

Story 1732 (1994 Tape 1

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Location: Taşkale village,
Karaman (provincial
capital but
formerly kaza
merkezi), Karaman
Province

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Tea to Be Kissed or Drunk?

In the old days, tea glasses were much larger than they are now. Just after the time when the size of these glasses had been made smaller, my father was at Konya. While he was there, he went to a coffeehouse and asked for a glass of tea.

The waiter brought the tea but without having put much of it in the glass. My father was annoyed by this small measure of tea. He said, "You now use a glass that is hardly as large as a coffee cup.¹ Then you fill that tiny glass only halfway. They say that we are supposed to leave a little tea in the bottom of the glass when we are finished, because that is said to be good manners. Did I ask for enough tea to drink or only enough to kiss? Bring me a full glass of tea!"

¹Turkish coffee is served not in cups holding 6-8 ounces of liquid but in demitasse cups.