

Story #251 (Tape #11, 1961-1962)

Narrator: Unidentified man in coffee house who broke into taping session to go one better than Ahmet Uyar's tale, UW #40

Location: Village of Zir, renamed, in 1965, Uluköy, in kaza of Yenimahalle, Province of Ankara

Date: January 1962

Error in the Butter, Not in the Title Deeds

*never in Hoca*

*Brillig*

The Hoca and another man had taken to court an inheritance case. Each claimed that the property of a dead friend had been left to him. Before the trial, the Hoca went to the <sup>whole sale</sup> kadı and told him that for a favorable verdict he would give the judge a large pot of butter.

When the trial was held, the kadı gave a verdict in favor of the Hoca. The property in question became his, and he went home happy, but he neglected to keep his promise to the kadı. After a few days the kadı sent a messenger to the Hoca telling him to return the title deeds to the property, for there was an error in them which needed to be corrected.

Upon receiving this message, the Hoca told the messenger to wait a few minutes for his answer. He then went to his stable and filled a jar with dung, and over the top of the dung spread a layer of butter. Giving this to the messenger, he said to him, "Take this to the kadı and tell him that the error is in the pot of butter, not in the title deeds."