

Story 996 (1975 Tape 1 Narrator: Reşat Genç, in mid-thirties

Location: Kozan, kaza town in Adana Province

Date: September 10, 1975

A (Yürük¹) Marries an İstanbul Beauty

There was a young Yürük who went to İstanbul to work. He was a very handsome (Türkmen²) boy. Soon after he arrived there, a very beautiful İstanbul lady fell in love with him. They talked of marriage, but the lady was hesitant about going to his country with him because she knew nothing about the way of life there. She asked Yürük what his home was like

He said, "Oh, our house has thousands of windows--so many that you could never count all of them. The brooms that are used to sweep our house are used just once and then thrown away. When we need to sweep again, we always use new brooms. And once we use a toilet, we never use it again."

Upon hearing these things, the İstanbul lady was

¹The word Yürük refers to pastoral nomads located primarily in south-central Turkey; they summer in the Taurus Mountains and winter along the warm Mediterranean coast.

²The twenty-four tribes of Western Turks who settled in Asia Minor were originally called Oğuz or Oghuz Turks. After their conversion to Islam they were called Türkmen Turks or Turkomans.

Story 996

very impressed. She decided that the Yürüks must live in a very nice place, and, as a result, she finally agreed to marry the Türkmen boy. After their wedding they traveled to his home. They walked and walked, and at last they reached the Yürük territory, which was on a high plateau.³

When they reached the Yürük's home, the bride was shocked to discover that it was a black tent⁴ punctured by many holes. She asked, "Where is the house with the thousands of windows?"

"This is it right here," said the boy, pointing to the black tent. "Count all of the holes in it, if you can."

When the bride wanted to sweep out the tent, she asked for a broom. Her husband brought her branches from nearby bushes. He said to her, "When you have finished sweeping, just throw away these brooms."

Shortly after that, the bride asked her husband, "And where are the toilets that you use just once?"

"How can you ask where the toilets are up here in a yayla? Up here the base of every tree is a toilet."

³This is a reference to the summer pasturage in the Taurus Mountains. Any upland summer pasture of these or other Turkish nomads is known in Turkish as a yayla.

⁴Yürüks live in black goat-hair tents.