

Story 1806 1989 Tape 7)

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of Konya Province

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Tayip Ağa¹ as Potential Legislator

■■■ Tayip Ağa once owned a grocery store. It was located quite close to Aziziye Mosque.² One day during the noontime there entered Tayip Ağa's store a laborer who was quite filthy. His trousers were rolled up to his knees, and his feet and legs were completely covered with mud. He ordered 100 grams of cheese and half a kilogram of grapes.

Tayip Ağa was annoyed that such a filthy person had

¹An ağa (English, agha) is a rural landowner, sometimes wealthy, often powerful. The word does not indicate an official title but describes an economic status. They are often the principal employers of farm workers, and they are often viewed by their employees as harsh, driving, and abusive. The term ağa is also used in a complimentary way, as an honorific, for a distinguished or just older person than the one using the term. Thus an older brother is called ağa bey by his younger siblings. Ağa bey may be used as a deferential term to one older or more prestigious than the speaker. A taxi driver may refer to his passenger as ağa bey; a salesman speaking to a male customer may call him ağa bey.

²Built in 1671 by Musahip Mustafa Paşa, this mosque burned in 1867. It was rebuilt in 1874 by Sultan Abdül Aziz, in whose honor it was named. It is located on Müze Caddesi in Konya.

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entered his store, but he said nothing to the man about that. To get rid of the fellow as quickly as possible, he said, "Son, I do not have any cheese, and the few grapes that are left I intend to take home with me." Upset by this response, the poor worker left the store at once.

One of Tayip Ağa's friends was at the store when this incident occurred. He said, "Oh, Tayip Ağa, you are as diplomatic as a member of the Grand National Assembly. We should elect you to the Grand National Assembly so that you could help rule the country."

Tayip Ağa answered, "I should be willing to be in the Grand National Assembly if I could rule disgraceful people like the one who was just here!"