

Story 842 (1974 Tape 19)

Narrator: Hüseyin Köycü

Location: Tercan, kaza town of  
Erzincan Province

Date: August 12, 1974

Köroğlu<sup>1</sup> Rocks

Dr. Ahmet Uysal: There are some rock cliffs a couple of kilometers west of this town. Are they what are known as Köroğlu Rocks?

Narrator: Yes, that is what we call them here.

Uysal: What kinds of legends are there about that place?

Narrator: I have often heard it said that when Köroğlu came to this location, he flew from one rock to another on his horse.<sup>2</sup> I have heard it said that there are hoofprints of that horse still visible on a rock there

Uysal: There is also what looks like a cave there. Was that

<sup>1</sup> Köroğlu--the name means Son of the Blind Man--was a famous bandit figure of the late 16th or early 17th century. He emerged from the peasant revolts known as the Celali Revolts. As with other legendary bandits (Robin Hood, Rob Roy, Jesse James) he supposedly robbed the rich and gave to the poor.

<sup>2</sup> In the fashion of many another Turkish hero, Köroğlu rode an iron-gray horse, Kirat. While not as utterly fanciful as the magic horses of Greek mythology or the Arabian Nights, Kirat had several supernatural traditions associated with his birth and rearing which lent credibility to his great strength and uncanny feats.

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in any way involved in stories about Köroğlu?

Narrator: Yes, they call that Köroğlu Cave.

Uysal: I have also heard something about a stick there that is bleeding.

Narrator: Yes, there is such a stick. According to reports I have heard, that stick sheds one drop of blood every Friday. There are people here who have seen that happen on Friday.

Uysal: And that stick can still be seen there?

Narrator: Yes, it is still sticking out there, clearly visible.

Uysal: I noticed from a distance a cave opening with a triangular opening in front, like a door. Is it close to that?

Narrator: No, it is behind that, and it is rather difficult to reach. On the top of the cliff there is a ruin that is known as Köroğlu Castle. We do not know who built that castle originally, but Köroğlu used it in his time. It is fairly close to Kötür Bridge.<sup>3</sup> When Köroğlu was in this region, he used that ruin as a watchtower. From there he could

<sup>3</sup> This bridge is an important item in ATON tales 835 841.

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the whole Tercan valley as he watched for caravans to

That is why they call that ruin Köroğlu Castle.