

Story 1216 (1990 Tape 8)

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Location: Çeşme, kaza town in
İzmir Province

Date: December 10, 1990

How Anadolu¹ Was Named²

*Naming of
Place* ✓ *APP*

There was once an attack against the homeland of Turkey. As you know, Turks spend much of their time quarreling with each other, but when an emergency arises, they unite solidly and cooperate with each other. Well, when this attack was made against the country, they armed and went out to fight against the invaders. They fought hard, but they lost the first battle because their leader was killed, and they were forced to retreat to a nearby hillside.

As they were sitting there pondering their situation and wondering what they should do next, an old woman appeared along the roadside carrying a large jar of ayran³. She said to the soldiers, "Sons, don't drink water! Drink ayran instead!"

The soldiers extended their bowls toward her, and she

¹Asiatic Turkey is known as Anatolia. That is its classical name, but the Turkish form of the word is Anadolu.

²This is, of course, a matter of folk etymology, not a conclusion of philology or scientific linguistics.

³A very popular cold drink in Turkey. It is a mixture of yoghurt, ice water, and a bit of salt.

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filled these with ayran. They drank and drank this ayran, but the quantity in the jar did not seem to decrease. She kept saying, "Sons, drink ayran!"

The soldiers kept answering, "Ana--dolu!"⁴

Since then, people have said that it was that event which provided the name Anadolu.

⁴"Ana--dolu!" means "Mother--full!" They are, in other words, asking the old woman for a full bowl of ayran.