İncili Çavuş used to work for the padishah of his time. One day when the two of them were walking together to the palace, İncili Çavuş goosed the padishah. The ruler was so angered by this behavior that he said to İncili Çavuş, "Damn you! Go away from here! I never want to see you again. Go somewhere and find a place to live that is beneath the sky but above the earth."

İncili Çavuş departed and wandered aimlessly. Where should he go to fulfill the order given to him by the padishah? After awhile he came to a tent village. He explained his predicament to the people there. Then he

1İncili Çavuş (Pearl Sergeant) was a member of the elite military corps of Janissaries. In other tales he is said to be an aide of Sultan Mahmut, but folk narrators do not indicate which of the six Ottoman emperors so named. Inasmuch as Mahmut I (reigning from 1623 to 1640) seems to have appealed to the folk imagination, one can hazard a guess that he might have been the padishah referred to here.

2The narrator does not say that the tent village is the home of Yürük's or other nomads. He apparently takes it for granted that Turkish listeners would understand that. In a
Story 2134

asked them, "What should I do?" They made a hammock for
him and suspended it on ropes stretched between two trees.
He could lie there and be both beneath the sky and above
the earth. The tent dwellers brought his meals to him
there.

One day the padishah regretted having sent
İncili Çavuş, who was his wisest adviser. He needed the
advice of İncili Çavuş now, but he did not know where to
find him. After giving the matter some thought, the padi-
shah decided upon a device for locating his best counselor.
He had a golden coach constructed and taken to the bazaar.
He said to one of the viziers, "Have town criers announce
that anyone who can guess the value of that coach will be
given a good quantity of gold as a reward."

The golden coach was built and taken to the bazaar
for all to see. When the town criers' announcement was
made, many people attempted to guess its value.
guessed 100,000 gold liras; another guessed 500,000 liras;
and a third guessed 200,000,000 liras. One of the members
of the tent village happened to be at the bazaar while
variant of this tale (ATON No. 253), however, the tenters
are called Yürüks.
Story 2134

this was going on. He learned that none of the guesses had been correct. When that man returned to the tent village, he was asked by İnçili Çavuş, "What was going on at the bazaar while you were there?"

"There was on display there a royal coach made of solid gold. A town crier announced that anyone who could guess its value would be rewarded with a quantity of gold, but no one was able to guess correctly how much it was worth. People are still attempting to do so."

İncili Çavuş responded, "Go back there and tell them this: 'If it rains between March and April, remove the axle from that coach and shove it up the owner's ass.'"

The tent dweller returned to the bazaar and repeated to the authorities there exactly what İnçili Çavuş had told him to say. He was caught immediately by soldiers, who asked him, "Who told you this?"

"No one told me. It is my own opinion about the foolishness of this trying to guess the coach's value."

"No, it is not your idea. Who told it to you?"

"No one told it to me," the man repeated. As a result of this statement, he was thrown into jail. After spending two days there, the prisoner decided to tell
Story 2134
the truth about the source of his remark. "I was told that
by a man who lives in a hammock in our tent village
"Where is that village located?"
"It is located at such and such a place."
The authorities suspected that only İncili Çavuş
could have made such an outrageous remark, and so they went
to the tent village to look for him. Of course they found
him there and began escorting him to the palace. The padi-
shah had forgiven all of İncili Çavuş's offenses and was
ready to welcome him back to the palace. On their way back
from the tent village, the soldiers picked some grapes
from a vineyard. One of the troops asked İncili Çavuş, "Do
you know what these are?"
Annoyed by such a silly question, İncili Çavuş said, "No."
"These are grapes," the soldier answered. "They can
be eaten as they are or they can be used to make pekmez⁴
or wine or rakı."⁴

³Pekmez is made by boiling down grape juice until it
is a thick syrup. It is eaten on bread as a dessert.

⁴Anise-flavored distilled liquor, known as arak in
Arab lands and as uzu in the Balkans. Despite the fact
that alcohol is forbidden by Islam, rakı remains a popu-
lar drink throughout the Middle East and especially Tur-
key, where it is the national liquor. Mixed with water,
Story 2134

A short while later İncili Çavuş had to stop to urinate. He shook his penis at the same soldier and asked, "Do you know what can be made of this?"

"No."

"It can be used to make a guard or a captain or a major or even a commander.

