

Story 2184 (1999 Tape 14)

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Location: Bayraklı town,
Karşıyaka kaza of
İzmir Province

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How a Man Restored the Moon

One day a man went to the well to get some water. As he bent over the well, he was shocked to discover that the moon had fallen into the water below. He began to shout, "Quick! Bring me a long rope and a hook! The moon has fallen into this well, and I shall try to save it!"

Someone who heard his call for help brought him a long rope and a hook. Tying the hook to the rope, the man lowered it into the well and tried to grapple the moon with it. As he was doing so, the hook snagged on a rock in the wall of the well. The man began to pull and jerk on the rope in order to loosen the hook. At first he could not free the hook from the place where it had lodged. Then he gave a mighty tug on the rope and loosened the hook. The sudden release of the hook caused the man to fall over backwards. As he lay momentarily upon his back, the man saw the moon in the sky. Greatly relieved, the man jumped up and exclaimed, "O Allah, I finally

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saved the moon!"¹

¹In some variants of this tale the protagonist is Turkey's most beloved comic folk character, Nasreddin Hoca.