

Story 1358 (1988 Tape 9)

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Location: Çamsi village, Bandaz
kaza, Uşak Province--
Taped in Trabzon

#1358 + #1359

Date: October 1988

The Clever Kayseri¹ Boy and the Multi-Purpose Melon

A Frenchman was once traveling in Turkey with his family and his father. One day the Frenchman and his father disagreed about the Turkish city they should visit next. The father wanted them to go to Kayseri, but the son wanted to go to some other city. The father's wish prevailed, and they all went to Kayseri.

When they arrived in Kayseri it was too early for dinner, but the travelers wanted some refreshment. The Frenchman said to a boy at the inn where they were staying, "Take this lira and buy with it something which we can eat, something which our horses can eat, and something which will entertain our children." The Kayseri boy took the lira and left. In a few minutes he returned with a very large watermelon. 66 6/

The Frenchman said, "We can eat that watermelon, but what about food for our horses and what about entertainment for our children?"

The Kayseri boy said, "Sir, you and your family are to eat

¹Throughout Turkey the people of Kayseri are thought to be especially clever and shrewd. ATON contains a whole section of Kayseri anecdotes.

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flesh of this melon. The rind you will feed to your horses.
the hundreds of seeds in this melon will be playthings for
the children."

After the boy had left, the Frenchman said to his father,
"You were correct. Kayseri was the right place for us to
visit!"