

Story 1111 (1966 Tape 5)

Narrator: Hacer Ertemli, aunt of  
narrator of tale 1110

Location: Bursa  
Tale taped in Ankara

Date: Summer 1966

The Offensive Owner of an Umbrella

In İstanbul a man left home and started walking to his office one morning. Along the way he happened to meet a friend of his who was carrying an umbrella. As they stood talking, it began to rain, and the friend said, "Here! Come under my umbrella and I shall walk with you to your office."

          walked together under the umbrella until they came to the Sirkeci district, where the man's office was located. As they parted, the man said to his friend, "Thank you very much for sheltering me under your umbrella. It is something which I shall not forget.

          A few days later the man saw the same friend on the street. The friend said, "What would have happened to you if I had not seen you on the day it rained?"

          "Oh, yes. May God bless you for your help."

          The wives of these two men knew each other, and when they met socially, the friend's wife said to the other woman, "My husband took your husband under his umbrella when it rained one day last week. Otherwise, what would have happened to him?"

## Story 1111

"Oh, yes, he told me about that incident. He won't forget that day."

When the man was going to his office a few days later he again saw his friend. Once more the friend reminded him of the favor he had done. "What would have happened to you if I had not taken you under my umbrella the other day?"

By this time the man was annoyed beyond endurance at these repeated reminders of obligation. Seeing a large public fountain nearby, the man climbed into the fountain basin and stood beneath the spray until he was thoroughly soaked. Coming out of the fountain then, he said to the umbrella owner, "You son of a donkey,<sup>1</sup> the most that would have happened to me would have been to get as wet as I am now."

*Language  
abusive*

<sup>1</sup> To call someone a donkey in Turkey is more insulting than it might be elsewhere. The only slur more offensive is to call one not only a donkey but also the son of a donkey.