

Story 2140 (1999 Tape 4)

Narrator: Selime Yıldırım, 50

Location: Gözsüz village,  
Malkara kaza,  
Tekirdağ Prov-  
ince

Date: February 5, 1999

Negative Response with Tongue Click

There was living in a certain village Hasan Ağa,<sup>1</sup> whose horse had run away. He searched for it for some time but was unable to find it. As he was searching, he saw on a hillside a herdsman tending the livestock<sup>2</sup> of that village. Hasan Ağa called to the herdsman, "Have you seen my horse?"

The herdsman answered with a tongue click, "Tst,!" but Hasan Ağa was too far away to hear that answer.

Hasan Ağa went closer to the herdsman and asked,

<sup>1</sup>An ağa is a rural landowner. He is not an aristocrat, and the title is not heritable. Whether on the rural or urban scene, the word ağa may serve a different function. It is a mild honorific that is placed after the first name of a male.

<sup>2</sup>Most villagers have one or more farm animals--sheep, goat, cow, ox, horse. There is no place in the village itself where residents can pasture such animals. Every morning a village herdsman gathers the livestock and takes it to a pasture on the outskirts of the settlement. He tends these animals all day long and then returns them to their owners in the early evening.

Story 2140

"Why didn't you answer my question?"

The herdsman answered, "I did, Efendi "3

"What did you say?"

The herdsman replied, "I said, 'Tst!'"

"Who could understand your 'Tst!' from such a distance?"