

Story 1142 1974 Tape 11

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kaza, Yozgat Province

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All Bribing? All  
Bribing Allah with Hamsis<sup>1</sup>

There were two Lazes named Mehmet and Ahmet. One day Ahmet said, "Hey, there, my friend Ahmet!"

"What is it?"

"Let us get into our boat, row out on the Black Sea, and catch some hamsis. We can enjoy some hamsis today."

They climbed into their boat, rowed a short distance off-shore, and began to fish. Before long, however, a wind arose and began to carry them out to sea.

"Row! Row!" said Mehmet. "The wind is carrying us farther out to sea!"

"I am rowing! I am! O Allah, save us and I shall give you a hamsi!"

"Row! Row!"

"O Allah, save us and I shall give you two hamsis!"

But nothing changed at all. The wind continued to blow, and it was carrying them farther out on the open

<sup>1</sup> An anchovy, a small fish (six to eight inches long) resembling a small herring, found in the Black and Mediterranean Seas. They are greatly cherished by people along the Black Sea coast in Turkey.

Story 1142

"Ahmet!"

"What is it, Mehmet?"

"The sea is going to sink our boat! It is going to us! Row! Row!"

"I am! O Allah, save us and I shall give you three hamsis!"

"Now you have done it!" said Mehmet. "Now we shall be saved! You told a lie, and Allah will never save liars. You promised to give Him three Hamsis, but we have caught only one!"<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> There are so many variants of this tale that they pose a challenge to produce still more variants.