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Story #273 (Tape #13, 1961-62)

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The Sensitivity of Ahmet the Duck

There was once a very sensitive man who was nicknamed "Ördek Ahmet, or Ahmet the Duck. Whenever he overheard anyone referring to him by that name, he became very angry, and at such times he would attack right and left and curse everyone present.

One day when Ahmet was sitting in the coffeehouse with the other villagers, a stranger walked in. One of the villagers asked the newcomer, "How is the weather outside?"

"Well, it is quite cloudy," answered the man.

When Ahmet the Duck heard this remark, he rushed at the newcomer, grabbed him by the lapels of his coat and shouted, "How dare you refer to me as Ahmet the Duck?"

"I didn't refer to you as Ahmet the Duck--nothing like it even," said the amazed stranger. "I came into this coffeehouse, and, as is quite often the case when someone comes in from outdoors, I was asked about the weather outside. I simply said it was quite cloudy."

"That's right," said Ahmet the Duck, "but what happens when it is quite cloudy?"

"Well, it usually rains."

"That's right," said Ahmet, "and when it rains, what happens?"

"Well, it gets wet and muddy outside and puddles form in the streets.

"There you are!" shouted Ahmet. "When puddles form, ducks swim in the puddles. So you called me a duck!"