

Story #543 (1969 Tape #13)

Narrator: Mehmet Tekçe, Manav
[green grocer]

Location: Aliçerçi village, kaza
of Bozkır, Province of
Konya; but tale recorded
in adjacent village of
Akça Pınar of same kaza

Date: 1969

The Kadı, the Hoca, and the Lausanne War¹

You know, in the old days kadıs and kaymakams² used to conduct trials. There were at that time no regular judges. There was once a woman who had a court case. Her scenic organization was quite good, and the kadı's eyes played on the woman. Although her claim was unjustified, she had started a lawsuit, and although justice was not on her side, the kadı had made a decision in her favor.

The woman left the courthouse followed by the kadı. "Lady, you could have received a heavy punishment, but I got you acquitted."³

"Thank you, kadı efendi. I shall give you a feast for that. Come to my house tonight."

The kadı went to the woman's house that night, took off his clothes, and hung them on a hanger. Pointing to the woman's neck, he asked, "What place is that?"

"The bosom plateau [Gerdan yaylası]."

¹ The reference here is to the War of Independence in the early 1920s. It was concluded by the Lausanne Treaty.

² The kaymakam in present-day Turkey is the chief administrative official in a kaza, appointed by the Ministry of Interior.

³ There is some confusion here in the mind of the narrator. Inasmuch as the woman was the plaintiff in the case, she was not the one to be either punished or acquitted.

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Amely *female* -- *detected*
term of Karlauff

"Well, what about these round places?" pointing to her breasts.

"They are the orange garden Turunc bahçesi7."

"I see a hollow place farther down. What is that?"

"That is the belly plateau Görbek yaylası7."

"Lady, the road forks here. What is this?"

"Kadı efendi, this is the forked yayla⁴ Çatal yayla7."

"My bullock has lost some weight. Is it all right if we let him graze on this yayla?"

"Of course, efendim," she said.

When they were about to release the bullock into the pasture, the hoca, who had been watching all of this through a hole in the wall, blew a whistle--fır-r-r-t!⁵

The kadı jumped out of bed and ran out of the house, leaving his clothes behind. The hoca took the kadı's clothes and put them on.

In the morning a town crier was sent around the city announcing, "Kadı efendi's clothes have been stolen! Whoever is seen wearing them in coffeehouse or inn is to be sent to the court!"

They caught the hoca in a coffeehouse. "Hoca efendi, you are wearing the kadı's clothes. You must come to the court," they said, they thus summarily took the hoca to the court.

The judge asked the hoca, "Hoca, what do you mean by this? Is this fitting behavior for one of your status? How did you come to steal a kadı's clothes?"

⁴ A yayla is an upland pasture to which flocks are taken to graze during the summer.

⁵ Night watchmen in cities (bekçi is their title) patrol adjacent streets, and they frequently signal to each other by means of police whistles. The hoca frightens the kadı into thinking that his illicit affair has been detected by the city police.

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"No, I did not steal them. They are war booty for me," said the hoca.

"What war booty are you talking about?"

"Well, during the Lausanne War we defeated the enemy at the Gerdan yaylası and pushed him down to the Turunc bahçesi. Following a clash there, the infidel was unable to maintain his position and fled to the Görbek yaylası. We made a strong attack against the enemy there and pushed him farther down to the Çatal yayla. I was the trumpeter there. When I blew my trumpet, the infidel fled from the place, leaving everything behind, and this suit was left there as my war booty."

The kadı was also present in that court. He said, "Sir, what he says is true. I was in that battle too. This suit is not mine."