There was once a sultan who had no children. He used to go into his garden and weep there because he was childless, and he would pray to God that he might still be given a son.

One day a dervish saw him crying in the garden, and he asked him, "What is the matter with you, your majesty?"

"Since you were smart enough to recognize me as the sultan even though I am not wearing royal clothes now, perhaps you will also know a remedy for my trouble."

"Well, what is that trouble?" asked the dervish.

"God has not given me any children," answered the sultan.

"Don't grieve any longer," said the dervish. "You will have a son, but you must not name him until I come."

This dervish was a carpenter by trade, and when the sultana was about to deliver a child, he made a cradle and took it to the palace. On the way to the palace, he came upon a newly born child lying by the side of the road and sucking its thumb. The dervish said to himself, "I was expecting one child, but God has sent two. I shall make another cradle for this one." And he went home again and did this.

By the time the dervish returned to the palace, the sultana had given birth to her child. The dervish delivered the cradles and then he said to the sultan, "Your majesty, I found this baby on the way. He has no mother."

"Where did you find him?" asked the sultan.

"Along the road, near the forest, without father or mother," said the dervish.
The sultan said to his wife, "You will give your right breast to this baby and your left breast to that baby. You will first feed the baby and then your own. You will never let him cry or I shall punish you."

The two children, both boys, were brought up in this manner, but for several years they remained without names. When they were about fifteen years old, it was decided that they should finally be named, and a special celebration was arranged to honor the event.

As the time for the ceremony drew near, there was still no sign of the dervish. Right in the middle of the feast, however, the dervish arrived, and everyone arose when he entered to show him respect.

The dervish sat down at the banquet table but, as was the custom with some dervishes, he did not at first touch any of the food or drink. After a while, he addressed himself to the son of the sultan and said, "Ahmet the Handsome, I am hungry. Bring me some food." Thus he named the sultan's own son Ahmet the Handsome. Addressing himself then to the other young man, the dervish said, "Son of the Carpenter, go and turn my shoes." And thus he named the foster son of the sultan. When the boy returned from turning the shoes, the dervish stroked his back three times. Shortly after this he departed from the palace and disappeared.

When the two boys reached the age of eighteen, they asked their mother to talk to the sultan about having them married. The mother

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1 In villages, where the unpaved streets are usually muddy, people take off their shoes before entering a house. Since most shoes are of the sandal or clog type, their owners can easily step out of them at the door step. They must be turned around, however, if one is to step back into them with equal ease. Either the host or a servant "turns the shoes" of guests.
suggested that they approach their father on this matter when he returned home from the Friday service at the mosque. The boys waited for their father on Friday, and when he arrived home, they told him what they wanted.

The sultan took them to the treasury and told the Chief Treasurer to supply them with enough money to enable them to get whatever girls they wanted as wives. While the two young men were at the treasury, they noticed one room at the end of the building which was locked, and they asked the Chief Treasurer for the key to that room.

"I have not got the key to that room," said the Chief Treasurer.

"You will give it to me or I will wring your neck!" shouted the Son of the Carpenter.

"It is hidden in your mother's hair," the Chief Treasurer told them. "Go and take it."

Ahmet the Handsome went to their mother and begged her for the key to the locked room at the treasury. She refused to give it to him, and Ahmet did not dare to take it from her by force. When Ahmet told the Son of the Carpenter that their mother had refused to give him the key, the Son of the Carpenter went himself to the sultana, knocked her down on her back, and took the key from her by force. When they opened the locked door, they found that there was nothing in it but the picture of a beautiful girl. She was so beautiful that when Ahmet the Handsome looked at the picture he fell in love with her suddenly and fainted.

When the Son of the Carpenter helped Ahmet the Handsome to his feet he said to his brother, "What is the matter with you? Have you not seen any girl more beautiful than she is?"

\[2\] Sultans visited the mosque on Friday, the old sabbath day, in state. Their return from the mosque to the palace was a majestic, full-dress progression, the climax of the week's activities.
"By God, no!" said Ahmet. "This girl has ruined me."

When the two young men left the treasury, they went to their father again. The Son of the Carpenter told the sultan that he wished to find the girl whose picture hung in the locked room, and, when he had found her, bring her back for Ahmet the Handsome. The sultan said to them, "I have spent many years and much gold, and I have fought many battles to possess the girl whose picture hangs in that room, but I have always failed. I advise you to abandon this plan and forget her."

