesson:
That no one is too far from mercy,
and no heart is too heavy to be healed.

Vocabulary Quiz

1. Match the words with their meanings

a) whispered
b) quiet
c) forgiveness
d) guilt
e) courage
f) regret
g) valley
h) soul

1) ruh
2) fısıldamak
3) cesaret
4) sessiz
5) bağışlama
6) pişmanlık
7) suçluluk
8) vadi

2. Fill in the blanks

1) Peter felt _____ when he remembered his mistakes.

2) Thomas found _____ in the valley.

3) Anna heard the priest’s words _____ in the church.

4) Forgiveness is a gift for others, but also for your own _____.

5) The children played in the _____ near the river.

3. Translate into English

1) O sessiz bir vadide oturdu.

2) Affetmek bazen cesaret ister.

3) Suçluluk onun kalbini ağırlaştırdı.

4) Pişmanlıkla yaşamak zordur.

5) Çocuklar mesafeden bağırıyordu.

📖 Reading Comprehension Questions

1) Why did Anna want a room with a **view** in Florence?

2) How did Marco and Anna become friends?

3) What did Thomas remember when he returned to the valley?

4) Why did the valley give Thomas peace?

5) What fear did Peter have when he prayed?

6) What did the priest tell Peter about forgiveness?

7) How did Peter’s heart change after his prayer in the church?

8) What lesson do the three stories give us together?

📘 Vocabulary Quiz – The Window of Dreams

1. Match the words with their meanings

a) view
b) disappointed
c) shining
d) whispered
e) freedom
f) special

1) parlayan
2) manzara
3) hayal kırıklığına uğramış
4) fısıldamak
5) özgürlük
6) özel

2. Fill in the blanks

1) Anna wanted a room with a _____ of the river.

2) She felt _____ when the manager said no.

3) The city lights were _____ in the night.

4) The woman _____ kindly to her.

5) Dancing in the square gave Anna a feeling of _____.

6) The moment with Marco was very _____ for Anna.

3. Translate into English

1) O manzaralı bir oda istedi.

2) Özel bir gün yaşadı.

3) Özgürlük çok önemliydi.

4) Şehir ışıkları parlıyordu.

5) Kadın ona sessizce fısıldadı.