

Story 2051 (Transcribed by
Ahmet Ali Arslan from his
tape and later used in his
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Narrator: Aydın Arslan, 35

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of Arpaçay, Kars
Province

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The Wolf Fishes with His Tail

Once there was and once there wasn't a wolf and a fox who were good friends. The wolf one day said to the fox, "My friend, unless we get some food, we are going to starve to death. You are cunning enough to go out and find something that we can both eat."

"Very well," answered the fox and departed to go to a nearby village. He stole several chickens from a henhouse in that village and returned to the wolf with them. After they had eaten those chickens, the fox asked, "Are you full now, friend?"

The wolf answered, "One side of my belly is full, but the other side is still hungry."

"In that case," answered the fox, "you should come along with me. Let me show you something that was taught to me by my father, who, in turn, learned it from his father. This is a method they used to fill their stomachs, and it is also one that I have used much of my own life."

"How did you do that?" asked the wolf.

The fox answered, "Let us go to a lake near here, and

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I shall there show you the method of my father and of my grandfather. Then we shall be full of food."

"All right! Let us go," answered the wolf.

It was wintertime, and the lake was covered with ice. Cutting a hole in the ice, the fox said, "Lower your tail into the water through this hole. Your tail is large enough and bushy enough so that many fish can cling to it. While you are doing that, I shall go to the village and buy some things to eat with the fish.

"All right," said the wolf, and he hung his tail through the hole into the water. It was very cold, and before long the wolf's tail froze in the ice.

The fox did go to the village, but he did not go there to buy things to eat with fish. He went there to lead the village dogs to the lake. When the wolf saw the dogs approaching, he tried to pull his tail out of the hole, but he could not do so because it was frozen there. He pulled several times, saying, "There must be a great catch of fish clinging to my tail." When the dogs came closer, the wolf pulled with all his strength, and in doing so, he broke off his tail. It was by then too late to escape the dogs, however, and they rushed upon him and killed him.

I was there and I saw all of this happen. I chased the

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fox, but I was unable to catch it. Generations before our time ate and drank and later departed from this world. Let us eat and drink and remain safely in this world as long as we can