Hasan Ağá of Maraş [a city in south central Anatolia] went to the village of Murat Ağá on the Plain of Antioch in Hatay Province. Murat Ağá had a beautiful daughter with whom Hasan Ağá fell in love immediately when he saw her. Hasan Ağá made up his mind to ask Murat Ağá to give him his daughter in marriage. This request was granted by Murat Ağá.

After the wedding, Hasan Ağá took his wife back to his home town of Maraş. He was a wealthy man but he had taken only a small amount of money with him to the village of Murat Ağá, and in order to pay for his share of the wedding ceremonies, he had to borrow money there from a man named Ahmet Ağá.

Several months after this Ahmet Ağá decided to pay a visit to Hasan Ağá in Maraş with the view of getting back his money. So he went to Maraş. When he arrived there, he was told by Hasan Ağá’s grooms that Hasan Ağá had gone to Antioch. Hasan Ağá’s wife asked the grooms who the stranger was, and they told her that he was a certain Ahmet Ağá, a friend of her husband. She ordered the grooms to go and tell Ahmet Ağá to dismount from his horse and stay as a guest until her husband returned from Antioch.

Hasan Ağá’s wife and Ahmet Ağá ate a meal together, and after they had finished eating, two beds were made up on the floor of the room, one for Ahmet Ağá and one for Hasan Ağá’s wife. Then they went to bed, each in his own bed. Soon, however, the devil began to tickle Ahmet Ağá. He made up his mind to crawl over to the woman’s bed to ask her to let him make love to her. The woman, without showing any sign of anger, said sternly to
Ahmet Ağä, "Sir, go straight back to your own bed." Ahmet Ağä obeyed her command and went back to his own bed.

In his own bed Ahmet Ağä said to himself, "Did this woman insult you? Did she say anything bad to you? Well, then, why didn't you make love to her?" Arguing with himself in this way, and still tickled by the devil, Ahmet Ağä decided to make another attempt, and so he crawled to the side of his hostess' bed once more. He said, "May I please have the pleasure of making love to you?"

To this the woman said again, "Please, sir, go straight back to your own bed.

When Ahmet Ağä went back to his own bed, the devil argued with him again, saying, "Well, why did you return? She didn't insult you or say anything bad to you. Why don't you go back and ask her again? I think that she is willing. Otherwise, she would have reacted more strongly to your request." Ahmet Ağä was now quite restless, and he decided to go back and repeat his request to his hostess. Ahmet Ağä had a pistol in his belt. He took this out and said to the woman, "You either let me make love to you or take this pistol and shoot me."

This woman, whose name was Meriş Hatun, called her husband's grooms and told them to tie Ahmet Ağä hand and foot and put him in a room in one of the outhouses.

In the morning Ahmet Ağä was released and he came back to the house. And not long after that Hasan Ağä returned from Antioch, and when he saw Ahmet Ağä, he ran up to him, kissed him on both cheeks, and said, "Oh, my dear friend, Ahmet Ağä, where have you been all this time? What winds have blown you this way? Have you been on the ground or in the sky? I am so happy to see you again."
But Ahmet Ağä was rather sad and somewhat sullen, and Hasan Ağä wondered about this. He turned to his wife and asked, "What's the matter? Didn't you look after our dear guest, Ahmet Ağä?"

Meriş Hatun replied, "I did indeed look after him, all right, and there was only one thing that I didn't do for him. I had a sheep killed for him. I fed him well. But I refused him just one thing.

Hasan Ağä said, "Why on earth didn't you give him that? You stupid woman"

"Well, he wanted me to let him make love to me," replied Meriş Hatun, "and I refused."

To this Hasan Ağä said, "Oh, that's what it is." And then, turning to Ahmet Ağä, he said, "Don't feel bad about this, my dear Ahmet Ağä. She is such an obstinate woman that, believe me, she doesn't even let me make love to her unless she is in the right mood, let alone you!"