

Story 1950 (1962 Dictated)

Narrator: Brian Walker, 11

Location: Ayşe Abla İlk-  
okulu, Ankara,  
capital of An-  
kara Province

Date: Spring 1962

Tree-Watering Scam

There was a dishonest man in Ankara who pretended to be providing service to wealthy foreigners. But he was really a thief trying to steal money from American and European tourists he had met in Turkey. He wrote each of these people the following letter:

A tree has been planted in your name in the garden of the Anıt Kabir.<sup>1</sup> It was very generous of you to honor in this way Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the father of the Republic of Turkey. Your day to water that tree weekly is Thursday. Because you live so far away, you will not be able to water your tree each Thursday. I shall be glad to do this for you for the small fee of \$500 a year.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in Ankara

<sup>2</sup>Although this widely distributed chestnut is really a joke, it is often told seriously enough to qualify it as a mini-legend.