

Story #598 (1966, Tape #7)

Narrator: Melek Uysal, c.40

Location: Iskenderun, Hatay
Province

Date: 1966

Mehmetçik¹

A Mehmetçik who had joined the army fresh from a village was watching a motion picture for the first time. There was a love story in the film he was watching, and one of the actors was praising the beauty of his sweetheart. "How lovely is the moonlight, and how beautiful are your eyes, how beautiful are your lips, how beautiful are your cheeks." Mehmetçik was so impressed by these remarks that he decided to use these same expressions to praise the beauty of Ayşe, his new bride, when he returned home.

After Mehmetçik was discharged from military service, he put on his civilian clothes and returned to his village. He said to his bride, "Ayşe, put on your holiday clothes and let us go out into the moonlight."

Ayşe was surprised and asked, "What is the matter?"

"Come on--quick, quick!"

After she had put on a dress and they had gone outside, Mehmetçik started saying, "How lovely is the moonlight, and how beautiful are your eyes, how beautiful are your lips--."

¹ Mehmetçik, literally Little Mehmet, is a diminutive of endearment. It may also be an expression of condescension applied to a social inferior.

Ayşe interrupted him, saying, "Mehmetçik, what is wrong with you? Are you sick?"

Recalling some other remarks in the love film, Mehmetçik said, "Look in my eyes, Ayşe. What do you see in them?"

"What do I see but 'sleepers' in your eyes?"