Story #340 (Collected orally and then in written form; not taped.)

Narrator: Kemal Essâdi, 19

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The Pigeon, the Fox, and the Peacock

There lived a beautiful pigeon in a nice little nest on a high tree. Unfortunately for the pigeon, a fox used to visit her whenever her young came out of their eggs. He would stand under the tree and say that he would climb up and catch her if she did not drop her young birds down to him. And the frightened pigeon used to drop her young ones every time the fox came.

Once a peacock saw her, and heard her crying over her lost babies. When he learned what was the matter, he advised her that the next time the fox came she should say to him, "Come and catch me if you can."

The fox came as usual and shouted to her to drop her young. She said, "Come and catch me if you can," just as the peacock had taught her. the fox, knowing that his trick had failed, asked her, "Who told you to say that, sweet pigeon?"

Without thinking, the pigeon answered, "The peacock taught me that, Mr. Fox."

The next day the fox went to see the peacock to punish him. When he met the peacock he began praising him. "How wonderful your feathers are, and how beautiful your neck is," he said. "Tell me; how do you keep your beautiful eyes safe from dust when the wind blows on you, my dear?"

The peacock answered at once, "I put my head under my wing, Mr.

The fox asked the peacock to show him how such a thing was done, and the trusting peacock, little suspecting what was in store for him, tucked his head under his wing.

Instantly the fox jumped on him, saying, "You shouldn't have interfered in matters belonging to others." And what a fine, fat meal the peacock was!