

Story #616 (1966, Tape #2)

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Location: Narrator is from
Eskişehir; tale
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#616

evil eye

The Two Evil-Eyed Men

Once there were two evil-eyed men. One day a beautiful horse passed by these two men. One of the men gazed at this horse and said, "Just look at the way that horse prances!" No sooner had he said this than the horse staggered, fell, and died.

Then the second man looked into the eyes of his companion and said, "Good heavens, what terrible eyes you have!" Upon hearing this, the companion, whose eyes had been penetrated, exploded.¹

¹Although the strong belief in nazar (evil eye) is widespread in Turkey, and though a majority of Turks carry charms to protect themselves from its noxious effects, this anecdote is a spoof on the superstition.