

Story 1257 (1988 Tape 1)

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of Nevşehir Province

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Satan and the Farmer from Kayseri

One day Satan approached a farmer of Kayseri Province¹ and asked him, "Would you like to become my partner in farming this year?"

"Yes, I should be glad to become your partner," answered the man from Kayseri. "There is, however, one thing to be decided before we begin farming. Which part of the crop do you want? Do you want the part that grows above the ground or the part which grows below the surface of the ground?"

"I want the part that grows above the ground," Satan answered.

"Very well," answered the Kayseri man.

When the field had been plowed and it was time to sow the seeds, the Kayseri man decided to raise carrots that year. At the end of the summer when the crop was harvested, the Kayseri man got all of the vegetables, and Satan got only a few dried leaves that lay on the surface of the earth.

¹Kayseri people are legendary for their shrewdness. They can outwit all adversaries--even the Devil! There is a Turkish proverb which says, "He may not be able to read or write, but if he comes from Kayseri, beware of him!"

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Satan was very displeased with this result of his farming partnership. He said to the Kayseri man, "Next year we shall again be partners, but next year I shall take what grows beneath the ground, and you may have what grows above the surface."

"That is quite agreeable to me," answered the farmer. But the following spring the farmer sowed the field with wheat seeds. Again when the crop was harvested, the Kayseri man got the valuable part, and Satan received only the worthless roots of the wheat.