

Story 1665 (1994 Tape 1)

Narrator: Cevdet Uğuz,
veterinarian

Location: Taşkale village,
Karaman (provincial
capital, but former-
ly kaza merkezi),
Karaman Province

Date: May 1994

Hunters Tell Tall Tales

There was once a group of hunters who were telling their adventures to each other. The first hunter said, "One day while I was fishing from a bridge, I saw a bear on my left. When I turned my head the other way, I saw a bear on my right. The bears kept coming from both directions until there were soon a thousand bears around me."

The second hunter then told about something that he had seen. "I once was looking at a very large mountain named Sumbul Mountain. There was a camel on the top of that mountain who must have been thirsty. It leaned out over the edge of the mountain, lowered its head, and drank water from a river flowing through a valley below. That river must have been at least a kilometer away."

"Just a minute!" said the first hunter. "Bring that camel down onto the plain before you have it drink from the river!"¹

¹This remark of the first hunter and the response of the second hunter form a kind of rimed repartee that is

Story 1665

The second hunter retorted, "Very well, but you must first reduce the number of bears that surrounded you from 1,000 to 100!"

Then the third hunter spoke up. He said, "One day I saw a partridge sitting on a branch of a tree. I fired my gun at that partridge, but I saw no bird fall to the ground. Grabbing my binoculars, I looked around for the partridge. I saw it flying to the left with the bullet close behind it. Then the partridge turned to the right, and the bullet turned in the same direction. After a few turns of that kind back and forth, the bullet finally caught up with the partridge and killed it."

At last the fourth hunter told his special adventure. "One cold winter evening I was returning from a hunt. Suddenly I saw a wolf approaching me. At almost the same moment, a second wolf began to approach me from the other direction." Having said that much, the fourth hunter common in Turkish. This is difficult to reproduce in English. Here are the two lines in Turkish for those who understand that language:

Çok fazla attın, indir şu deveyi düzeye.

Sen de indir şu bini yüze.

Story 1665

closed his mouth and said no more.

One of the other hunters broke the silence and asked,
"Then what happened?"

"They ate me," answered the fourth hunter.