

Story 776 (1970 Tape 14)

Narrator: Ihsan Altınay

Location: Kumyaka village  
(formerly Siği until  
changed in 1970's),  
kaza of Mudanya,  
Bursa Province

Date: July

How Incili Çavuş Earned and Spent Invisible Money

One day the Padişah of Turkey sent Incili Çavuş to Iran on a visit. It was a friendly gesture, for the Shah of Iran greatly enjoyed the humorous sayings and stories of Incili. This time he enjoyed Incili Çavuş even more, and he requested the Turkish padişah to extend his stay for several months as a guest of Iran

When it was finally time for Incili to leave Iran and return to Turkey, the Shah said to him, "Open up your kerchief, and I shall put into it 1000 gold pieces from the Treasury to take home with you." Incili spread out his kerchief and the Shah counted, "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 50, 100, and 1,000 gold coins," pretending to put that many coins into the kerchief but in fact putting nothing at all there.

"May God bless you, my Shah!" said Incili Çavuş. "I am very pleased with this. Thank you very much!" But, of course, this was Incili Çavuş!

Before he set out for home, Incili went to a carpet

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and selected 800 gold liras' worth of Persian rugs. He counted out into the dealer's hands, "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 100, 800 gold liras."

The dealer protested, "Efendi,<sup>1</sup> you didn't pay me anything! What is the meaning of this?"

"Why aren't you satisfied? I paid you in your Shah's money." Then he bought 100 gold liras' worth of mules and the rugs loaded onto the mules. He paid the mule breeder, "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 50, 100 gold liras," but the mule breeder protested that he had received nothing. Then Incili went to the shop of a silversmith and bought 100 gold liras' worth of jewelry, and paid "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 50, 100 gold liras" for it over the protests of the silversmith.

All three of the merchants he had dealt with had Incili seized by their servants and taken to the presence of the Shah. They said, "Our Shah, this man is apparently mad. He bought expensive goods from each of us but never paid us anything for them.

"Explain what you mean by this," said the Shah. "What did he purchase from each of you, and what was its cost?" After each merchant had explained his transaction with Incili, the Shah said, "It is my fault. I paid him that money he used out of the Treasury

<sup>1</sup>A term of respect equivalent to Sir.

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In this way Incili was absolved of any further indebtedness, and he went home with his purchases.