

Story 904 (1961-62 Tape 71

Narrator: Sitki Istemir, on
labor gang doing
construction work

Location: Menemen, kaza town
of Izmir Province;
tale taped at Izmir
city

Date: May 1962

Ghost: The Living Dead

This is what happened to one of our workmen here. Last year he was at home lying in his bed. Suddenly the door of his house opened, and his father entered. When the worker saw that it was his father, he was amazed, for his father lived in Istanbul. His father came in, sat on the edge of the bed, looking steadily at this man for several minutes, and then left. Even though the man greeted his father, his father did not say a single word

As the workman lay there confused about this strange appearance of his father in Izmir, the door opened again. This time it was a postal carrier with a telegram.¹ When he read the telegram, he discovered that his father had just died in Istanbul.

The next day, the worker left for Istanbul in order to

¹The PTT Agency (Postal Telegraph and Telephone Agency) is a state operation in Turkey. Thus it is quite appropriate and correct that the mailman would deliver a telegram.

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attend his father's funeral. He participated in the funeral ceremony, and afterwards, that evening, he returned with the family to their home. There he asked his mother, "What was my father wearing at the time that he died?"

"He was wearing his blue work clothes, and he had his carpenter's rule in his pocket."

On the evening that his father had appeared to the worker in Izmir, he had been wearing blue work clothes, and the young man had noticed his carpenter's rule sticking out of his pocket.