They did not take his advice. Instead, they filled their saddlebags with gold and started out in search of her. They reached the edge of a town after sunset and they decided to camp in a cemetery there that night. The Son of the Carpenter said to Ahmet the Handsome, "You stay here with the horses while I go into this town and buy us some bread." When he returned with the bread, he looked for Ahmet the Handsome, but at first he could not find him. As he was searching for his brother, the Son of the Carpenter suddenly came face to face with the dervish who had named the boys.

The dervish said, "Greetings, Son of the Carpenter. What are you up to?" Before the Son of the Carpenter could answer, the dervish continued. "I know what you are up to, so listen carefully to me. The girl you are seeking is the daughter of the King of England. She has seven brothers who refused to give her to a king who asked for her hand. To protect her, they have gone into some desolate country and settled down with her on a fortified farm, and there they are yet."

"What must we do to get her?" asked the Son of the Carpenter.

"Perform the early morning religious service by the sea," said the sultan. There are five Moslem religious services each day. The earliest, a short service, is held before sunrise.
dervish, "and after that you will find there two whips, one green and the other red. Let Ahmet the Handsome take the red one, and you take the green one. Then strike the sea with these whips, and the sea will open up a path so that you can walk through it without getting wet. After you have crossed to the other side, throw the whips back into the deepest part of the sea." Saying this, the dervish left him.

After the Son of the Carpenter found his brother, they spent the night in the cemetery, and they started on their journey again in the morning. They did everything just as the dervish had directed. After they had crossed the sea, they found themselves in a desert, and in that desert they saw a magnificent mansion, circled by a wall with an iron gate.

"This is where they live," said the Son of the Carpenter.

"But how can we get in?" asked Ahmet the Handsome.

"I know what we can do," said the Son of the Carpenter. "You pretend that you are ill. I shall take you on my shoulder and lead the horses." They did as the Son of the Carpenter suggested, and when they came to the gate, they knocked. The girl was looking down from the seventh floor of the mansion, and she called down, "Hey, brother, who are you? What do you want?"

"We are just God's creatures," shouted the Son of the Carpenter.

"This brother of mine is ill and about to die. For God's sake, let us in so that he may at least die comfortably."

When the girl saw the sick young man, she fell in love with him, and

This is similar to the Old Testament story of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea in their flight from bondage in Egypt.
Story #6

when Ahmet the Handsome saw the girl, he let himself go completely and really became unconscious. The girl opened the gate and took their horses to the farthest stable without letting any of the servants notice them. The girl then took the two young men to the fortieth room of the mansion, which no one else had used for a long time.

When her brothers returned from hunting in the evening, they entered the mansion and had their supper and drinks. After supper, the oldest insubordinate brother went out into the courtyard, and when he saw light coming from the window of the fortieth room, he called his sister and said, "What is that light over there?"

She answered him, "Oh, it concerns something that you may not like. That is why I have not mentioned it. Two strangers came today. One of them was ill, and so I let them in. The one who is ill may be dead by now, and if not, he will soon die. The other was praying by his side."

"You should have told me about this, you untrustworthy girl," said her eldest brother. "Go and ask the healthy one to come and talk with us."

The Son of the Carpenter came and sat at the end of the table around which the seven were seated. They moved around the table, each sitting near the end and talking with him for a while. They became quite friendly toward him and asked him to go hunting with them the next day.

"I am sorry, but I cannot go with you," he said, "because my brother is ill. I want to sit by him and pray so that he does not die without being reminded of his faith."

"Very well," they said, "As you wish."

It was formerly a custom among Moslems to pray or read continuously to someone who was dying; the Koran was usually read.
They went hunting without him, and after they had gone, the Son of the Carpenter went to the girl’s room. He looked up at the ceiling, and there he saw suspended from the beams a golden chair. He took down the chair and sat on it.

“What are you doing, Son of the Carpenter?” asked the girl.

“This is my magic chair, and whoever sits on it has come to ask for my hand for some other man.”

“That is right,” he said, “I have come to ask for your hand for my sick brother.”

“But can you fulfill the necessary conditions?” she asked.

