Story 1828 (1989 Tape 7)  

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Location: Konya, capital city of Konya Province  

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Poet Eşref on a Gypsy Musician  

One day Poet Eşref was invited to a party at the home of one of his friends. To entertain his guests at party, the host had hired a gypsy group to come and provide music. One of those gypsies was a very fine tef player. (Back in those days they called the tef a daire.)  

After he had heard the performance of this gypsy tambourine player, Poet Eşref commented upon it with this quatrain.  

Like a vali, he entered, collapsed on a cushion  
He performed as if he were equal to Allah,  
A player whom nobody else could equal;  
But he acted as if his tef were an orphan.  

The real name of this poet was Mehmet Eşref (1847-1911). During part of his life he was kaymakam (administrator of a kaza) in Manisa Province.  

Gypsies' ensembles are often hired to provide music for Turkish weddings.  

A tef is a tambourine.  

Daire means circle. The tambourine is a flat, circular musical instrument.  

A vali is the governor of a Turkish province.