

Story 2178 (1999 Tape 13)

Narrator: Ayten Yürek, 17

Location: Erzincan, capital
of Erzincan Province

Date: February 10, 1999

A Pedestrian's Right of Way

Traffic lights were not used in Erzurum until recently. Knowing that it would take some time before the residents of that city became accustomed to this method of controlling the flow of people and vehicles through the streets of Erzurum, the governor of the province asked the police to be gentle and lenient at first about enforcing the new system. Later they could become more strict about compliance with the new regulations.

Most residents soon adjusted to the idea that a green light permitted one to move ahead but a red light required him or her to stop. But even a month later an occasional person would fail to obey this law. One morning a police officer observed a woman crossing a street against a red light. He shouted, "Lady, lady, where are you going?"

The woman replied, "It is none of your business I am going to visit my sister, and I have my husband's permission to do so."