

Story #624 (1976, Tape #16)

Narrator: Mustafa Düzgün

Location: Osmaniye, kaza town of Adana Province

Date: April 27, 1977

The Headless Man

[This story takes place in Karatepe, too, and it is told by the elders of Mustafa's hometown.]

The villagers of Karatepe decided to build a flour mill in their village. the square to *of village*

They decided that

stone they could find.

village would stand below the mountain, and when the stone had rolled off the mountain far enough he would frighten the stone to a halt.

Four or five men went up the mountain and rolled down a huge stone. When the big, strong man of the village tried to stop the rolling stone by standing in its path, of course the stone rolled right over him and severed his head ^{head -- severed from body} from his body. The friends of the big, strong man ran down the mountain and found his body, but they could not find his head. After debating at length as to whether the big, strong man had in fact had a head or not, they decided that only his wife could be the appropriate judge of the matter. They went to his wife and asked her if her husband indeed had had a head, because even though they had searched for it, they had been unable to find it

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The wife thought a while, and then she declared that she really did not know whether or not her husband had had a head. She did know, however, that when he drank his soup, his beard rattled against the bowl.

[Ahmet Uysal----Do you know any other stories (anecdotes) from Karatepe? There must be at least twenty that I've heard of. There's one about the fly and another about sprinkling salt.

Narrator---I don't think I remember very well those anecdotes, but I think I have heard of them.]