

Story 852 (1964 Tape  
erased on  
field trip  
after contents  
transcribed)

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Location: Erikli village, Sinop  
Province--but tale  
taped in City of Sinop

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Bilingual <sup>Thought</sup> Boars of Sinop Province

[As you probably know, there are many Moslem Georgians<sup>1</sup>  
in Turkey. Well, I heard this anecdote from an old Georgian  
in my village of Erikli. He is a native of that village and  
is a veteran of World War I.]

There was a young Turk of Georgian<sup>Thought</sup> extraction who re-  
turned to this village late one summer after having completed  
his military service. When he arrived there, all of the  
peasants were worried about their corn crop, for now that it  
was ripening, boars were beginning to attack it. Boars came  
under the cover of darkness and ate the corn at night. The  
farmers kept watch at night for them, but it was often too  
dark to see them

The young soldier who had just come home decided to

<sup>1</sup>Georgia lies off the northeast corner of the Black Sea,  
close to Turkey. Traditionally Christian, Georgia was often,  
in the past, at war with Moslem Turks. Georgians were oppo-  
nents of the Oğuz Turks in the epic The Book of Dede Korkut.

Story 852

watch in his family's cornfield one night when there was fairly clear moonlight. As he was watching, he heard the grunting kind of sound peculiar to pigs, and soon he actually saw a couple of these animals approaching. Unfortunately, he had not brought his gun with him. But he wanted to shoot them. He was afraid that if he went back to the house to get his gun, the boars would become frightened and run away, and so he decided to have his wife bring him his gun. He thought to himself, "These are Turkish boars, and they will not understand Georgian." So he shouted to his wife in Georgian, "Gogo saçma çaçvi, keni topi meydani Dranga,"<sup>2</sup> which means, "Lady, bring my gun loaded with buckshot to the field." He was thinking to himself, "I'll fire at those boars and at least knock them down.

Of course, when the boars heard him shouting to his wife, they became frightened and ran away. Seeing them leave, the young man said to himself, "By God, these are very intelligent boars! They understand Georgian as well as Turkish!"

<sup>2</sup>This is less Georgian than it is the Turkish conception of Georgian.