

Story 807 (1970 Tape 18)

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Province

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The Farmer's Partnership with God

Once there was a farmer whose crops were unsuccessful. In the spring he would sow seeds. Then he would wait all summer for a harvest. But when harvest time came in the autumn, there was no grain. This went on one year, three years, and five years, but his fields produced no grain

When the next spring arrived, the farmer said, "O God, let us be partners in farming this year." He then plowed his fields once more and planted the seeds. He watched the wheat growing throughout the summer. And when the fall arrived, he harvested a good crop of grain.

Very pleased, the farmer stood looking at his large heap of wheat. As he started home, he realized that it was time now to share the crop with his partner, but he was not so pleased with this thought. He began talking to himself: "My good fellow,¹ God does not really have any right to any of this harvest. I did all of the plowing. I did all of the

¹The Turkish term used here is Ule, a form of Ulan. This has many possible interpretations, as colloquial expressions often do. It is sometimes given the slangy translation Man alive! We consider that inappropriate here.

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sowing. And I did all of the reaping too. I am not going to give any of that wheat to God."

As these thoughts were passing through the farmer's head, God created a cloud over the wheat fields. It rained and rained until there were torrents of water rushing over the harvested grain, covering the whole crop.

The farmer then said, "O my God, I was only joking. Don't take it seriously! We are partners, you know, partners." But all of the wheat was washed away.