

Story 1295 (1989 Tape 13)

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Location: Gürün, kaza town of
Sivas Province

Date: January 6, 1989

The Anxiety of a Grocer

One day three children went to a grocery store. The first child said, "I want to buy a piece of lokum."¹ There were not many customers who came to that store to buy lokum, and so the grocer kept it in a jar on the highest shelf. The grocer got a ladder, and with some difficulty he found the lokum jar. He took out a piece of lokum, carefully climbed down, and handed it to the child. Turning to the second child, he asked "And what do you want?"

"I want a piece of lokum."

Quite annoyed, the grocer climbed up the ladder again and removed another piece of lokum from the jar. Before he climbed down, however, he spoke to the third child, "Do you also want a piece of lokum?"

sir," the child replied.

grocer therefore climbed down carefully again and handed the piece of lokum to the second child. Then turning to

¹A gummy type of candy, often covered with powdered sugar, lokum is one of the most popular confections. It is often referred to (especially in the tourist trade) as Turkish Delight.

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the third child, he asked, "Well, what is it that you want?"

"I want two pieces of lokum."