

Story #604 (1966, Tape #7)

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housewife

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Province

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#604

The Generous Ağa and the Miserly Ağa

There were two ağas living in neighboring villages. One was a very generous man, and the other was very miserly. One day the miserly one asked the generous one for the gift of a hound. The generous ağa sent the other ağa a large sheep dog, but the latter was upset by this.¹

"What a stupid fellow you are! I asked for a hound, and you sent me a sheep dog!"

"Don't worry about that! After having lived in your house for a month, he will have turned into a hound!"

¹One cannot appreciate the point of this fıkra without awareness of the special breed of sheep dogs found in Turkey. Unlike European sheep dogs, Turkish sheep dogs are very large, short-haired, fierce creatures. They often stand 32-36 inches high at the shoulders.