

Story #302 (Tape #10, Summer 1970)

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Location: Köse Köy, unit of
Akça Bey Köy,
Gerede, Bolu
Province

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Working for the Ağa

I once went to the village of Adiler in the kaza of Eskipazar where I knew a man by the name of Ahmet. I asked Ahmet to tell me a story [literally, to talk with me a little].

"What should I talk about?" he asked.

"Tell me about one of your adventures from some past time," I said. He then started in this way.

"I was once sent to the mill by my master, an ağa, to grind some wheat. I had a camel and two donkeys with which to carry the wheat to the mill. The mill was free when I reached it, and so I started grinding wheat right away. While I was grinding, I let the camel and the donkeys graze. The camel was lying down, and to keep the donkeys close to it, I tied their halters to the saddle on the camel. When I stopped grinding wheat for a minute to take a look at these animals, I discovered that camel had stood up and in doing so had strangled both the donkeys with their own halters

"After skinning the donkeys to save something from them, I loaded all the flour on the camel and started for home. Along

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the way I met my aḡa, who was returning home from hunting. He had shot a rabbit, and he asked me to carry this for him. He also gave me his boots to be washed. While I was washing them in a stream, I dropped one of them, and it was carried away by the current. While I was trying to recover it, a dog came along and stole the rabbit. I went and told the aḡa what had happened, and he was so angry that he was almost ready to beat me.

"'You can shoot another rabbit,' I said.

"'Yes, but what about my boot? It is gone, ^{ḡayy, ḡunḡ} God damn you!'

"The next day they went to visit some friends and they left me alone at home. They warned me before setting out, 'Keep an eye on the chickens, and do not let the big bird [hawk or eagle] come and take them.'

"I tied all of the baby chickens to the mother hen, and I took them all to the wheat field with me. Later, when I took a look for them, I discovered that the big bird had come and carried the hen to the top of a tall tree where it was eating her. The little chickens were all dangling down from her."

[The narrator was unable to remember the rest of this tale.]