

Story #615

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Bear #615

Are You on My Side or the Bear's?

One day two Lazes were walking through a forest. One of these Lazes, named Hasan, was a rather cowardly person. In order to build up his self-confidence a little, he said to his friend, "Ahmet, suppose a bear should come along while we are going through this forest. What would you do?"

"I have my pistol with me. I would just shoot him and kill him."

"That would be fine," said Hasan, greatly relieved for the moment. But he soon started worrying again, and so he said, "Ahmet, suppose a bear should come along and you did not have your pistol. What would you do then?"

"Well, Hasan, I always carry my knife. I would draw that knife and stab the bear to death."

"That would be good," said Hasan, and again he was at ease for a little while. But soon his fear returned, and again he questioned his friend. "Ahmet, suppose a bear should come along and you didn't have either your pistol or your knife. What would you do then?"

Ahmet replied, "You see that I am carrying my pickaxe. If I didn't have my pistol or my knife, I would hit the bear on the

head with this pickaxe and kill him."

"That would be the best thing to do," said Hasan. He forgot his fear of the bear for a few minutes, but after a short distance it returned once more. He said, "Ahmet, suppose a bear should come along and you didn't have your pistol or your knife or your pickaxe. What would you do then?"

Quite exasperated by now, Asmet shouted, "See here, Hasan! Let us get this straight! Whose side are you on? Are you on my side or the bear's?"