

Story 1879 (1995 Tape 2)

Narrator: Olcay Serez, 45

Location: Erzurum, capital  
of Erzurum Province

Date: January 1995

The Kayseri Man<sup>1</sup> and the Confused Cuisine

A Kayseri man and a very polite gentleman from Istanbul were once traveling in the same compartment on a train. It was noontime when the train left the station at Kayseri. After it had traveled a short distance, the Kayseri man opened a bag and took from it some lunch: bread, cheese, and pastırma.<sup>2</sup> Before he began eating, he offered some of this food to the Istanbul man

"Thank you very much," said the Istanbul man, "but I should not eat any, for I have hemorrhoids."

The Kayseri man started to eat, but after only a few mouthfuls, he again felt compelled to invite his traveling companion to join him. "Are you sure that you do not want some of this food?"

<sup>1</sup>People from Kayseri (in central Turkey) are purportedly very clever, very shrewd. Other Turks fear or pretend to fear them. A proverb says, "He may not be able to read or write, but if he comes from Kayseri, beware of him!"

<sup>2</sup>A type of salted dried meat.

Story 1879

Again the gentleman from Istanbul answered, "Thank but I shouldn't eat any of your food. I have hemorrhoids.

The Kayseri man replied, "Don't worry about your hemorrhoids. Eat some of my food now, and then you can your hemorrhoids later."