

Story 2143 (1999 Tape 5)

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Location: Pınarbaşı, kaza
town of Kayseri
Province

Date: July 18, 1999

Removing a Calf's Head from a Jar

One wintry day a widow who lived in a certain village scrubbed the interior of a clay jar. She set it outside in the sunshine to dry. On that same day a woman living nearby turned her calf loose to benefit from the same sunshine. There was still a scent of some kind in the jar which attracted the calf, and so the animal put its head into the jar. Unfortunately, the calf's head became stuck in the jar. When the calf raised its head, the jar went up, and when the calf lowered its head, the jar went down.

People who saw what had happened tried to pull the jar off the calf's head. Finally one of them said, "Only Clever Hasan can find a solution for this problem. Let us find him and bring him here."

When they found Clever Hasan, he was eating his lunch, but the villagers interrupted his meal to tell him about the emergency. They said, "Help us, Clever Hasan! We have some trouble that only you can handle." They then told him what had happened.

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Clever Hasan stood up, threw a jacket over his shoulders, and proudly walked to the public square of the village. There he found several people watching the calf with the jar on its head. When the people saw Clever Hasan approaching, they shouted, "Stand back, stand back! Clever Hasan has arrived!"

Clever Hasan called several men to his side and said to them, "Seize the calf and lay it on the ground." The men were willing to follow any directions given by Clever Hasan, for they had complete confidence in his ability. After the calf had been stretched out on the ground, Clever Hasan said, "Now cut off the calf's head!" After this had been done, Clever Hasan said, "Now break that jar into pieces." When the jar had been smashed, Clever Hasan said, "You interrupted my lunch to take care of a problem so simple that anyone among you could have solved it.

People said to one another, "See how intelligent Clever Hasan is!" To be sure, neither the calf nor the clay jar was of any further concern to them.