

Story 1021 (1962 Dictated)

Narrator: Ömer Çatal

Location: Ayvalık, kaza town
of Balıkesir
Province

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The Kick of İncili Çavuş¹ Horse

One day İncili Çavuş¹ had some business in a law ^{all} court, and he rode to the court building on a very fine horse. The ^{all} kadı² admired this horse and wanted to have it for himself. He therefore sent his clerk to tell İncili Çavuş that he would take care of his court business very well if İncili would make him a present of that horse. The kadı did not know at that time that İncili Çavuş had great influence in the palace

When İncili Çavuş received the kadı's request, he was furious, but he said nothing about it to the kadı. Instead, he rode at once to the palace, explained the bad behavior of the kadı, and asked to have the kadı dismissed from his job. The sultan immediately complied with his

¹İncili Çavuş (the name means Pearl Sergeant) was a member of the Corps of Janissaries, the best-known and eventually the most notorious military organization in the Ottoman Empire. An elite military corps, the Janissaries also formed the palace guard, and they often exerted considerable influence upon the sultans of their time. Although he apparently has no historicity whatever, this legendary figure supposedly lived during the reign of Sultan Murad IV (1623-1640).

²Moslem judge of canonical law during the Ottoman era.

Story 1021

request and sent a letter dismissing the kadı from his position. No explanation was given for his dismissal.

Sometime later the former kadı was sitting in a coffeeshouse talking to his friends. It so happened that İncili Çavuş was in that same coffeeshouse at that time. İncili listened to them discussing the former kadı's dismissal from office without any explanation. "Well friends," said the former kadı, "somebody must have kicked me, but I do not know who it

Then İncili Çavuş spoke for the first time. He said, "My horse kicked you, kadı efendi.³ It was nobody but my horse."

³Efendi was a term of respect added to the name of a distinguished man. By the mid-twentieth century its power of aggrandizement and flattery had so eroded that it was applied only to the names of children and servants.