

Story 1392 (1989 Tape 6)

Narrator: Memduh Derin, 59,  
graduate of  
technical school

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Tall Tales Reduced in Height

There were once two herdsmen. One was a shepherd and the other was a camel herder. Whenever they visited each other, they always talked about the adventures they had had since they had last seen each other. They often exaggerated their adventures.

On one occasion the shepherd said to his friend, "One day we had a very bad storm that was filled with lightning, rain, and hail. The storm was so devastating that I lost a thousand sheep before it was over."

"Oh, my friend, that was quite an unusual experience said the camel herder, "but it was not nearly as extraordinary as something that happened in my herd of camels. One day while they were grazing in the Tekkeli mountain pasture, one of them became very thirsty. It was so thirsty that it stretched its neck all the way to the Meram River<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Neither the Tekkeli pasture nor the Meram River has been identified.

Story 1392

in order to take a drink."

The shepherd laughed and said, "Oh, no! How could that happen? How could a camel reach all the way from that yayla<sup>2</sup> to the Meram River? Shouldn't you first bring that camel down on the plain before it could drink from the Meram River?"

"Well, perhaps," answered the camel herder, "but then you should bring down the number of sheep killed by that storm from a thousand to a hundred!"

<sup>2</sup>A yayla is a summer pasture, usually in the mountains where there is little or no pasturage fee.