

Story 1418 (1989 Tape 7)

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Tahip Ağa¹ Avenges Doubt About His Honor

Tahip Ağa was a greengrocer. He owned his own shop he sold all kinds of fruits and vegetables. Whenever he sold fruit or vegetables, he liked to sack this produce himself, but there were some customers who objected to that. They wanted to select their own items of fruit and vegetables their own hands. Tahip Ağa was insulted by this behavior because he felt that those customers did not trust him.

He finally found a way to get even with such customers. He always held the sack into which they were putting the produce they had selected. Unnoticed by the customer, Tahip Ağa kept squeezing the bottom of the bag, squashing whatever fruit or vegetables might be there. Thus he took his vengeance against such customers for not trusting him.

¹An ağa (English agha) is a rural landowner, sometimes wealthy, often powerful. The word does not indicate an official title but describes an economic status. They are often the principal employers of farm workers, and they are often viewed by their employees as harsh, driving, and abusive. The term ağa is also used in a complimentary way, as an honorific, for a distinguished or just older person than the one using the term. Thus an older brother is called ağa bey by his younger siblings. Ağa bey may be used as a deferential term to one older or more prestigious than the speaker. A taxi driver may refer to his passenger as ağa bey; a salesman speaking to a male customer may call him ağa bey.