

Story 2091 (1999 Tape 1)

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Province

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Osman Bölükbaşı¹ Enters Parliament

After Osman Bölükbaşı was elected to represent his section of the country in Parliament during the 1950s, he packed up some of his belongings and went to Ankara. Since Mr. Bölükbaşı had never entered the Parliament building, he did not know that admittance to it could be gained only when one wore the proper clothing, namely, a suit and tie. He was wearing a suit but not a tie. He was refused entry to the building by the guards. They informed him, "There is a law which requires that anyone entering this building must be wearing a suit and tie. You do not have a tie."

Osman Bölükbaşı was angered by the fact that although he had been elected to Parliament, he could not enter the Parliament building without a tie. At first he did not

¹Is Osman Bölükbaşı a real or a legendary person? His name is not listed in the Turkish Encyclopedia or in Metin Tamkoç's The Warrior Diplomats, a study of Turkish politicians of the first fifty years of the Republic. The only Bölükbaşı identified in the Turkish Encyclopedia is Rıza Tefvik Bölükbaşı, a philosopher, who died in 1949.

Story 2091

know what to do. Then he went to a nearby clothing store and bought a tie. But he did not put the tie around his neck as other men did. Instead, he used it as a belt to support his trousers.

Again he was refused admittance to the Parliament building. "As we told you before," said the guards, "you cannot pass through this door unless you are wearing a tie!"

"But I am wearing a tie."

"Where is it?" the guards asked.

"It is here, around my waist."

"But you must wear it around your neck, not around your belly!" the guards protested.

Osman Bölükbaşı retorted, "Was there also a law passed that stated where one was to wear his tie?"

Everyone laughed at this response, and Osman Bölükbaşı was permitted to enter the Parliament building