

Story 2180 (1999 Tape 13)

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"Where Are You Going, My Commander?"

At one of the bases of the Turkish Air Force the commander announced to his troops one day, "My comrades, tomorrow we shall all practice parachute jumping." That was exciting news to most of the soldiers, and they all went to bed eagerly that night, anticipating what they would be doing on the following day.

During the night one of the troops had a dream in which his dead grandmother spoke to him. She said, "Son, tomorrow you will be ordered to parachute from an airplane, but don't do it!" The soldier awoke in a sweat.

On the following morning a large plane loaded with troops took off from the air base. When the plane reached the required altitude, the parachutists began to jump, one after another. When it came time for the dream-haunted soldier to jump, he refused to do so. "I won't do it, my commander," he said.

"Why not?" asked the commander.

"I saw my dead grandmother in a dream last night. She

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told me not to jump today."

The commander offered to exchange parachutes with the soldier and then follow him in jumping from the plane. The soldier accepted this offer and willingly jumped from the plane. As he was floating slowly downward, the commander plummeted past him. The soldier called out, "Where are you going, my commander?"

"I am going to meet your grandmother," the officer answered.