

The Two Hunchbacks

#9

Hunchbacks -- two

There was once a hunchback named Ali who fired a furnace in a Turkish bath -- Turkish bath. The heat felt good on his back, and the owner of the bath permitted him to live in the furnace room. He worked at this job for many years.

One night, long after all the customers of the day had gone home, Ali heard a noise upstairs in the bath. Going upstairs quietly, he saw a number of little people -- [Wednesday, Witches] only a hand high, dancing around in a circle on the floor of the bath and singing, "Çarşambadır, Çarşamba!" The hunchback also began to sing with them, "Çarşambadır, Çarşamba!" and he danced in the circle with them, and everything that they did, he did too. The little people were very pleased with him, and as a reward, they took the hump off his back and hung it up on the wall of the bath

The next day Ali met one of his friends, another hunchback. The friend was surprised to see that Ali no longer was deformed, and he asked him how he had been cured. Ali told him about the little folk and how they had taken off his hump. The friend begged Ali to let him tend the furnace for a few days and perhaps the little people would come again and take off his hump, too. Ali agreed to let his friend fire the furnace for several days and live in the furnace room at night

One night shortly after this, the friend was awakened by a noise upstairs in the bath. He went up the stairs quietly, and he saw there the little people, just as Ali had seen them, dancing around in a circle and singing, "Çarşambadır, Çarşamba!" But it was Perşembe, not Çarşamba, and so the friend shouted loudly, "Yok! Perşembedir, Perşembe!" The little people were so annoyed at this that they took down from the wall Ali's hump and put it on the back of his rude friend. And always after that, this friend had two humps on his back.