

ry #171 (Tape #2, Summer 1970) Narrator: Name not recorded; about 14 or 15

Location: Külef Kóy
Gerede
Bolu vilayet

Date: July 1970

The Bear's Bride

Once there was and once there wasn't, there were a husband and in a village with too many children--so many that they could not ed them. One day the husband and wife decided to abandon these hildren in the woods, one by one. One day the father took the eldest daughter and went to the forest to cut wood. There he said to her, "You stay here while I cut wood over there." He climbed a tree over there and hung an empty pumpkin on a branch of the tree. When the pumpkin swung in the wind, the girl thought her father was cutting wood. When evening came and it was dark, the father did not return, so she walked toward the place where the noise came from. She started crying. A bear came along and carried the girl to his cave. The girl bore a baby whose face was hairy on one side and smooth on the other. The bear caressed the hairy side of his face and slapped the smooth side, while the girl caressed the smooth side and slapped the hairy side. The bear fed them with cream and honey.

One day some hunters killed the bear. The girl waited a long time the bear, but it did not return, and so she wept and spoke as follows:

"O my hairy one,

You had neither care nor trouble,

But enjoyed a life of cream and honey." [The last 2 lines rime]