

Story 2164 (1999 Tape 9)

Narrator: Erol Gök, 24

Location: Yenice village,
kaza not given,
Manisa Province

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Kayseri¹ Man vs Kayseri Man

There was once a young man from Kayseri who went to Germany to find work. Soon after he arrived in Germany, he was hired by the owner of a hotel. The father of the young Kayserian was pleased to learn of his son's employment. After the young man had worked at that job for a year, his father decided to visit him.

The father was welcomed by his son, and they had not seen each other for such a long time that they talked well into the night. At one point in their conversation the father said, "You have been working at this hotel for a year, but you still have not acquired the business for yourself. What is the matter?"

The son responded, "Father, I should have owned it by now if the present owner were not also a Kayseri man!"

¹Kayseri people are reputedly the cleverest of all Turks. Other Turks are wary of them, for Kayserians usually best the people with whom they deal. This is not a matter of superior education but of mother wit. A proverbial warning against the shrewdness of Kayserians says, "He may not be able to read or write, but if he comes from Kayseri, beware of him!"