

Story #124 (Tape #30, 1961-1962)

Narrator: Neriman Hızır, formerly of Radio Ankara, for which she conducted a folktale telling program; at time this tale was taped, she was owner and Director of Ayşe Abla İlkokulu, Ankara.

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"You Shouldn't Say That, Karagöz!"

Once there was and was not, a long time ago--back then Hacıvad went to visit his friend Karagöz. It was during Ramazan, and they ate only after sundown, but the time of fasting was almost over. When Hacıvad knocked on the door, Karagöz opened it and said, "Welcome, Haçvad!"

"I feel welcome! And, friend, Karagöz, let us talk quietly and peaceably tonight, like gentlemen."

"Very well," said Karagöz. He ordered some tea and some pide¹ and then he asked, "What shall we talk about?"

"Oh, let us talk about my trip to the bazaar yesterday. The bayram² is not far off, you know, and so I went to the bazaar to buy new clothes and shoes for my children to wear during the visiting. You should see how fine they look in them!"

"What do I care?" said Karagöz.

"Oh, Karagöz, is that the way to talk?"

"Well, what should I say?" asked Karagöz.

"You should say, 'Let them wear their clothes with smiles. Let their things go into pieces on them.'³ That is what you should say." N

¹Pide is a flat unleavened bread, eaten all year round but especially popular during Ramazan.

²The reference here is to the religious holiday following Ramazan, the Şeker Bayram (Sugar or Sweetmeat Holiday)

³A figurative way of saying, "May the children outlive the clothes."

quarreling. I said to them, 'Shame on you! On a holy day you should not be quarreling!' But right then two policemen came along and thought that I was one of the people quarreling. They grabbed me by the arms and led me to the prison.

may you live there happily with your children, Hacıvad."

"No, no, you shouldn't say that, Karagöz! You should say, 'Don't be unhappy. You have many friends. Surely one of them will come and take you out.'"

right," said Karagöz. "Don't be unhappy. You have many friends Surely one of them will come and take you out."

"Well, when they discovered that I was not guilty, they let me out of prison. On the way home I stopped at a bakery to buy some pide . The pide smelled so good that I looked into the oven at it, but just then the baker swung back his wooden shovel and it almost knocked out my eye."

"Oh, don't be unhappy," said Karagöz. "You have many friends. Surely one of them will take it out."

"Oh, my Karagöz, that is not what you should say. You should say to the baker, 'Are you blind? Why don't you look before and behind you? You shameful person--!'"

"You shameful person!" shouted Karagöz, and then he hit Hacıvad on the head with his hand several times.

"Oh, brother," said Hacıvad, "what are you doing?"

"I'm beating that baker so that he will be more careful from now on," said Karagöz.