

Story 2070 (Transcribed from his field tape by Ahmet Ali Arslan and used later in his unpublished dissertation.)

Narrator: Mehmet Cesur, 59, farmer

Location: Ahura village, Aralık kaza, Iğdır Province

Date: November 6, 1979

Three Kurds Learning Turkish

In a certain village only Kurdish was spoken. One day, however, three men of that village decided that it was time that they learn some Turkish. They thought that the best way to do that would be to go to Istanbul and listen to people talking there

When they got to Istanbul, each Kurd stood on a different side of the same street corner and listened. They listened one day, two days, a whole week. At the end of that time the first Kurd said, "I learned how to say yes [evet in Turkish."

The second Kurd said, "I learned how to say me [beni in Turkish.

The third Kurd said, "I learned how to say a kilo of beans [bir kilo bakla]

Now that they had learned some Turkish, they agreed to return home. They went to a grocery store to buy some food for the journey back to their village. The third

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Kurd said to the grocer, "One kilo of beans." They were all pleased that the grocer understood that order, and they congratulated themselves for their knowledge of Turkish.

Along the road they came upon a man lying dead. "What killed this man?" they asked each other.

"Me," said the second Kurd.

"Yes," said the first Kurd.

"A kilo of beans," said the third

A fourth traveler came along and asked, "Who shot this man?"

"Me," said one Kurd

"Yes," said another Kurd.

"What did you kill him for?" asked the stranger

"A kilo of beans," said the third Kurd.

When the stranger reported this to the authorities, the three Kurds were taken before a judge. The judge signaled two of them to move back, and then he questioned the other one. "Why did you kill that man along the road?"

"Yes

"My question is simply, 'Why did you kill him?'"

"Yes," said the man again, for that was the only

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Turkish word he could speak.

The judge called forward another of the Kurds and asked, "My son, why did you kill that man?"

"Me." And when the judge repeated his question, this second defendant again said, "Me."

Then the judge asked the third Kurd, "My son, why did you kill that man?"

"One kilo of beans

"Allah, Allah!" exclaimed the judge. Then he directed a guard, "Lock up these three men in jail."