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Female Resistance in ‘The Legend of Sigh’
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**Hypothesis**
- How does Sigh’s messiah figure simultaneously embody the roles of both the patriarch and matriarch?
- What does the duality of Sigh’s character inform us about women’s social issues and their relations with society?

**Methodology (Parallel theories)**

**Theory #1: Hamid Naficy’s Realist Illusionist theory.**

**Theory #2: Carl Jung’s mythological study on the ‘Anima and Animus.’**

**The beginning of an end: Female versus the male nation**

**The paradox of Sigh in action:**
- The patriarch controlling female emotions as a symbol of familial and national morality.
- The matriarch threatening masculine ideologies by using grief and suicide as a strategy of resistance.
- Who wins? The paternal trickster (Sigh) in disguise.
- Women’s issues are ‘too deep’ for a resolution and hence, the war on resistance continues into other feminist films.

**Who is Sigh?**

**Sigh’s response:**
“I was born when the first human heart suffered. Adam. He sighed when he was driven from paradise.”
“I’m like a mirror in which you see your own self.”

- Christ lookalike (religious icon)
- Mythical character from Azerbaijani legend (adapted into film as the psycho-political figure)
- Paradoxical Messiah figure
- Religious and political icon
- Dual masculine/feminine guide
- Trickster: half divine, half human
- ‘Wise-man persona’

**Maryam: Rich, widow writer**
- Major depressive on the brink of suicide.
- Lives alone as a widow in her mansion.
- In conflict with patriarchy.
- Sigh retains her modesty.

**Khatoon: Urban Housekeeper**
- She runs the domestic household, both socially and financially.
- Husband is unemployed and runs away with all wages earned by her.
- Her power source: Financial income
- Her weakness: Losing control over money and contemplating suicide...

**Solmaz: Rural Turkwoman**
- Domestic and illiterate woman.
- Lives in a rural village with defined sex roles
- Desires an college education much to her husband’s dismaying
- Impotent husband suffering from an inferiority complex.
- Her only son dies in an accident

**Maryam: Poor, divorced writer**
- Writing: struggle and resistance
- Lack of support from family & society
- Constantly pinned down by her brothers
- Sigh blocks her reflection in the mirror: symbol of patriarchal surveillance, where women are veiled from exploring their inner and outer self.