

Story #113 (Tape #23, 1961-1962)

Narrator: Kalaycı Mehmet

Location: Değirmendere village, kaza
of Silifke, Province of İçel.

Date: March 1962

The Shortage of Salt in Çemişgezek

There was a shortage of salt in a village, and the people there decided to buy some salt from the market and sow it in their fields. They sowed the salt and then kept going and looking at the field to see if it was growing. Much to their disappointment, it was not growing at all. They wondered why there was no salt growing.

To find the reason, they started lifting this clod and that clod to see why their salt had not grown. When a villager lifted one clod, he saw a scorpion under it. He did not know what a scorpion was, and when he tried to touch it with his tongue to see if it was salty, the scorpion stung him on the tongue. They concluded that the salt would have grown if it had not been for this scorpion, because they reasoned that as soon as it had sprouted, he had eaten it.

They decided to shoot this creature. One peasant sat on one hill with his gun in his hand, and another hid himself on another hill with his gun in his hand. They were getting ready to shoot the creature that was destroying their salt crop.

When a fly came and rested on the forehead of one of these men, he whistled at the other hunter and said, "It has come" and pointed to his head.

When the other hunter heard him, he took aim and fired. Both the fly and the peasant were killed.