“I’ll try,” said the young man. “If I cannot, I’ll give my head in the attempt.”

“I shall test your ability to fulfill the conditions that my brothers will require of you,” she said. “We shall have a horse race first.”

They mounted their horses and raced to a large rock that was two hours’ distance from the mansion, and then they raced back again.

Son of the Carpenter won this race.

“How we shall wrestle,” said the girl. She put on a pair of trousers and a hat, and she smeared her body with olive oil.

The Son of the Carpenter asked her, “How can you possibly wrestle with me?”

“Come and see,” she said. “If you can beat me at wrestling, you can beat my brothers, too.”

The Son of the Carpenter struggled with the girl until noon. Then he threw her, and sitting on her belly said to her, “Accept my faith or else I shall cut your throat.” The girl said that she accepted his faith.

Conversion by the sword was a feature of early Islam. It recurs frequently in the numerous tales about the military campaigns against the infidels made by the Ali, the fourth caliph.
"There is one more thing that they will ask you to do," said the girl. "Here is a thick book made of seven layers of felt. Can you cut this book in half with one stroke of your finger?"

"I do not know," said the young man. "Let me see it." He tried to cut the book in half in this way but he failed. He said to the girl, "This is a magic book. There must be a trick to accomplish this, and you know what it is." Upon this, the girl pulled a hair from her head and wound it around the young man's finger. "Strike the book now," she said. When he did as she directed, the book was cut completely through. She added, "Take good care of that hair." In the evening the seven brothers returned from their hunting. They cooked the game they had caught and ate their suppers. After that they again talked with the Son of the Carpenter before going to bed. [At this point in the narration, someone from the audience warned the raconteur, "Tell it correctly, Sergeant!" The narrator had been a soldier in his youth, and the local people still called him Sergeant.]

The next morning the brothers prepared to go hunting again. As they were having breakfast, the Son of the Carpenter came to them, took a chair, and sat down. They knew from his manner that he had come to ask them for the hand of their sister. One of them asked, "Have you come to ask for the hand of our sister?"

"Yes," he said, "I have come to ask for her hand for my sick brother."

"Well, then, bring that book of felt over here," said the eldest brother. Each of the brothers tried to cut the book with his finger but failed. Then the Son of the Carpenter secretly wound around his finger the hair from the girl's head, and he cut the book in two with one blow of his finger.
"Very well," said the eldest brother. "Now you must have a horse race with us." They raced to the large rock again, and again the Son of the Carpenter won.

After the race, the brothers told him that he must wrestle with them. The Son of the Carpenter asked them, "Shall I wrestle you one by one, or will you all come against me at the same time?"

"One by one," they said.

"No, no," he said, "one by one would take a long time. All of you come at the same time."

The eldest brother said to the others, "This is just the time. Let us catch him and kill him." As the seven brothers came at him, the Son of the Carpenter grabbed the first and threw him on the ground. Then he threw the second on top of the first, and the third on top of the second. When all seven were piled up on top of each other, he climbed up and sat on the chest of the one on top. The oldest brother was right on the bottom and he was crying loudly.

The Son of the Carpenter shouted, "You will either accept my faith or I'll kill you all!"

"Please do not!" cried all the brothers.

"No, if you do not all become Moslems, I'll kill you," he said. "I already have your sister for my brother, for she has accepted my faith. Now it is your turn."

"All right, we accept your faith," the brothers said.

And in this way they all became Moslems. They got up and performed a Moslem service, the Son of the Carpenter conducting the ritual. Ahmet the Handsome was married to their sister, and he stayed at the mansion with her every day while the Son of the Carpenter went hunting with the seven brothers.
After a few days Ahmet the Handsome began to grow tired of the girl. "Are you going to find better entertainment than I can give you?" she asked him. "But, anyway, I shall tell my brothers about it when they return tonight."

When the brothers came back from hunting, their sister went to them and said, "Your brother-in-law is tired of me and wants some new entertainment."

"That son of a donkey must have gone mad," said the eldest brother. "Could there be anywhere in the world better entertainment than you?"

When the Son of the Carpenter heard this complaint, he just kept quiet. He wondered what the brothers would do.

"Well, all right," said the eldest brother to his sister, "we shall give him more entertainment. Give him keys to all the doors in the mansion except the last door. Let him go and open all the other doors and see what he can find behind them to entertain himself."

