

Story #177 (Tape #3, Summer 1970) Narrator: Ali Şengül, of preceding tales

Location: Kızılcahamam kaza
Ankara vilayet

Date: July 1970

The Maligned and Abused Youngest Wife of the Padişah

Once there was and once there wasn't, long, long ago, there was a padişah. He made an announcement one day that no one would be allowed to show a light after 5 p.m. The entire city obeyed this order except a small cottage just outside the city. The padişah said to himself, "Let me go and find out who those people are."

He went to the cottage and looked through the window and saw three sisters inside. The eldest was saying, "I can weave a carpet [kilim] so large that all the padişah's soldiers can sit on it and still leave half of it unoccupied."

The middle sister said, "I can cook so much food in that cauldron that all the padişah's soldiers could eat it and leave half of it uneaten."

The youngest said, "I can bear twins, one boy and one girl, with the boy's hair of gold and the girl's of silver."

When the padişah heard these remarks, he wondered which one of the sisters he should marry. He finally married all three of them. The padişah married these girls, and the two older ones performed their feats as they had claimed they would. When it was the youngest sister's turn, to bear her twins, her elder sisters were deeply concerned, for they feared that if she bore the padişah two children, he would perhaps refuse to keep them among his favorites. As you know, there used to be witches in the old days. They called a witch to court and promised her much money if she would solve their problem. The witch said, "Do not worry. I shall find a solution to your problem."

When the youngest was about to bear her children, the witch came to her and took the twins that were born and left two (I beg your pardon) puppies, and took the children to a far-away place where she threw them into the hollow trunk of a willow tree by a stream.

The news spread that the padişah's wife had given birth to puppies. In those days, the punishment would be execution. They took the woman out and buried her up to her waist, where passersby would spit at her.

Now let us see what the children were doing. The padişah of the land where they lived had a flock of goats, and his shepherd grazed the flock thereabouts. He saw the children in the trunk of the willow tree and went and got a she-goat to suckle the children every morning. The padişah one day asked, "This goat used to produce a lot of milk. But recently it has given very little milk." He tortured the shepherd a little to make him talk, and finally followed the shepherd to the place where the children lived. By then, they had grown considerably. As that padişah did not have any child of his own, he said, "All right. I shall take them as my children." He took them to the palace and started to rear them there. When they were playing marbles with the other children one day, a neighbor's child called one of the twins a bastard, at which he was very offended and told this to his father in the evening. His father said, "Yes, son, you are a bastard."

"Have ~~you~~^{we} no parents?" the boy asked.

"Well, we found you in this way" [which the narrator does not repeat].

"But we shall find our parents," the children said, and asked for permission to go and search for their parents. They were about 15 years old at that time. The padişah provided them with horses and as much

gold as possible. They took their farewell and set out on their journey.

While they were riding, His Reverence a dervish appeared before them.

The children explained their problem to him and he advised them as follows:

"Go a little farther and leave your horses at the place where they will neigh. Dismount there and build a palace."

The children did as he directed. The boy was responsible for hunting.

His territory was close to his father's, but he did not know this. (Where-

ever he went, he hid his hair.)

Dervish

His fame soon spread in the country, and his mother's sisters heard of his existence. They again found the same witch and told her that the children were alive and that she should do whatever she could to destroy them. One day the witch came to the front of the girl's palace. The girl refused to accept her as a guest, but when her brother returned from hunting in the evening, she told him about the woman who had wanted to come in. Her brother said she could admit her the next time she came.

The next day when she came, she was admitted to the palace. After talking to the girl for a while, she said, "You cannot live all alone in this palace. Furthermore, you should not comb your silver hair with a silver comb. There is a golden comb in the possession of such-and-such (giants). It would be better if you had that comb brought to you by your brother."

The girl said, "All right," said the witch left.

Jack

When her brother came home in the evening, she told him about what she had heard from the woman. He said, "All right. I shall get it

In the morning he set out, but the dervish stopped him along the way. "It is very difficult to take the comb from the giants, but when you take it, you should say 'Golden comb' three times and not look back, or you will be turned to stone." There had been millions who had been turned to stone there.

Well, she finally had the comb brought in this way. There were several other things that she also had brought

[Ahmet Uysal: What were these things?

Narrator: I forget what they were. I am sorry, but I think one was a mirror, but I forgot one of them.]

She then said to the sister, "There is a fairy girl whom you should have married to your brother, and then you will be able to live very happily."

He went and took the fairy girl, but it was a girl who was very obstinate. She wanted always to have things her own way. She said, "I shall marry you if you will accept me with this condition" [that she was to have things her own way]. They were married and came to the palace to live. They invited the padişah to this palace, but, of course, the fairy girl knew everything about the girl's mother, and so forth. The padişah also invited them to his palace. When they were about to leave, the fairy girl said, "You will take with you only one set of clothes and we shall go.

On the road there was a woman who was to be stoned by the padişah and spat upon. "You will dismount from your horse, wipe her face, and take her out of the pit and carry her with us," said the fairy girl.

They went to the palace in this way, accompanied by the woman who had been buried. The padişah was very angry, but since they were his guests he would say nothing to them. They ate and drank, and then the padişah said, "I had that woman lynched, and you cleaned her and unearthed her. Why did you do this?"

Then the fairy girl said, "Oh, padişah, you married three sisters. Did two do everything they said they would?"

The padişah said, "Yes."

"And did this woman do what she said she would?"

"No," the padişah said.

"But she did. This is her son and this is her daughter." They opened their hair covering. "See, this is your son, the one with golden hair. The one with silver hair is your daughter, and this woman is their mother. They [the two elder sisters] did this through a witch."

The padişah punished the others and he started living happily with his other wife.

[Ahmet Uysal: Whom did he punish?

Narrator: The other women.

Ahmet Uysal: How did he punish them?

Narrator: He asked them if they wanted 40 mules or 40 choppers. They preferred the mules. They were tied to the tails of the mules. The mules were frightened and started running through the forest, tearing them to pieces. The witch was subjected to the same treatment.

They had their wish fulfilled, and let us go to cut dry wood [perhaps because the narrator was working in a Forest camp?]