

Story #406 (Tape #4, 1972)

Narrator: Necmi Okur, 20

Location: Narlı Kuyu (Well with pomegranates), 3 or 4 houses on bay near Cenet and Cehennem, Silifke kaza, Province of İçel

This was the site of the taping. The narrator was from Ark Arası.

Date: October 13, 1972

How Some Karakaya¹ Men Died Collecting Honey

A peasant from the village of Karakaya once saw some bees in the hollow of a rock. The bees had stored quite some honey there, but the hole which led into their hive was too far to reach from the ground. The peasant took the news of his discovery to the other men of his village, and they discussed the problem of how they could reach the hole to get at the honey. One of them finally said, "This is how we can do it. We can stand on each other's shoulders until the man on top can reach the hole. He can cut the honey comb and pass it down."

They did as this man suggested, standing on each other's shoulders. The man at the top started cutting out the comb, but he suddenly realized that they had forgotten to bring a container in which to put the honey. The man at the very bottom said, "Well, I am the closest to the house,

¹About the stupid escapades and reputed foolishness of the people of Karakaya, see the Notes to this and subsequent tales of the same sort.

and so I'll go and get something in which to put the honey." As he moved away, all those above him tumbled to the ground and were killed

Ahmet Uysal: "Are there anecdotes that tell all about Karakaya people?"

Necmi Okur: "Yes, there are. They are very naive people who become involved in very strange episodes, and they are still this way."]