

Story 1741 (1994 Tape 2)

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Location: Olucak village,
Suşehri kaza,
Sivas Province

Date: January 1, 1994

The Four-Speed Transmission
of Yıldırım Akbulut's¹ Automobile

An automobile dealer once gave Yıldırım Akbulut a new American car as a present. Yıldırım Akbulut was very pleased with this gift, and he immediately began to drive it around. After he had been gone for only a short while, however, he telephoned the dealer and said, "The engine of my car seems to have been destroyed. It will not even start. Can you replace that engine, please?"

dealer had his mechanic go and get the car and then replace the engine. But a short while later Yıldırım Akbulut again complained that his engine would not run. The car dealer replaced the engine for a second time. When the automobile was returned to the automobile agency for a third time with serious engine problems, the dealer finally lost his patience. Going to Yıldırım Akbulut's

¹Yıldırım Akbulut was Turkish Prime Minister around 1990. Many people considered him incompetent, and they voiced their disapproval by telling many humorously derogatory stories about him.

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office, he demanded an explanation of what had been happening to the engines in Yıldıırım Akbulut's car. "Under circumstances does this engine trouble occur?"

Yıldıırım Akbulut answered, "Well, each time it seems to happen in the same way. I put the car into first speed, it moves along well. Then I put it into second speed, making it gain speed. Then I put it into third speed, and there is still no difficulty. But then when I try to put it into rocket speed, it makes a terribly loud noise and stops.

"What do you mean by 'rocket speed'?" asked the dealer

"Well, among the transmission signs there is an F, which I understand means First Speed. The S seems to mean Second Speed, and the T, Third Speed. To make the car go still faster, I shift it into the speed marked R. It is always right then that all of the trouble occurs!"