

Story #501 (Tape #16, 1974)

Narrator: Mehmet Büyükler

Location: Belekçe Han
Kavağı köyü,
kaza of Akdağmadeni,
Yozgat

Date: August 9, 1974

Retort

The Sergeant's Response to the Captain

When a gentleman went into the military service, he appeared to the captain to be very capable and valiant.

[Narrator: For example, we cannot compare with you.]

Ahmet Uysal: That is not so.

Another person: Not at all. You are all welcome.

Narrator: It is really so. You are worth fifty men like us. You know how to read and write.

Ahmet Uysal: Yes.]

When someone like our landlord went into military, the captain said: "Son, you appear to me somewhat capable. Let me put you through the sergeant-training course, so that you can become a sergeant." When he spoke thus, the soldier took the sergeant-training course for four months.

As he had attracted the captain's attention, the captain wanted to test him at the conclusion of the training. He couldn't help wanting to test him. He said, "Son, when the shell leaves the cannon, where does it explode?"

Instead of saying, "It reaches the target and explodes there," the soldier said, "My captain, let it explode where it wishes, provided it doesn't explode on my head."