

Story #162 (Tape #2, Summer 1970)

Narrator: Hacı Gönem, 66,
gentleman farmer

Location: Yukari Kise Köy
Güvem Nahiye
Kızılcahamam
Ankara vilayet

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The Modesty of Hacı Bayram Veli

Although he was called Bayram in his youth, Hacı Bayram Veli entered the service of a rich man in Ankara as a servant. Since his employment as a servant, the rich man's business had improved considerably. He had become so wealthy that he decided to go to Mecca [Hejaz, he said], and he went to Hejaz that year. Before he left for Hejaz, he said to Bayram, "You know the inside and outside of this house. Goodbye." Ti su

friends, "I wish that Bayram were here under this hot sun and that he would bring us a bowl of ayran ^{**} and that we should drink it with great pleasure." The master had this wish up there dressed in Ehram [white, seamless dress, one-piece, worn during the entire pilgrimage]. Exactly at the same time, in Ankara, Bayram said to his master's wife, "Sister, make gözleme ^{***} and a bowl of ayran. I'll take them to my master and return right away."

She was a good woman and said, "All right." She made a bowl of ayran and the gözleme and said, "Come and take these. Give my greetings to your master."

* Part of the pilgrimage is to go up Arafat Mountain to stone the devil, one of several rituals required to be a pilgrim. Pebbles are gathered for this. Large devils and small devils are stoned.

**A popular cold drink made by diluting yogurt with water.

***A pastry square, folded over a filling of meat or cheese, and the whole thing fried in butter.

By the time the master and his friends had ended their conversation on Mount Arafat, Bayram reached there with the food and drink. They were so surprised that they looked at one another in amazement. Bayram fed them with the food he had brought and returned home and said to his mistress, "I have brought you my master's greetings. They are on Mount Arafat, and it is very hot there

Although the woman did not believe this, she pretended to. One day her husband returned from Hejaz. The people in Ankara had come to the station to welcome the returning pilgrims. Many people went to kiss the hands of the master, but he kept saying, "Kiss Bayram's hand. Kiss Bayram's hand." But no one understood what that meant.

The next year, the master took Bayram to Mecca with him. On his return from Hejaz, he knew that people were going to come to meet them, and lest he should seem proud, he took a drum in his hand and got down from the train beating this drum. The people who came to welcome him at the station started laughing, "Oh, look at him! We came to welcome him as a pilgrim, and there he is drumming." He disliked hypocrisy and falsehood so much that he caused people to say he had become a drummer [an effort to be modest, for he did not want to look like one demanding respect].