

Story #386 (Tape #3, 1972)

Narrator: Reşat Özbaş

Location: Söke, Aydın Province

Date: Spring 1972

The Learned Man and the Boatman

A learned man and a boatman were sailing in the same boat. The learned man asked, 'Boatman, do you know anything about the sciences?'

"No, sir," the boatman answered.

"That's a pity," the learned man said. "You have wasted one tenth of your life needlessly."

They sailed along, and the learned man asked again, "Boatman, do you know anything about grammar?"

"No, sir," the boatman answered.

"That's a shame," the learned man said. "You have wasted one ninth of your life needlessly."

A little while later, the learned man asked, "Do you know anything about mathematics?"

"No, sir," the boatman answered.

"I'm sorry to hear that," the learned man answered. "You have practically wasted one eighth of your life needlessly."

Right then a storm broke out. The boatman asked, "Professor, do you know how to swim?"

"No, I don't," said the learned man.

"That's too bad," the boatman replied, "In that case the rest of your life will go to waste needlessly."

*Patrol*