

Story 1121 (1966 Tape 6) Narrator: Bozkurt Güvenç, retired
military officer, now
Secretary of Hacettepe
University

Location: Ankara

Date: Summer 1966

The Recruit from Kayseri

The captain of a company of new recruits was talking to men and questioning them about their backgrounds. He asked each of them about his origins: "Where do you come from?"

Most of the men responded that they came from large cities: İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir. Most of them did not really come from such places, but they thought that residents of such large and modern cities would probably be given desk jobs in the army.

One recruit, however, made no claim of having come from a large city. He said to the captain, "Sir, I can neither read nor write, but I come from Kayseri."¹

¹ This is an "in-group" anecdote, readily understood by Turks but not by outsiders unless they are acquainted with Turkish popular culture. Kayseri people are legendary for their supposed shrewdness.