

Story 1433 (1971 Tape 7)

Narrator: Mustafa Yanıç

Location: Karakaya village,
Silifke kaza,
İçel Province

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The Conscientious Kadı¹

There was once a man who bought a farm animal from another man, but after he had taken it home, he discovered some defects in the animal. The buyer therefore returned it to the seller and said, "This animal has some illness about which you did not tell me. Take it back and return my money to me."

"No," said the seller. "You bought it, and now it is yours."

When they were unable to reach any agreement about this matter, they decided to take it to a kadı. When they went to the kadı's office, they could not find him. His clerk said to them, "Come back tomorrow. I am sure that the kadı will be here then."

The following day they again went to the kadı's office, but by that time the farm animal had died. After the kadı had heard both sides of the case, and after he had learned that the animal had died the night before, he remained silent for a few minutes. Then he said, "I shall pay to the buyer the cost of

¹A judge of canonical law in pre-Republican Turkey. Most anecdotes about kadis show them as dishonest and corrupt--especially susceptible to bribery.

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this animal. If I had been here in my office yesterday, I might have solved your problem, but now that the animal is dead, there is no way to solve it but to pay for the animal myself."