

Story 2074 (Transcribed by  
Ahmet Ali Arslan from his  
tape and later used in his  
unpublished dissertation.)

Narrator: Gülü Ağdağ, 68  
housewife

Location: Hakveyis village,  
Iğdır, capital of  
Iğdır Province

Date: March 26, 1978

The Bird and the Matchstick

Once there was and once there wasn't a bird. This bird defecated on the ground near a matchstick. Then it said to the matchstick, "Clean my bottom!"

The matchstick said, "I shall not do such a thing."

The bird then said, "If you do not, I shall go to the fire and ask it to burn you."

"Very well! Go ahead and try that

The bird went to the fire and said, "Go and burn that matchstick over there."

The fire answered, "I am not interested in any matchstick. I have enough to burn right here

The bird said, "If you do not go and burn the matchstick, I shall go and ask the water to put out your flame."

"Very well," answered the fire. "Go ahead and try that."

The bird went to the water and said, "Water, go and put out that nearby fire."

The water said, "I already have enough things to do right here. I am not interested in putting out any fire."

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The bird then said, "If you do not go and quench the  
I shall ask the cow to come and drink up all of you."

"Very well," answered the water. "Go ahead and try that."

The bird went to the cow and said, "Go over there and  
drink up that pool of water."

The cow answered, "I am so overheated that I am melting  
How can I go over there and drink that water?"

"If you do not drink up that water," said the bird  
"I shall go as quickly as I can and tell the wolf to come  
and eat you.

"Very well," answered the cow. "Go ahead and try that  
The bird went to the wolf and said, "Can you see that  
in the distance? Go there and eat that cow."

The wolf answered, "As you can see, I am eating much  
meat right here. Why should I want to go and eat that cow?"

The bird said, "If you do not eat that cow, I shall  
the largest dog in the village to chase you."

"Very well," answered the wolf. "Go ahead and try that."

The bird went to the largest dog in the village and  
said, "I want you to go to the edge of the village and chase  
the wolf that is eating there right now."

The dog answered, "I am tired, and I intend to sleep

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here under the shade of this tree. Why should I go and chase a wolf?"

"If you do not chase the wolf, I shall ask the children to chase you."

"Very well," answered the dog. "Go ahead and try that."

The bird went to the children and said, "Chase away that large dog sleeping under the tree near that house there." But the children threw a stone at the bird himself rather than at the dog. The stone went down the chimney of the house and landed in some dough the housewife was mixing. Annoyed by this, the woman went out and chased away the children. Then the children chased the dog, which chased the wolf, which threatened the cow, which started to drink the water, which then moved toward the fire, which aimed its heat at the matchstick, which finally cleaned the bottom of the bird.