

Story 1316 (1988 Tape 8)

Narrator: Hikmet Aksoy, managing editor of Kuzey Haber, a Trabzon newspaper

Location: Trabzon, capital city of Trabzon Province

Date: October 1988

Hasan Saka¹ Campaigning

Hasan Saka was a former politician. He was a member of Parliament for some time and even Prime Minister briefly. During one of his election campaigns he came to Vakfikebir² and gave several speeches there. In one of his speeches Hasan Saka said, "The new elections are almost at hand, my dear fellow countrymen. Are you going to vote for me?"

"No, no! We are not," the crowd shouted.

"Why not?"

"Because we promised to vote for someone else.

"Who is it?"

"A man who knows how to read and write

"Don't you think that I can read and write?"

¹ Hasan Saka was a distinguished political figure who represented Trabzon in first the Ottoman Parliament and then the Grand National Assembly from 1920-1950. He held four different ministerial appointments in succeeding cabinets. Trained in both Turkey and France--he spoke fluent French--he was well educated, but despite this he was in folk anecdotes sometimes pictured as the stereotyped resident of the Black Sea coast: stupid and provincial.

² A kaza town on the Black Sea about 35 kilometers west of Trabzon.

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"Apparently you cannot," said a man in the crowd. "If you can, then why have we not received replies to all of the letters we sent you?"