Ahmet the Handsome opened door after door, but most of the rooms were filled with only money, like his father's treasury. He said to the girl, "I have seen much of this before. Give me the key to the last door."

"No," she said, "that would bring no good to you."

"Why?" asked Ahmet.

"Because there is a seven-headed giant in there," she said. "He once carried me away, and after great trouble, my brothers captured him and imprisoned him in that room. Do not open that door, or he will smash you against the wall and carry me away again."

The word egek (donkey) when applied to human beings is a much more offensive term in Turkey than in Europe or America. To call someone 'donkey' and son of a donkey is to use against him the most abusive language possible.
"No, no, I am not afraid of him. I want to see what he looks like," insisted Ahmet. The girl gave him the key to the last door and then fled, locking door after door behind him until she had locked all forty of the doors that Ahmet had opened.

"Oh, Ahmet the Handsome," cried the giant, when he saw the young man, "your brothers-in-law imprisoned me here and they are starving me to death. Sometimes they throw me the bones of the game they have caught, and at other times they do not give me anything at all. I shall surely starve to death here. Please help me to get out of here and escape."

"How can I do that?" asked Ahmet.

"Do you see that big pot over there? It is full of a special strong wine. If you pour that over me, it would cause the links of my chains to rust away. Then I should be able to shake myself loose and get away here. Then I would no longer be a burden to these people."

Ahmet the Handsome did as he was directed by the giant. After the wine was poured over him, a terrific clattering of chains was heard. The giant freed himself from the chains, hit Ahmet on the head with one of them, and then smashed him against the wall where he stuck like mud. The giant smashed the doors of the forty rooms, one after the other, grabbed the girl, and ran away with her.

Just at that time one of the brothers, hunting in the forest, said to the others, "I have had a bad dream just now. Bring me that telescope and let me look at the mansion with it and see what is happening there." He looked through the telescope and saw that all of the doors of the mansion were broken open and that their sister was not to be seen anywhere.

The brothers all realized then what Ahmet the Handsome had done.
They knew that he must have let the giant loose. "Let us go and cut his throat," several of them said at once.

The brothers returned home to the mansion with only one deer which they had killed. There they found Ahmet in very bad condition. His mouth was foaming and he was lying unconscious, but not quite dead. He was still breathing. They tried to revive him but without success at first. They then began to discuss the way in which they might re-capture their sister from the giant.

Upon this, the Son of the Carpenter said to the brothers, "Allow me forty days. If I cannot bring your sister back to you by then, you may kill Ahmet the Handsome." He then set out in search of the giant and the girl he had carried off. On the way he met a giant with one eye and he asked that giant whether he had seen a seven-headed giant running away with a girl.

"Yes, and they went that way," said the one-eyed giant pointing.

He took the one-eyed giant with him and continued on his search. Further on he met a lame giant and he said to him, "Did you see a seven-headed giant going this way?"

"Yes, I did and he had a girl with him," answered the lame giant.

"All right, you join us too," said the Son of the Carpenter to the lame giant. "You must show me in which cave he lives."

When they came to the cave of the seven-headed giant, they stopped and built a fire at its mouth. Shortly afterwards, two of the heads of the giant appeared at the mouth of the cave and the Son of the Carpenter cut them off. Two more heads appeared a little later, and he chopped them off too. Then two more, and he chopped them off. Finally the last head appeared at the cave mouth and it said, "Why don't you strike once more?"
"No, no more," said the Son of the Carpenter. 8

One of the heads kept rolling after it struck the ground, and finally rolled to a well and dropped down it. "That's where the girl must be," said the Son of the Carpenter. He went to the well and looked down it. He saw that the girl was there hanging from the branch of a tree that grew out of the side of the well. The whole well was now filling with smoke that poured out of the giant's head.

The Son of the Carpenter lowered the lame giant down the well, but he was unable to stand the heat and the smoke, and he kept crying, "Too hot, too hot! I'm burning!" Then the one-eyed giant was lowered and he was not able to stand the heat either. "It's too hot! Pull me out!"

Then the Son of the Carpenter asked the two giants to lower him into the well. "Keep lowering," he told them, "even if I say, 'Too hot! I'm burning!'" When he got to the bottom of the well to where the girl was hanging from a branch, he found her there crying.

