

Story 1794 (1991 Tape 5)

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Özcan, 26

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The Big Drinker Afoot and Horseback

Neyzen Tevfik¹ and a number of his friends used to drink together at their favorite bar. They gathered there almost every night to drink. Unfortunately, Neyzen Tevfik often drank too much. He was aware of this, and he was often angry with himself for having behaved so badly

One night after he had become drunk at that bar, he announced, "I shall never set foot in this bar again!" None of his friends believed this, but they said nothing

The next night his friends missed Neyzen Tevfik at the bar. Before long, however, Neyzen Tevfik came along on his horse. He rode the horse right into the bar, and, still sitting in the saddle, he ordered a drink.

¹Neyzen Tevfik was born near Bodrum in 1878 and died in İstanbul in 1953. He was called Neyzen because he played the ney, a deep-toned wind instrument. After surnames were required by the Kemalist Reforms of the 1920s, his family took the name Kolaylı. However, he continued to be known only as Neyzen Tevfik--even in the Turkish encyclopaedias. He was an alcoholic in real life as well as in folktales. He was a poet who produced several volumes, among them Hiç (1919) and Azâb-ı Mukaddes (1949).