

Story 1105 (1966 Tape 10)

Narrator: Türköz Özdemir Fraser

Location: Ankara

Date: Summer 1966

A Reminiscence of Atatürk

This account of Atatürk was told to us by a friend of my mother. This friend lived in Üsküdar, İstanbul, on the same street where my mother lived.

When this friend was a girl, she was liked very much by Atatürk.<sup>1</sup> He used to come to that street almost every day to see her. People along the street recognized him after a while by the sound of his boots, and they would run to the window to see him pass. He was quite young and very handsome at that time.

The girl's family did not encourage Atatürk's calling upon their daughter. Her father did not want to give his daughter to such a man, because his liberal ideas, expressed while he was still a student, were disapproved of by the Sultan. The father feared that he might be put in jail. The father also had another objection to Atatürk, and that was the fact that he was a poor man. The father was very rich, and he did not wish to have his daughter married to a poor man. The girl

<sup>1</sup>At the time referred to here, Atatürk was not referred to by that honorific (Father of Turks). He was known simply as Mustafa Kemal.

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would have been interested in marrying Atatürk, but the father would not approve of this

This woman, who was a close friend of my mother, is still alive. She has remained single throughout her life

(My mother's name is Nigâr Özdemir; her maiden name was Nigâr Öngüt. I cannot now remember the name of her friend.)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> It is not within the province of the folklorist to determine the historicity, if any, of this account.