

Story #3 (Tape 23)
1961-1962

Narrator: Same as for #1 and #2?
Location: " " " " " "
Date: February 1962

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~~ANIMAL UNDERSTANDS HUMAN SPEECH~~

#3

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The Farmer and the Bear

A bear became friends with a farmer. The bear used to steal things from here and there, from various houses, and he would always bring some of these things to the farmer, saying, "Take these, but don't you ever tell your wife where they came from, or I shall eat you up." Among the things that he stole were honey and butter.

The bear used to listen through the chimney opening to the conversations between the farmer and his wife to try to find out whether the farmer going to tell his wife or not. The wife kept asking her husband every where he was getting all these things from. The farmer begged his wife to enjoy the things he brought to her but ~~not to keep asking him where they came from, for that did not really concern her.~~ ^{Proverb:} "Eat the grapes, but do not ask from what vineyard they came," he told her. But she kept insisting, day after day, and at last the poor farmer's patience was exhausted, and so finally he decided to tell his wife where these things came from. He said to her, "I'll tell you, but don't you ever tell it to anyone else. I have a bear friend who steals butter and honey and these other things from the neighbors and brings them to me."

Eavesdropping at chimney

The bear who was listening through the chimney overheard this conversation and he became very angry and threatened to eat the farmer. This frightened the farmer, and he was nervous next day when he left his house to plow his field. While he was plowing, a fox came along and asked, "How are you doing, old friend?"

"I am all right now, but I have a bear friend that is going to eat me because I told my wife that he brought me things that he stole from our neighbors."

Upon this the fox asked the farmer, "Will you give me one of your testicles to eat if I save you from the bear?"

The farmer thought about this for a while, and then he said, "All right, I'll give you one of my testicles to eat if you save me from the bear."

The fox explained his plan to the farmer. "I shall tie to my tail some dry bushes, which I shall light and then run through the village shouting, ^{Pađiřah -- of Istanbul} 'The Pađiřah of Istanbul wants a hundred bears. Ninety-nine of them have Istanbul been found, but there is still one lacking.' If your bear friend looks frightened while I am shouting this, tell him to get in this sack, and then you tie it shut while he is inside." The fox looked and saw the bear coming, so he tied the bushes to his tail, set them afire, and started shouting, as he ran toward the village, "The Pađiřah of Istanbul wants one hundred bears Ninety-nine of them have been found, but there is still one lacking."

When the bear heard this, he was afraid, and he started looking for a place to hide. The farmer shouted to him, "Here, here--get in here!" And when the bear had gotten into the sack, the farmer tied it shut. Then the farmer gave the bear a good beating with his goad stick. When the fox returned, he told the farmer to go home and bring a jug full of hot water. They poured hot water over the bear in the sack, and then they beat him again. They did this several times, with several jugs of water and several beatings, so that when they finally let the bear out of the bag, all his hair was gone and he was white all over.

As soon as the bear had escaped, he went to his bear friends and told them what had happened to him. He collected all his bear friends and led them to the house of the farmer. When the farmer saw all the bears approaching his house he became badly frightened, and he rushed out and climbed up the

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minaret for fear of being eaten by the bears. But the hairless bear spotted him and pointed him out on the minaret to the other bears

The farmer had locked the door at the bottom of the minaret, but the hairless bear said to the others, "Now I shall stand at the foot of the minaret, and one of you will get up on my shoulders, and then the next one will get on his shoulders, and so on until the one on top can reach the farmer."

The bears did this, and as the last bear was just about to reach for the farmer, that farmer shouted in a loud voice from the top of the minaret, "Bring me two jugs full of hot water!" When the hairless bear heard this, he panicked and started running away. All the bears that had been above him came tumbling down, and they were all killed. The farmer skinned all those bears and made a lot of money. He bought a lamb for the fox and he kept his testicle.