

Story #392 (Tape #3, 1972)

Narrator: Mehmet Bulut, 74

Location: Çarikköy, Uşak merkez kaza,
Uşak Province

Date: Apparently December 1971,
though tape is labeled 1972;
all tales were collected on
same trip.

Sultan Selim Honors a Scholar

On his way back from the Cairo conquest Selim had to go across a swamp. Ibn-i Cemal,¹ a scholar at Selim's court, accidentally lost his footing and splashed mud on Selim's coat. Seeing that Cemal was greatly embarrassed by the awkwardness of the situation, Sultan Selim wanted to set the scholar's heart at ease. He said to his attendants, "Remove this coat and carefully place it in a chest. When I die I want you to put this coat in my coffin. The mud on it, the mud from a scholar's foot, makes it valuable to me."

Then the narrator comments that the scholars of those times enjoyed fame and high social standing. He adds that we no longer have men of such high learning and dignity.⁷

¹ See Notes.