

Story #349 (Collected orally and then in written form; not taped.)

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Location: (Ankara)

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Jackals and Dogs

In olden times, all dogs were untamed and lived in forests, while all jackals lived in towns and villages.

One day the dogs sent a representative to town to talk with the jackals. He told them that one of the dogs was terribly ill and the doctor had advised a change of place, especially to a place in town for a short time, as a means of bringing about a cure of the illness. And he added that, since the jackals must by now have tired of living in town, they might welcome a change. He and his friends therefore had decided to offer to change places with the jackals for a while. All the dogs would go with their sick friend to live in town while he recovered. The jackals, after discussing the matter, accepted the offer, and they went to the forest to leave room for the dogs in town.

Some time passed, and the jackals became uneasy. They wanted to go back to live in town again, so one of them went to a hill near town and began to shout, "Is your friend cured?"

The dogs answered, "No, no, no . . . "

From that time till this, jackals have gone near towns at night and asked the same question, but all the dogs, answering in the same way, have chased them back into the forest. We can still hear the jackals' questions during the long winter nights, and our dogs chasing after them.