

Story 1389 (1989 Tape 6)

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Location: Konya, Konya
Province

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Lengthy Itinerary for Short Trip

The second time that we went to Paris we took with us a Turkish cook named Süleyman Dede who could show French cooks how to prepare Turkish foods all the way from pilaf¹ to zerde.² He learned a few words of French such as those for bread, water, and monsieur. He was really an ignorant man, but he learned enough French to express himself fairly well.

We were staying at the Princess Caroline Hotel at that time, and we traveled about the city from there to see many places of interest. One day we decided to visit the Eiffel Tower. We started out in the direction of the Eiffel Tower, but we soon lost our way and ended up in the wrong street.

Arif Hoca was with us that time, and he knew more

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¹A rice dish sometimes containing flecks of meat and/or pine nuts, and occasionally a few dried currants. It is a staple of the Turkish diet.

²A sweet gelatinous dessert often colored and flavored with saffron.

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French than any of the rest of us. He asked a man on street how we could get from there to the Eiffel Tower. The Frenchman started to explain the route we should follow, but after his directions had gone on and on for several minutes, Süleyman Dede became very impatient. He interrupted the conversation, saying, "I understand what you are saying, can't you tell us about a shortcut to the Tower?"