

Story 1592 (1987 Tape 4)

Narrator: Recep Yumurtacı, 80

Location: Bılık village,
Devrek kaza,
Zonguldak Province

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Declining Hospitality in a Village¹

There was once a village which was known for its great hospitality. Even a bird which came to that village and settled on a minaret would have a ram sacrificed for it by the villagers. It was then a very rich village, one that was filled with gold.

Time passed, and all of their gold was gone. Now they had only silver. But they still sacrificed a ram for any bird that landed on the minaret

When still more time had passed, the people of that village became poorer and poorer. They no longer sacrificed anything for a bird that might happen to perch of the minaret. Instead, the villagers reached for their guns to shoot at the bird.

¹This is not a good story, but it derives from an excellent story which is represented in ATON by "Solomon and the Vulture" (ATON No. 76). It is a moot point as to whether that very effective tale was reduced to this state as a result of (1) an aged narrator's failing memory and confusion, or (2) a process of devolution which began before the time of Recep Yumurtacı. No. 1591 is included in ATON solely for its possible use in studying the narrative process.