

HEZARFEN SYNOPSIS (TRT-TURKEY)

Şahin lives with his parents and his grandfather İhsan in the Galata Tower region in İstanbul. Şahin's mother is a worker at a textile factory. Grandfather İhsan is a retired soldier from The Airforces. He has a passion of birds and he keeps pigeons in a large cage up in the terrace of their house. Şahin is fond of birds as much as his grandfaher and helps him for feeding, flying, cleaning and training them. Grandpa İhsan often tells Şahin about the adventures of Hezarfen Ahmet Çelebi.

Şahin's father and mother are not so happy about the birds in their terrace. Because their neighbours are very unpleased of the birds' dirt. Also there is an argument between Bertan's family and Şahin's family who are living in the opposite balkoony and Bertan is jealous about the birds of Şahin and the friendship of him with his grandpa.

One day Şahin's father decides to take the birds away. The terrace left empty. Later Şahin finds his grandpa in the terrace locked himself inside the big bird cage. They couldn't persuade the grandpa to get out of there . So Şahin decides to make his grandpa happy with another way. That morning Şahin leaves his house silently and goes to his mother's workplace. In the workshop with fabrics of all color he tries to make wings like Hezarfen Ahmet Çelebi did in the stories his grandfather told him.

He returns home with the wings. He has made wings both for himself and his grandfather. He awakes his grandfather sleeping in the cage. When the grandfather sees Şahin with the wings, he feels so happy and gets out of the bird cage. The father and mother are also glad to see this situation and don't insist on ending the passion of birds any more.

WHO IS HEZARFEN AHMET ÇELEBİ?

Hezarfen Ahmet Çelebi, who lived in the 17th century in İstanbul in the Ottoman Empire, is the first to have succeeded in flying with hand made wings. He is supposed to have been inspired by and used the studies of Leonardo da Vinci on the flight of birds. He started flying from the Galata Tower, a high tower in İstanbul, and managed to fly over the Bosphorus. The few people known to have succeeded in this kind of flight are an aviator from Moorish Spain and an English monk in the 9th and 12th centuries, respectively. One of Hezarfen's friends Lagari Hasan Çelebi is known to have performed the first flight with a rocket in a conical cage filled with gun powder. Ahmet Çelebi, because of his vast scientific knowledge was given the name Hezarfen, meaning "a thousand sciences". In his early studies of flying, he was motivated by the 10th century Turkish scientist İsmail Cevheri. Çelebi, after carefully studying Cevheri's findings and when he felt confident enough arranged a public demonstration. He climbed the Galata Tower and launched himself into the wind; he passed over the Bosphorus and landed in the slopes of Üsküdar on the Anatolian side.

This event created a great sensation. Sultan Murat IV was delighted and wanted to award Hezarfen but religious leaders and palace advisers soon changed his mind. Hezarfen was exiled to Algeria where he died soon at the age of 31.