The padishah now needed the advice of İncili Çavuş in order to avoid the possibility of war. The king of England had sent a heavy club to the padishah with a message. It said, "If you can tell me which end of this club came from the lower part of the tree from which it was cut, we shall remain at peace. If you cannot answer that question, we shall attack your country."

Neither the padishah nor any of his viziers could provide the answer required by the king of England. Confident, however, that İncili Çavuş could find a solution to this problem, the padishah pardoned his offenses and had him brought speedily to the palace.

İncili Çavuş said, "Throw that club into the pool in the padishah's garden." When they did this, one end of the club floated high in the water but the other end it turns white; its color and its potency have earned it the name of "Lion's Milk."
Story 2134

was about half submerged. İncili Çavuş then said, "Mark the end that is lower in the water. That end came from a lower part of the tree trunk than the other end did."

The king of England accepted this answer, and war was averted.

A short while later, however, the ruler of England issued a second challenge to the padishah. He sent to the padishah two horses that were identical in appearance. With them he sent this message: "You Turks are great horsemen, and so you should be able to tell us which of these horses is the mother and which is her fully grown daughter." Since the two horses looked exactly alike, the padishah and his aides had no way of telling them apart.

İncili Çavuş said to the padishah, "Let us ride these horses for a few minutes, and then I shall tell you which is the mother." When they came to a rushing stream of water, the lead horse refused to cross it. After the second horse had crossed the stream safely, the other horse crossed it at once without any hesitation. İncili Çavuş then explained what this meant. "The first horse to reach the stream was the colt. It was at first afraid to plunge into the swift torrent, but when it saw its mother fording
When the second correct answer arrived in England, the king of that land sent a polite request to the padishah. "Can you send to us as an honored guest the wise man who solved both of our puzzles?"

İncili Çavuş at first wished to ignore this invitation, but after awhile he was persuaded to accept it. Before setting forth, the sergeant filled one pocket with sharp flint stones. When he arrived in London, İncili Çavuş was beset by a pack of howling dogs. Neither the rider nor his horse was alarmed by those dogs. The horse kicked the closest dogs. The sergeant threw flint stones at the dogs, killing two of those animals. Several people went to the palace and made complaints against the foreigner's behavior. İncili Çavuş himself would arrive there shortly after that, so the padishah said to these complainants, "Let it go. Let us see what follows."

When the sergeant arrived at the palace, he was well received by the ruler and his attendants. The king said "Your Turkish horses seem to be more fearless than most of our horses. What causes them to be so brave?"

"In Turkey wolves attack and eat our sheep. Mounted
shepherds and hunters and their well-trained horses frequently do fierce battle against these marauders. After awhile our horses cease being frightened by wild animals."

A little later the king said to İncili Çavuş, "I should be greatly pleased if you would make me a suit of armor or tell my servants how to do that."

"Because iron is so hard, it cannot be made with ordinary sewing equipment." Taking two flint stones from his pocket, the sergeant said, "One of these will be your left-hand shuttle and the other will be your right-hand shuttle."

After asking his guest many more questions, the king said, "I should like to give you some money before you leave. Would you accept it?"

"Yes."

"How much do you want for the advice you have given me?"

"Whatever you feel that advice was worth, Your Majesty," answered İncili Çavuş.

With his own hands the king counted out 1,000 gold coins. "Is that enough?" he asked. "If it is, then you have permission to leave."
Putting the gold in his bag, İncili Çavuş said, "It is enough. Farewell, Your Majesty." The sergeant then went directly to a market place to buy some things he wanted. There he bought this very expensive article, that very expensive object, and a quantity of costly clothes. "What is the total cost of these things that I have purchased?"

"The total cost is 50,000 gold coins. Where is your money?"

"It is here in my bag," said the sergeant, counting out his 1,000 coins.

"That is not enough," said the merchant.

"This is the amount of money which your king paid me for my services."

"In that case, I shall consult the king about your purchases," said the merchant. Then he and İncili Çavuş went to the palace together. After they had been admitted into the king's presence, the merchant said, "Your Majesty, this man bought a number of expensive items from my store. To pay for them, he counted out the money he had--1,000 gold coins. But that was not enough, for the purchases he made cost 50,000 gold liras."

The ruler responded, "Give him everything that he
Story 2134

wants. His services for me were really worth more than the 1,000 gold liras which I paid to him. Let him have whatever he wants, and I shall make up the difference between the total cost and the amount he has already paid."

İncili Çavuş returned to the shop, picked up his purchases, and departed from England to travel back to Turkey.