

Story 1228 (Dictated)

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Location: Cumra, kaza town of  
Konya Province

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How a Trapped Karatepe<sup>1</sup> Woman Was Rescued

A Karatepe man brought from the mill a very large bag of flour. To keep it upright so that the flour would not spill out of it, he jammed it into a corner of his house behind one of the columns that supported the roof. When his wife went to get some flour in order to make some bread, she to stretch her arms around the column to reach the flour. Reaching around the pillar, she used her two hands as a scoop to get the flour she needed. But once her hands were filled with flour, she could not withdraw them from behind the pillar. Every time that she tried to back away from the column, wrists hit the column and stopped her movement.

After she had been trapped in this way for a few minutes, the woman grew greatly alarmed. Giving way to panic, she began screaming for the neighbors to come and rescue her. When these people asked her what her trouble was, she explained, "My hands are stuck in the flour sack! Find some way for me to get out of this trap!" These Karatepe people could not find any

<sup>1</sup>Karatepe is a remote village in the northeast corner of Adana Province. Its people are alleged to be stupid, and their misadventures are the subjects of a great number of Karatepe anecdotes.

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way to free the woman, and so they called the wisest man in the area to advise them what to do.

The wise man studied the situation of the woman for several minutes, and then he gave his opinion on the matter. "We could release this woman by cutting down the column and sliding it out through her encircling arms, but if we did that, the roof of the house would collapse. The only way to release her will be to cut off her hands so that she can pull her arms from behind the column."