

Story #193 (Tape #4, Summer 1970)

Narrator: Ahmet Kalaycı (Süslü)

Location: Güvem nahiye
Kızılcahamam kaza
Ankara vilayet

Date: July 1970

The Devil and the Man of Kayseri (var. of #126)

A Kayseri man and the devil planted onions one day. When the onions grew, the Kayseri man said to the devil, "Do you want the branch part or the root part of this produce?"

The devil said, "I shall take the branches." They then got all the branches and made a heap.

"Here are your branches," the Kayseri man said. Then he dug up the roots and sold them. The devil had the poor side of the bargain.

Next year they sowed barley. When the crop was ready, the Kayseri man said to the devil, "Do you want the branches or the roots?"

This time the devil wanted to take the root part, as he had been cheated in the previous bargain.

The Kayseri man cut the stalks of barley off, took them for himself, and left the barley roots for the devil.

Then the devil said, "Why did you bother to create me, O Allah, when You created the Kayseri man?"