

Story 2017 (1996 Tape 5)

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Location: Yeşilova village,  
Acıpayam kaza,  
Denizli Province

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The Mother of Crime

When he was a child, Ali was a naughty little boy. Even at an early age he became a thief. He stole things from time to time, but his mother never scolded him for doing such things. One day little Ali stole an egg from a neighbor's chicken house. When he took it home, his mother said, "Bravo! Our son has done his work and has brought home an egg for the family." As a result of this praise, Ali brought home the hen on the following day. When he grew older, Ali stole a cow and then a ship. His mother pretended that she did not know about such major thefts. Ali continued to commit more and more serious crimes until he finally killed a man.

One day the police caught Ali and put him in jail. A trial was soon held, and Ali was convicted of committing several serious thefts and of committing murder. The court ordered that he be executed for his crimes.

His mother appeared at the place of execution and

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pleaded for his life. Crying loudly, she said, "Please don't execute my son! Feel compassion for him and forgive him."

Following an old tradition, the officials asked Ali to state his final wish before he was executed. Ali responded, "I love my mother very much. When I was a little boy, I used to kiss the tip of her tongue. I should like to do that one more time before I die."

When they brought his mother to him, she cried and hugged him. But when she stuck out her tongue to be kissed, her son bit off the end of it.

People present who witnessed this act were shocked and confused. They asked Ali, "What kind of a son are you? Look what you have done! What is the matter with you? Why did you just bite off a piece of your mother's tongue?"

"Her tongue was the cause of my execution today. If she had not encouraged me in my childhood thefts, I should not be here today. She, not I, is the person who should be executed today. That is why I bit off the end of her tongue."