"Who is up there?" she asked him.

"There are two giants. One is lame and the other is one-eyed," he said.

"Oh, that is bad," said the girl. "If you send me up there first they will fight with each other about which is to have me, because they will not be able to share me. After a while they will throw me down here again and cover up the mouth of the well."

When the Son of the Carpenter insisted that she be pulled up first, she said to him, "They will leave you down here. Every Friday two large

8 The Son of the Carpenter knows how to handle seven-headed giants. Had he struck off the seventh head, all the rest would have grown again; with six heads chopped off, such giants usually bleed to death.
birds come here. One is white and the other black. Fly out on the back of the white bird, but don't you ever mount the black one!"

The Son of the Carpenter was left in the well, and he spent the rest of that week there. When Friday came, the two birds, one white and the other black, appeared. The Son of the Carpenter got ready to mount the white bird, but suddenly the black bird flew between his legs and carried him up out of the well. The black bird took him to the Land of Darkness where everything was lighted with lamps. In the Land of Darkness he was housed by an old woman. It happened that the fountain in her village was controlled by a seven-headed giant. Every day he demanded to be fed one human being, or else he would shut off the water. The Son of the Carpenter did not know this, and so he said to the old woman, "I am thirsty. Will you give me a drink of water?" Since she had no water in her house, she urinated in a basin and brought this to the young man.

"What kind of sour water is this?" he asked her, after tasting it. "Have you no good water in this village to drink?"

"We have," said the woman, "but it is held by a giant who does not let it run unless he is fed a human being each day."

"Will you show me where it is?" asked the young man.

"Do you see that tree?" she asked. "The fountain is near that."

The Son of the Carpenter went to a blacksmith and asked him to make from steel a bow and some arrows, a sword, and a shield. When these weapons were ready, he took them and went to the tree by the fountain. When he arrived there, he found a girl as beautiful as the fifteenth day of the moon tied to the tree.

"I am the daughter of the king of this land," she told him. "My
father decided to let the giant eat me today so that his people could get some water. He said, 'If other people can give their dear children, why shouldn't I?' The giant will now soon come to eat me and then everyone will have water. Go away and let him eat me.'

When the Son of the Carpenter told the girl that he could save her, she objected, saying, "No, no, my father would be angry."

But in spite of this, the young man released the daughter of the king and sent her back to her father. When the father saw her, he asked, "Why did you come back?"

"Well, a strange man came along and saved me," she answered.

"Go back to where you were taken at first," her father, "and let the giant eat both you and the stranger who released you."

The girl returned to the fountain where the Son of the Carpenter was waiting for the giant to come. She said to him, "It is my father's order that the giant be allowed to eat both of us."

"All right, let him eat us, then," said the young man. He fell asleep by the fountain with his head in the girl's lap. While they were resting in this way, the giant approached, quite pleased that he was getting two human beings for his meal today. The girl began to cry, and the tears that rolled off her cheeks fell on the face of the Son of the Carpenter and woke him.

The young man faced the giant and he said, "I am going to butt you!"

When the giant heard this, he went home and brought his huge club, which weighed a thousand batmans. The young man held his steel shield before him and began striking with his steel sword. The giant was striking
back with his huge club, but his blows just bounced off the shield. When the giant realized that he could not kill this adversary with his club, he threw it away and surrendered.

Right at that point, the young man shouted, "Accept the Faith!"

The giant replied, "I have lived for a thousand years without saying, 'There is but one God.' Are you going to make me say such a thing now?"

The Son of the Carpenter then cut off six of the heads of the giant, who then said to him, "Cut off this head, too."

"No, I shall not do that," said the young man.

"If you had cut off this last head, all my other heads would have grown again, and then I should have destroyed the whole earth. But what does it matter now?" After saying this, he died.

The daughter of the king dipped her hand into the blood of the giant and then pressed her hand against the back of the Son of the Carpenter, leaving a mark there. She then left him and returned to her father's palace and told him what had happened.

The young man went back to the house of the old woman with whom he had been staying, and he said to her, "Go and get some fresh water from the fountain."

"I am afraid to go to the fountain for fear the giant will eat me," she said.

"No, no," said the young man, "I have ended his life."

