

Story 1782 (1994 Tape 3)

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Province

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The Madman's Game

One day a mental patient ran away from a hospital where he had been confined. As soon as his escape was noticed, people working at that hospital began shouting, "A madman is coming! Run! Run!"

At the same time a family was having a picnic just a short way from the hospital. When the father of the family heard these shouts and saw the madman approaching, he said to the other members of his family, "Quick! Quick! Run Run!" The father then also began to flee.

As the mental patient saw the family members leaving, he decided to pursue the father. The father ran away, and the madman followed him. After they had run quite a distance, the father, being older, became exhausted. He sat down beneath a tree and thought, "This will be the end of me. That madman will now kill me!"

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Running up to the father, the madman touched him on the arm and said, "Now you are 'it.'"¹ He then turned around and fled in the opposite direction.

¹This turns out to be a game of tag, and the overtaken father is made "it" (ebe in Turkish).