

Story #103 (Tape # , Summer 1963)

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Mustafa Pasha and His Wicked Wife

Wife - Wicked

There was once a man called Mustafa Paşa who had forty rooms and forty wives. One of these forty wives used to lean out of her window showing her body down to her waist. She used to attract other men into her chamber and kill them and take their money.

One day a young man sold a horse to Mustafa Paşa. Mustafa Paşa paid the young man, but he was one kuruş short. He told the young man, "Come to my house and I shall pay your one kuruş there." The young man went to the address given to him by the Paşa and realized that it was the house where the wicked woman lived. At the door of the house he was faced with her. He told her that he was to receive one kuruş from Mustafa Paşa.

"Come in and I shall give you your money," said the woman. Inside the house, the woman tried to rob the young man of all his money, but somehow or another he managed to escape unharmed.

On the way, the young man stopped at the house of an old woman who had recently lost a daughter. He asked the old woman whether she would like to have him instead of her deceased daughter. She agreed to the proposal. The young man put on the dresses of the daughter. Mustafa Paşa, who used to walk past the house of the old woman, noticed the pretty young woman there and wanted to take her as his wife. The necessary arrangements were made, and she (the young man disguised as a girl) was married to Mustafa Paşa.

DISGUISE

During the nuptial night, the bride asked, "Mustafa Paşa, I want you to pay my one kuruş immediately." Under her dress the bride had a horse tail studded with many nails (nails used for nailing horses).

"What? Are you not my wife?" asked Mustafa Paşa in amazement.

"No, I am not your wife. I am the owner of the horse you bought."

The young man gave Mustafa Paşa a good beating with the horse tail, and put him in a very bad shape. He took whatever he could get hold of in the house and ran away.

After this beating, Mustafa Paşa became ill and was put to bed. The young man took a few bottles with colored water in them and began to walk up and down the streets. "I am a doctor. I am a doctor. Is there anyone who needs a doctor?" Mustafa Paşa's attendants took this man who called himself a doctor to attend him.

The doctor said, "This man has been beaten badly. I shall fix his wounds, but there must not be anyone when I am treating him, because the ointment I shall put on his wounds will make him cry very much, so please leave us alone." When he and Mustafa Paşa were left alone, he took out his horse tail with nails and gave Mustafa Paşa another good beating. He then told his attendants, "Leave him alone for two hours, and then he will be all right."

His attendants decided to put Mustafa Paşa in a bathroom* to keep him safe, but the young man found his way into the bathroom, too. He disguised himself as a waiter and pretended that he was taking a tray of food to him. When he was alone with Mustafa Paşa in the bathroom, he said to him, "I want my one kuruş, Mustafa Paşa." When Mustafa Paşa failed to pay him the one kuruş, he was beaten again.

A few days later, the young man bought two donkey loads of raki , one donkey load of helva, and nine donkey loads of kara sakız (black gum). He came and put down his goods somewhere near the bathroom. He made a

*A private room in a public bath.

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fire there and melted the black gum. At the same time, he invited the soldiers who were guarding Mustafa Paşa to come and eat some helva. While they were eating helva, he then stuck the soldiers together with molten gum in a circle around the bathroom. He then entered the bathroom and asked Mustafa Paşa, "Well, well, Mustafa Paşa, where is my one kuruş?" The soldiers were unable to do anything because they were drunk and at the same time stuck together.

The governor of the town was informed of the incident, and he came and watched the scene in amazement. The young man then explained to the governor that Mustafa Paşa had a wicked wife who kept a machine of death in her apartment. Then everyone went to her apartment and found such pieces of clothing as shirts, socks, and caps there, things belonging to lost relatives who had been chewed up by the machine of death. The young man was rewarded for his deeds, and Mustafa Paşa died