

Story 2045 (Transcribed from
Atatürk İlkokulu tape.)

Narrator: Fahrettin
Sabah

Location: Karacabey, kaza
town of Bursa
Province

Date: Spring 1966

Weak Fears Strong Who Fears Stronger

Cifalinga had a nest full of baby birds on a branch of a tall tree. She was undisturbed in the rearing of her children until one day when a fox came along. The fox called up to her, "Cifalinga, give me one of your babies to eat. If you do not, I shall cut down this tree with my sharp tail. Then I shall eat all of your children and drive you away from here.

Cifalinga was greatly frightened by this threat, and, against her will, she dropped a baby bird down to the fox. Soon a bear came along, looked up into the tree, and asked, "Cifalinga, why are you looking so sad?"

"I am in great difficulty," answered Cifalinga. "A fox came here and asked for one of my baby birds to eat. He said that unless I gave him one of my children, he would cut down this tree with his sharp tail and then eat all of them.

"You stupid bird," said the bear. "Do you really

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believe it would be possible for a fox to cut down this large tree with its tail?"

A few days later the fox returned. Again he asked Cifalinga for one of her babies, and again he threatened to cut down the tree if she refused. This time Cifalinga answered, "How could you do that? Is it possible to cut down a tree with a tail?"

Angered by what she said, the fox asked, "Who taught you this?" Then he looked around behind him and saw the bear standing nearby. The fox fled from that place as fast as he could run, and he never returned to it again.