

Story 2132 (1984 Tape 9)

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Muradiye kaza,
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ince

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The Kılıbık¹ and His Best Friend

This is a story from an earlier time. While a woman was baking yufka,² her husband entered the house, took off his hat, and sat by the fireplace watching her. He began to eat the yufka as fast as his wife could bake it. She grew very annoyed at his swallowing tray after tray of this of bread as soon as she baked it. Fearing that he would never get enough yufka to satisfy him, the woman struck him with her rolling pin.³

The husband cried out, "Wife, none of my family has ever been afraid of women. I shall take my hat and another loaf of bread before I leave." This ended the conflict for the time.

A similar occasion occurred, however, one day when the

¹The word kılıbık means henpecked. Çilibik is an alternate spelling.

²Yufka is a flat, unleavened bread. It is not baked in an oven but on top of the stove on a slightly convex piece of sheet iron.

³The rolling pin used to make yufka is unlike ordinary

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husband's best friend had come to visit him. On that day the wife was washing clothes in the backyard. She asked her husband to go inside to rock the cradle and tend their baby. After the husband had been taking care of the child for awhile, his best friend arrived. The husband welcomed his friend warmly, and the two of them began chatting. Soon the child grew restless and began to cry. The wife called, "The baby is crying. Let it come down here with me for awhile." But the two men continued to chat. The woman repeated what she had just said, but her husband did not hear her. Angered by her husband's failure to respond to her directions, the woman entered the house and struck him with the stick she had been using while washing the clothes.

Embarrassed because this incident had happened in the presence of his best friend, the husband did not know what to say or what to do. The friend realized this, and he tried to make light of the matter in order to relieve the kılıbık's dismay. He said, "You are a fortunate man, for your wife is merciful toward you. When she is angry at you, she strikes you on the butt. When my wife is annoyed by me, she strikes rolling pins. It is smaller in diameter and looks like a piece of broomstick; it usually does not have handles on the ends. It is also used to make the paper-thin filo (or phyllo) dough required for making baklava and some other Turkish pastries.

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me on the head."

The wife heard that remark but she made no response to it. Instead, she prepared dinner for her husband and his guest. After they had eaten this meal and talked a little longer, the guest thanked his hosts and departed. As soon as he had gone, the woman went to the fireplace, picked up the fire tongs, and struck her husband on the head with them. Stunned by the blow and holding his bleeding head, the husband mounted his horse and left the village.

Along his way he again met his best friend, who asked him, "What happened to you?"

"My mare kicked me."

"Well, come to my house so that I can clean the wound and bandage your head." The kılıbık at first refused any help, but when the wound continued to bleed, he changed his mind and accepted aid. After the wound had been given proper care, the friend decided to accompany the injured husband back to his home to be sure that he got there safely.

When they arrived at his home, the kılıbık continued to act mature about the whole incident. He continued to say, "It was a mare that kicked me in the head and injured me."

His wife laughed and retorted, "How strange! Why were you so close behind a mare which you did not know very well?"