

Story 1807 (1989 Tape 7

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of Konya Province

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Money Twice Begged For

One day Tayip Ağa<sup>1</sup> asked one of his friends for the loan of a small amount of money. His friend did not wish to lend him the amount of money he requested. Tayip Ağa then began to plead with his friend, but when that brought no result, he actually began to beg him for the loan.

Tayip Ağa's son was present while their conversation was going on. The boy was embarrassed that his father would actually beg for a very small loan. He said, "Father, why are you begging that way for such a small amount of money?"

<sup>1</sup>An ağa (English, agha) is a rural landowner, sometimes wealthy, often powerful. The word does not indicate an official title but describes an economic status. They are often the principal employers of farm workers, and they are often viewed by their employees as harsh, driving, and abusive. The term ağa is also used in a complimentary way, as an honorific, for a distinguished or just older person than the one using the term. Thus an older brother is called ağa bey by his younger siblings. Ağa bey may be used as a deferential term to one older or more prestigious than the speaker. A taxi driver may refer to his passenger as ağa bey; a salesman speaking to a male customer may call him ağa bey.

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Tayip Ağa answered, "All right, my Osman. All right! If I get that loan, just wait and see how much harder he will beg to get me to repay it!"