

#160 (Tape #2, Summer 1970)

Narrator: Hacı Gonen, 66,
gentleman farmer

Location: Yukarı Kise Köyü
Güvem Nahiye
Kızılcahamam
Ankara vilayet

Date: July 1970

Koroğlu Maets Demircioğlu [here called just Demirci]

One day Koroğlu sent Ayvaz on a mission and he was delayed a couple of days, and Koroğlu had nothing to eat, for Ayvaz used to cook his meals. He then went out to the forest, hoping he would find something to eat. Koroğlu came on a man cutting wood. "Oh, friend, Selâmlüleyküm. Come here."

The man came and asked, "What is wrong?"

"Will you give me some bread?"

"Why should I?" the woodcutter asked.

"Because I am hungry."

"I have only enough bread for myself. Who are you?"

"The man addressing you is Koroğlu," said Koroğlu.

"Go away! Koroğlu would have his Ayvaz with him. I cannot give you bread."

[Here the grandson asked the narrator, "Could I try one of those (American cigarettes)?" The narrator replied, "Of course."]

When Koroğlu heard this, he concluded his reputation depended largely on Ayvaz.

Another day when Koroğlu was riding in the forest, he came upon a blacksmith. He dismounted and entered the smithy where the smith was working.

"Blacksmith, have you a strong shoe for my horse?"

"Yes, I have."

It must be a very good one."

"Here it is. See for yourself." The blacksmith gave Koroğlu a horseshoe.

"Let us see if it is strong enough." Koroğlu twisted it twice and broke the shoe into two. "See how strong your horseshoe was."

The blacksmith said, "That is all I have."

"What sort of blacksmith are you, then?"

"I can make a better one for you."

"Very well. Make one."

He made a better one, but Koroğlu broke it, too.

The blacksmith said, "That is all I can do for you. Go elsewhere and try to find a stronger shoe." And he asked him money for the shoes he had broken. Koroğlu just threw the money and looked at it. "This is counterfeit money," he said. "No one here would accept it."

When Koroğlu looked at it, he saw it was really counterfeit. He took out another coin and threw it, too. The blacksmith caught it and saw that it, too, was counterfeit.

Koroğlu then concluded, "I could break the horseshoes, but he removes the face of the coin by rubbing it. He is able to erase both faces of the coin."

The blacksmith asked, "Who are you?"

"They call me Koroğlu, but I want to know who you are."

"They call me Demirci."

"Would you be my companion?" Koroğlu asked.

"Of course. I was looking for such a companion."

They mounted their horses and rode on together.

[The narrator then said, "This is as much as I can remember."]