So the old woman went to the fountain and took fresh water from it. A little later a man came from the village and said, "Are you the young man who killed the giant? Why are you hiding yourself in this old woman's house? The king wants to see you."
The Son of the Carpenter became very angry with the arrogant manner
of this man, and he slapped him hard. The man fell to the ground, dead.
When another messenger came from the king with the same demand, the young
man killed him, too.

One day the Son of the Carpenter was out taking a walk when he was
recognized by the daughter of the king. "That is he," she shouted. "He
has a mark on his back."

The king's men seized the young man and looked at his back, and there
they saw the imprint of the five fingers of a hand. Everyone knew then
that this was the person who had killed the giant by the fountain.

The daughter of the king then went to the Son of the Carpenter and
said to him, "If my father offers me to you in marriage, don't accept me.
He has a horse which talks prophetically every Thursday and a magic sword--capable
which can stretch forty fathoms. Ask him for these, instead."

The king of that land invited the young man to his palace, and when
he came into his presence, said to him, "You have saved us from the giant.
from me whatever you wish, and it shall be given you."

"Your majesty, I wish only for your good health."
said the young
"No, no," said the king. "you must wish for something for yourself."
"Very well, then," said the young man, "I should like your horse and
your sword."

The king said, "You have asked for two extremely valuable objects, but
I shall give them to you." and these two gifts were brought

Wearing the sword, the Son of the Carpenter mounted his horse and
left that village. He traveled many days through this land of continual

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10 This is the traditional first wish, in folk tales of Turkey, of anyone
being rewarded by a ruler. It is a courteous gesture of respect, always
recognized as such, and always passed over with thanks.
darkness, and he wondered why there was no light. On Thursday the horse began to talk: "Once there was day in this country, too, but God sent a curse upon this land. He asked the Emerald-Green Anka Bird to come and stretch its wings against the sun and bring this land into perpetual darkness.

What can be done, then, to save this land?" asked the young man.

The horse answered, "When we are right under the sun, you will ride me so fast that I shall begin to fly. Then when I fly near enough to the bird, you will swing your sword at it and kill it. But take great care, for if the bird falls on us, we shall both be killed by its weight."

The Son of the Carpenter did as the horse directed. When close enough, he swung his sword at the bird and killed it. When the bird fell to the ground, the sun began to shine over that land once again.

The Son of the Carpenter was then able to find his way back to the well where he had left the wife of Ahmet the Handsome. When he arrived there, he found the two giants, the one lame and the other one-eyed, still fighting over the girl. The one said, "I shall have her!" and the other said, "No, I shall have her!" The young man took out his magic sword and cut off their heads. Then he took the girl up on the horse behind him and rode off.

This was the thirty-ninth day since leaving the mansion of the English brothers. On the following and fortieth day, the youngest brother of the girl was still tending Ahmet, even though the others said several times, "Let us kill him. Our sister has not been brought back in the time allowed."

Known in Turkish as the Zinarkâ Anka (Emerald-Green Anka), this is a fabulous bird—it is like the phoenix in that it has many lives—that is said to inhabit the Caucasus Mountains.
But the Son of the Carpenter was not very far from the mansion at that time. When he drew near enough to see the mansion, he shouted, "There's the mansion!" so loudly that his voice was heard by the brothers. Then they knew that he was coming.

After the Son of the Carpenter delivered the girl to her brothers, he and Ahmet the Handsome prepared to take their leave together. The eldest brother said to them, "Do not leave in this way. We want you to take our sister with you and also some souvenirs of your stay here." He gave them various gifts and he gave a horse to his sister, and then the three rode away.

They rode for many days and at last drew near their own country. Son of the Carpenter sent a messenger ahead to the sultan's palace to tell him the good news of the return of his sons with the girl that Ahmet was bringing. When the sultan heard this news, he was amazed that his son had achieved the possession of the girl whom he himself had not been able to obtain, though he had tried for seven years to gain the possession of her.

"I had so many soldiers lost in the attempt to capture this girl," he said, "and yet I failed. But, look!—now my son has her." He then ordered his men, "Put poison in all the food and tea, and put a seven-headed giant under the curtain in Ahmet's room. Send my falcon to tear out the eyes of the Son of the Carpenter. Then I shall have the girl." He then ordered his sons—"in order to obtain beautiful girl stay here, again: "Son of the Carpenter, your father's mad falcon is coming to tear out your eyes. Watch for him!" He had no sooner said this than the falcon appeared, but the Son of the Carpenter reached up with his magic sword and killed the bird.

