

Story 1219 (1990 Tape 8)

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İzmir Province

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Melon Alarm

There is a kind of melon called "liyanger" which is raised in the region around Çeşme. If they are treated correctly, they can be prevented from spoiling for a much longer time than most other melons can. In order to preserve these liyanger melons as long as possible--sometimes they last even until February--they must have a rope tied to them, and then they must be hung from a nail in the ceiling. However, you should not treat every liyanger melon in this way. You should select only the very best melons to be hung from the ceiling in this manner.

One night we were all sleeping in the summer house which we had in our orchard. In the middle of the night, while each person was sleeping in his or her own little bedroom there, we heard a loud noise. Although we were all awakened by this noise, none of us wanted to get out of our warm beds to see what had caused it. We were not really worried, for in Çeşme in those days there were seldom any robberies or other crimes but we were all curious about the noise, and we asked each other what might have caused it. Just to keep the family

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members from leaving their warm beds, I pretended to know what had caused the noise. I said, "It was the sound of a cat jumping down from some high place."

My brother responded, "If a sound as loud as that was made by a cat's striking something, the cat must surely be dead by now!"

After that remark nobody could get back to sleep again. All of us got out of our beds and began to look for the cause of the loud noise we had heard. We discovered that it was a liyanger melon which had fallen from the ceiling and burst upon the floor, leaving a large smear there.