

Story #553 (1974 Tape #12)

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man

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Province of Yozgat

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The Turkish Incili Cavus and His Iranian Counterpart

The king of Iran came to Istanbul with his own "Incili," and there the two Incilis were going to be examined. The Turkish Incili defeated the Iranian "Incili," and the Iranians were about to return to their own country.

When the Turkish padişah was seeing off the Iranian padişah, the Iranian "Incili" drew a picture on the wall. The Iranian padişah said to the Turkish padişah, "My padişah, there is something strange here. I shall wager that I will not be able to solve this problem. Come, come, come!"

They all came into the room. The picture that the Iranian "Incili" had drawn showed the Turkish padişah holding a piece of bread in one hand and his penis in the other, while the Iranian padişah was sitting and praying.

"What is this?" someone asked.

The Iranian "Incili" said, "This is how your padişah behaves and this is how ours is. Our padişah performs his namaz¹ and prays to Allah."

The Turkish padişah said to the Turkish Incili, "How can we reply to this?"

"Our padişah is the Caliph,"² the Turkish Incili interpreted the picture. "He is eating honey-cakes, and your padişah is imploring, 'Give me some! Give me some!'"

¹ Namaz is the ritual prayer performed five times daily by Moslems.

² The Ottomans eventually abolished the Baghdad caliphate, and the Ottoman sultans assumed the title of Caliph.