The horse then said to him, "Son of the Carpenter, do not eat or
drink anything in the palace today. Your father has had all the food and tea poisoned." When the young man heard this, he went throughout the palace and overturned all the cauldrons of food and tea.

Then the horse spoke again to him: "Your father has ordered that a seven-headed giant be placed behind the curtain in Ahmet's room." The son of the Carpenter went to the room and saw that there was something large behind the curtain.

"If this giant does not play some trick on us, we shall be all right," said the young man to himself. When Ahmet the Handsome and the girl went to sleep, the Son of the Carpenter hid in their room with his sword in his hand, waiting for the giant to come out from behind the curtain. The giant stuck a head out to see whether his prey was there. Right then the Son of the Carpenter started to chop off the giant's heads, of which there were seven. He chopped off all the heads but one, and the room was filled with blood. In the morning, when the sultan's men came into the room, they found the body of the giant there, lying swollen in his own blood.

The sultan guessed that the Son of the Carpenter was responsible for all this and that it was he who prevented him from having the girl. He called the young man into his presence and said to him, "I sent a falcon to tear out your eyes, but you killed it. I had all the foods poisoned, but you did not eat any of them. I sent a seven-headed giant after you, but you killed him, too. May God turn you into stone right down to your heels!"

"Curse -- on son -- by jealous father: "May God turn you into stone."

As soon as he had said this, the young man turned into stone and fell where he was. 12 "Go and throw him into the garden," the sultan ordered.

12 Parental curses, no matter how unjustified or outrageous, are always effective in Turkish folktales.
After a short while, the girl gave birth to twin sons. The sultan thereupon became so jealous of Ahmet the Handsome that he had his son killed and took the girl for himself. All this while, the Son of the Carpenter still lay in the garden. The girl, now the sultan's wife, came three times a day to where the Son of the Carpenter lay and wept over his stone body. One day as she wept there, a bird came and alighted on a branch of the pine tree in the garden. The bird said to her, "This young man is lying here like this because he was cursed by his father. He is quite healthy but he cannot arise. He will be able to get up again if someone takes the waistcoat which I shall drop down, kills two babies over it, and then smears his body with the bloody coat." The girl returned to the palace and got her twin sons. She took them to the garden and killed them over the waistcoat, and then she smeared the stone body with the bloody coat. When the Son of the Carpenter stood up he said to her, "What happened to me?"

"You died and you revived," she said to him, and then she told him about the curse.

Determined now to kill his father, the young man went and stood straight in his presence. He said to the vezirs, "You come here and also listen to what I have to say."

When all the vezirs had gathered around him, he said to the first vezir, "What should be the punishment of a father who sends a mad falcon to tear out his son's eyes?"

The vezir whom he had asked said, "Put this question to that man," pointing to another vezir.

The Son of the Carpenter then turned to a third vezir and asked him, "What should be the punishment of a father who poisons all the food in
the palace in order to take a girl from his own son?"

The vezir at whom this question was directed said, "Ask that man for the answer," and pointed to another of the vezirs.

The Son of the Carpenter then turned to a different vezir and asked, "What should be the punishment of a father who set a seven-headed giant to kill his son?" And when this vezir also avoided answering, he turned to still another vezir, and said, "What should be the punishment of a father who turns his other son into stone and throws his body in the garden?"

By this time, he had come to the very last vezir, and he said to him, "What should be the punishment of the father who has done, in turn, all of these evil things?"

The last vezir, having no one to point to, could not avoid an answer. He said, "Such a father should be tied to the tail of a mad horse in a cemetery, the gate of which should be locked. Then the horse should be whipped."

"Let us do just that!" said the young man. He had his father bound, taken to a cemetery, and there tied to the tail of a mad horse. When the horse was struck on the rump with a whip, he plunged wildly about the cemetery, and the sultan was dashed to pieces against all the gravestones.

The Son of the Carpenter then married the girl and became sultan himself. The two of them lived together happily ever after that.

Execution — victim dashed against gravestones — when tied to tail of mad horse — in cemetery.