

Story 2140 (1999 Tape 4)

Narrator: Selime Yıldırım, 50

Location: Gözsüz village,
Malkara kaza,
Tekirdağ Prov-
ince

Date: February 5, 1999

Negative Response with Tongue Click

There was living in a certain village Hasan Ağa,¹ whose horse had run away. He searched for it for some time but was unable to find it. As he was searching, he saw on a hillside a herdsman tending the livestock² of that village. Hasan Ağa called to the herdsman, "Have you seen my horse?"

The herdsman answered with a tongue click, "Tst,!" but Hasan Ağa was too far away to hear that answer.

Hasan Ağa went closer to the herdsman and asked,

¹An ağa is a rural landowner. He is not an aristocrat, and the title is not heritable. Whether on the rural or urban scene, the word ağa may serve a different function. It is a mild honorific that is placed after the first name of a male.

²Most villagers have one or more farm animals--sheep, goat, cow, ox, horse. There is no place in the village itself where residents can pasture such animals. Every morning a village herdsman gathers the livestock and takes it to a pasture on the outskirts of the settlement. He tends these animals all day long and then returns them to their owners in the early evening.

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"Why didn't you answer my question?"

The herdsman answered, "I did, Efendi " ³

"What did you say?"

The herdsman replied, "I said, 'Tst!'"

"Who could understand your 'Tst!' from such a distance?"