

Story 1096 (1974 Tape 48)

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The Frustrated Teacher

This event took place in the classroom of a school. A teacher was giving a history lesson concerning the Great Wall of China. AS he was lecturing, he realized that two students at the rear of the room were being noisy and not listening to what he was saying.¹ In order to direct their attention to the lesson, he asked one of them, "Who was it that built the Great Wall?"

The boy who had been caught not listening now panicked and answered hurriedly, "Sir, I am not the one who was responsible for it.

Both angered and saddened by this response, the teacher complained about this incident to the vice principal of the school: "I was giving a lesson about the Great Wall of China, but while I was doing so, two boys at the back of the room were being noisy and were not paying attention to my lecture.

¹ It probably should be noted here that in Turkey teachers are ordinarily shown much, much more respect by their students than are teachers in the United States.

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In order to redirect their attention to the lesson, I asked one of them, 'Who was it that built the Great Wall?' The student answered that he had not done it. I suspect that he may have been making fun of me, and I am upset about this. Perhaps you can help me in this situation."

Now it happened that the vice principal was very busy that day with a number of other matters, and although he listened to the teacher's complaint, he was not very concerned about the matter. He said to the teacher, "Don't worry about something like this. Children nowadays are often naughty. They do all sorts of things and then later deny having done them."

Not satisfied with the attitude that the vice principal had taken, the teacher decided to consult the principal himself about the matter. He went to the principal's office and knocked on the door. The principal was also busy that day, and at the moment, he had several guests in his office. Out of respect to the teacher, however, the principal allowed him to state his complaint. But, having many things on mind, the principal did not listen very carefully. When the teacher had concluded his complaint, the principal said, "Don't you worry about this at all. I shall investigate this matter for you and find out just who it was that built that wall.