

Story 2161 (1999 Tape 9)

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Trabzon Province

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Aydın Efes¹ --Central and Fringe

Three Efes from Aydın Province entered a barbershop to be shaved. When the first Efe sat down in the barber's chair, the barber at once mixed some soap and prepared to lather the man's face. But the Efe said, "No! No! I am from Aydın, and so you can shave me dry. No soap is needed." The barber followed the customer's directions.

When the second Efe sat down to be shaved, the barber prepared to lather his face, too. The second customer stopped him, however, saying, "Hey, barber, I too am from Aydın. You can save your soap and shave me dry, too." This the barber did.

When it was the turn of the third Efe to be shaved, he too rejected the barber's attempt to lather his face. "I am from Aydın, and so I need no lather." With his

¹Title borne by Zeybek inhabitants of Aydın and İzmir areas. They were considered to be brave, fierce fighters. Their role in history is ambivalent. Their light infantry supported the central government on some occasions, but they were sometimes outlaws (noble or otherwise) temporarily opposed to the prevailing government. Accounts of the exploits of Efes are sometimes heroic romances (not unlike Köroğlu tales), and so they are filed in ATON Division V.

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first stroke, the barber shaved one side of the man's face from his ear down to his chin. This was so painful that the third Efe changed his mind somewhat. He said, "As I told you, barber, I am a resident of Aydın, but I live on the very edge of Aydın Province, and so it will be acceptable for you to use just a little bit of soap on my face."