

Story 1585 (1987 Tape 3)

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cane maker

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Zonguldak Province

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Physical and Social Benefits of Devrek Canes

The craftsmanship of cane making has been carried on here in Devrek for at least three hundred years. The specialization in wood carving actually began here in the production of fine spinning wheels used to make wool and cotton thread. But nowadays if you say Devrek anywhere in Turkey, people usually think of canes.

A cane is a kind of tool used to help support a person's body, but it may also be an accessory as important to a man's complete elegance as is his necktie. But it may provide a man with even more than elegance, and that is what I want to explain to you.

Now think about this. Let us say that you have grown old and you are now retired. Your children are all grown up and taken care of, and after all of your family expenses, you may still have a comfortable house and enough money to live quite well. But you may not have many friends or relatives of your own age left, for most of them may have already died.

Suppose one day you get out your cane and decide to go for a walk around the town. It may well be that no one will pay any

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attention to you, for you are, after all, just an old man with a cane. If you are carrying a Devrek cane, however, people will notice it. As you walk along, a person here and a person there may greet you and say, "Oh, uncle, may I see your cane? What a beautiful piece of art it is!"

When such a thing happens, you can think, "I am not using this cane because I am old or sick. I am carrying it everywhere because it is a fine piece of art." That will probably make you feel well and be happy. Such a good effect may add five additional years to your life span