

Story 1944 1997 Tape 1

Narrator: Dilber Çelebi, 25

Location: Istanbul, capital
of Istanbul Province, but family
memleket is Sivas

Date: February 25,

Cigarette Lighting by Urban/Rural Fools

A villager once went to visit the big city of Istanbul. One day while he was walking the streets of city, he wanted to smoke, but he discovered that he had left his cigarette lighter at the hotel. He stopped a man passing by and asked, "Can you please light my cigarette for me?"

The Istanbul resident looked at the rustic clothes that the villager was wearing, and he decided to play a trick on a rural fool. Taking a flashlight from his pocket, he turned on its switch and held the instrument against the cigarette. When the cigarette did not light they held the flashlight against it for twenty minutes. But the cigarette never did light, and so the two men parted

A night or two later the city trickster was having dinner and a drink with a friend of his. He told friend about the incident involving the villager. "The

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other day I met on the street a stupid villager who asked me to light his cigarette for him. I took out my flashlight and pretended that it was a cigarette lighter. I turned on the switch and held the flashlight against his cigarette, but of course the cigarette did not light. Then I let him hold it against the cigarette, but, naturally, the cigarette still did not light. I kept that villager there for twenty minutes foolishly trying to light his cigarette with my flashlight." The friend found this story very amusing, and the two of them laughed heartily over it.

But that was only one view of this incident. When the peasant returned to his village, he said to some friends in a coffeehouse, "Something funny happened the other day when I was in Istanbul. While I was walking along a street, I wanted to smoke, but I had left my cigarette lighter at my hotel. I asked a man on that street if he would light my cigarette for me. He agreed to do that. That stupid fellow took out his flashlight, and after turning on its switch, he held that flashlight against my cigarette, but of course it had no effect. Then we took turns holding the flashlight against the cigarette for twenty minutes, and in that way I

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tricked him into wearing out his flashlight batteries."