

Story #130 (Tape #11, 1961-62)

Narrator: Ahmet Uyar

Location: Zir, renamed
Uluköy (1965),
in the kaza of
Yenimahalle, in
Ankara Province

Date: January 28, 1962

Prayers with Plenty of Tar

One day a shepherd became annoyed with one of the goats in his flock. He threw his crook at the goat, with the result that the goat's horn was broken.

As was usual in those days, the shepherd went to a hoca to ask him to help cure the injured animal. At that time hocas would be consulted for almost every kind of problem or trouble.

"Hoca, efendi---Hoca, efendi---the horn of our goat was broken. Will you kindly pray and breathe upon it?"*

The hoca was a diplomatic man. He exhaled loudly without even repeating aloud any prayer. "I have recited a prayer and breathed it out toward the goat. That should cure him, but just to be certain, don't neglect to smear plenty of tar on that broken horn tomorrow morning."

* Notes on hocas' muskas and on the practice of "blowing" and "breathing" are elsewhere detailed; see Notes for TALES ALIVE....