

Story 813 (1974 Tape 18)

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Location: Olgunlar village,  
Rafayık kaza  
(Refahiye?), Erzincan  
Province

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The Judge's Change from Kazak to Çilibik

One day when the judge was going to the market, he saw a man with a new office <sup>yazdı</sup> who was questioning every man who passed by and writing something down after each man left.

The judge asked this man, "What are you writing down?"

"I am making a survey of men's fear of their wives or lack of fear of them. I have three classifications. Those men who are not a bit afraid of their wives I list as Kazak. Those who are hen-pecked I call Kılıbık. And those who are actually afraid of their wives I call Çilibik."<sup>1</sup>

The judge said right away, "Well, you can put me down as Kazak."

The interviewer said, "I don't know that for certain yet. We'll have to test you further to determine whether you are Kazak or perhaps Kılıbık."

<sup>1</sup> Kazak and kılıbık are two well-known contrasting words. Kazak describes a man who rules his wife; kılıbık refers to a man who is henpecked. Neither the dictionaries of standard Turkish nor the Turkish dialect dictionaries list a word çilibik whose meaning could fit into this context. It is apparently a humorous coinage to play off against kılıbık.

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While they were talking, a servant of the judge came along and said to the judge, "My lady is going out for the afternoon and she told me to bring this key to the house to you."

"You take the key back to her," said the judge, "and tell her I said that she cannot go anywhere!"

When the servant had taken the key back and left, the judge said to the interviewer again, "You put me down as Kazak!"

The interviewer said, "Well, I shall check just a little further so that I can be sure of the situation."

The servant returned with the key, saying, "My lady said you must take the key, for she is just now about to go out."

The judge said to the servant, "She is not permitted to go out! You take the key right back and tell her that!"

Now it was the lady herself who came, not the servant. She tossed the key to the judge and said, "You can take it or leave it I'm going out!" She then walked

After she had gone, the judge turned to the interviewer and said, "What did you call the man who was afraid of his wife--Çilibik? Well, you can put me down as Çilibik.