

Story #299 Tape #10, Summer 1970)

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Location: Köse Köy, a mahalle
or separate unit
of Akça Bey Köy,
kaza of Gerede,
Province of Bolu

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The Lion and His Little Uncle

One day a cat was walking along the road when he saw approaching him a fierce-looking lion. The cat thought, "If I run, I shall not be able to get away from him. If I do not run, I cannot possibly fight against him. What am I to do?" Saying this to himself, he started edging away from the road, moving off to one side.

But the lion had seen him, and he called to the cat,

"Selâmünaleyküm!"

"Aleykümselâm," responded the cat.

"How are you, my uncle?" asked the lion.

"Are you my nephew?" asked the cat.

"Yes, I am, but I am curious to know, Uncle, why it is that you have grown so little."

"Ah, nephew, if you had had as much trouble in life as your uncle has had, you would not have grown much either."

They then started walking along the road in the direction the lion had been going. They had not gone far, however, before the lion fell into a pit that had been prepared to catch him.

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When men arrived and found him in the trap, they started beating the lion with sticks.

"You would not beat me so," said the lion, "if I were only the size of my uncle." *

*Hasan Efendi was probably correct in saying, "I'm too old to tell stories well." He confused characters and time sequence in his tales. It is quite possible that a better rendition of this fable might be made by other translators.