

Story 743 (1985 Tape 1)

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### The Tired Olive

Once there was and once there was not a man who lived in a small village. Inasmuch as he had been born in that village and had grown up there, he did not know anything about life in a big city. But he had always dreamed about going to a big city, for he was very curious about city people and their social behavior. He used to say, "Some day I shall go to a big city and there act, eat, and enjoy myself as a city man does."

And one day it so happened that his dream came true, for he was given the opportunity to go to Istanbul, not only the largest city in Turkey but also the one that every Turk dreams about.

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that restaurant and was seated at one of the elegantly prepared tables. A waiter gave him a large menu and then left him alone. The villager looked at the menu but he did not understand anything on that long list, for it was the first time that he had ever seen a restaurant menu. He

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behaved in a refined way, however, and proudly chose a dish from the list. When the waiter brought the ordered dish, it was a large plate of lettuce salad with a large olive 48-49 on top.

The villager looked at the salad, and then he looked to see how the other people in the restaurant were eating their salad. He discovered that he should use a fork and spoon and eat very delicately with them. He saw a man near him start to eat his salad by picking up his olive with his fork. Deciding to imitate that man, the villager picked up his own fork and began to fight with his olive. It was a very clever olive which kept running away from the fork even though the fork kept trying to catch it. Although the man could not capture the olive with his fork, he was determined not to catch it with his hand.

All the time that this struggle was going on, the waiter was observing it quietly. At first he was amused, but after a while he could not bear watching the struggle any longer. Going to the table and saying, "Sir, with your permission," he took the fork politely and stuck it into the olive. Handing it to the customer, he said, "Here it is, sir!"

But the villager was not pleased with this help. He was embarrassed by the fact that the waiter had so easily caught the olive in his first attempt. He said to the

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waiter, "If I had not chased that olive so hard and for such a long time that it was exhausted, you could not possibly have caught it so quickly!"