

Story #620 (1966, Tape #2)

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Location: Narrator is from Eski-
şehir; tale taped at Ankara

Date: Summer 1966

Gerede Grocer Outwits Kayseri Men

Cleverness

The Kayseri people are extremely careful with their money. Everything that they do is studied ahead of time for its financial implications.¹

The people of Kayseri are also great travelers. They always seem to be on the move. One day several of them left Kayseri together to travel on their donkeys to Istanbul. Along the way they stopped at Gerede. There were two friends among the Kayserians, and when they stopped at Gerede, the one friend said to the other, "Friend, take this 2 1/2 lira piece and with it buy provisions that will satisfy both us and our donkeys for the evening meal."

Taking the 2 1/2 lira piece, the man went to a store and said to the shopkeeper, "With this 2 1/2 lira piece I am to get food enough to satisfy not only my friend and myself but also our donkeys."

The shopkeeper picked out a large watermelon and handed it to the Kayseri man saying, "Here you are! You and your friend will have all you can eat from the inside of this melon, and your donkeys will be satisfied with the outside [rind]."

¹ Kayseri people have long been acknowledged to be the shrewdest of all Turks. Traditionally they outwit all they encounter.