

Story #225 (Milli Kutüphanne Tape)

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Location: Sivas

Date: Collected in 1950's by student of P. N. Boratav; translated in April, 1962, by Neriman Hızır and Barbara K. Walker

patience
The Broommaker's Patient Daughter [Griselda]

Once upon a time there was a padişah, and his wife had died. He had been looking for a woman, a well-brought-up, noble-hearted person, to marry. One day a ^{bird's speech} hawk came and told him that there was a broommaker who had a very beautiful and well-brought-up, noble-hearted daughter, and he might marry her if he wished. They went to see the girl, and, sure enough, she was a beautiful girl, very well brought up. They asked her hand in marriage by the will of God. The broommaker was a very poor man, and he was more than willing to give the girl to the padişah. In return, they gave the broommaker a great deal ^{by the price} of gold, which he and his wife used to dress themselves up and to tidy up their home. She was taken by the palace people to the palace to be married to the padişah. She was married to the padişah, and she was very, very polite, and very well brought up. She was always obedient, and pleased everybody.

After a year, she gave birth to a baby son. They gave the padişah the good news, saying that he had a baby son, and everybody was happy. The baby was washed and dressed and tied, and then brought to his mother at her bedside. The padişah sent word that he did not want to have anybody left in the room but his wife and child; he wanted to see them. Everybody else left the room and he went in. As he went in, she gave a start, and she wanted to stand up to greet the padişah. He said, "No, no. You must not get up. You are not feeling well. You are sick. And how is the baby?" He opened the baby's

wrappings and he saw that it was a very beautiful baby boy. He took the boy in his arms and walked to the window, and he threw the baby out of the window the sea, which was right in front of the palace. When the girl gave a start, he turned around and said, "Oh, broommaker's daughter, can you not stand this? If you cannot, you may take your belongings and go back to the broom-maker's house."

"Oh, no, Your Honor," she said. "I did not say anything. He was your son." She said that, but her heart bled, and she felt very badly about it. She decided that she would never have another child by this horrible man. When he had left the room, the servants came in and they saw that the baby was not in its place. But she never opened her mouth to say a single word about it. She never uttered a word about the father's having thrown the baby into the sea. All she did was to look into their faces and cry and cry.

A few years later she gave birth to another child. This time it was a baby girl. They washed her and wrapped her and tied her, and they put her by the side of her mother. The padişah wanted to come and see his wife and baby, and he sent word that everybody else should be out of the room. As he came into the room, she gave a start again, and tied her robe together in front and wanted to greet him, but he said, "No, no. You are not feeling well. You are sick. You stay in bed." And then he asked, "How is the baby?"

"I do not know," she said, not wanting to say that the baby was very beautiful.

He took the baby and opened its wrappings and saw that it was a beautiful little baby girl. He walked to the window and threw the baby down into the

As the girl gave a start, he turned around and said, "You, broommaker's daughter, if you cannot stand this, you may gather your belongings and go back to your father's house.

"Oh, no, Your Honor," she said. "I did not say anything. She was child." Her heart was broken, but she did not say anything more because was so well brought up. She cried and cried after he left the room, and she decided never to have another baby of his. The servants came in, and they saw that the baby was gone again. But they did not dare to ask anything, and she did not dare to mention anything.

After a few years she gave birth to another baby boy. They washed him and wrapped him and tied him, and gave him to his mother at her bedside. Again, the padişah sent word that he did not want to have anybody left in the room but his wife and child; he wanted to see them. Everybody else left the room and he went in. As he went in, his wife gave a start, and wanted to stand up to greet the padişah. He said, "No, no. You must not get up. You are not feeling well. And how is my son?" He opened the baby's wrappings and saw that it was a beautiful little boy. He took the boy in his arms and walked to the window, again he threw the baby out of the window and into the sea. As his wife gave a start, he turned and said, "Broommaker's daughter, if you cannot take it, may gather your belongings and go back to the broommaker's house.

"Oh, no, Your Honor," she said. "I did not say anything. He was your son."

And so they were left, the two of them, with all three babies gone, and they lived together for fifteen or twenty years

Then one day the padişah said, "Broommaker's daughter, I have decided to get married again. And if you cannot stand this, you may take your belongings and go to the broommaker's house."

"Oh, Your Honor," she said, "I did not say anything.

"Go to so-and-so's house. He has a beautiful daughter. Go and see her for me, and ask her hand in marriage for me by the will of God

His wife did not know what to think. She could not understand it at all

"He has thrown all our three babies into the water, and now what is this? He ups and wants to get married on me." But orders were orders, and she had to obey orders. She went to the house of so-and-so and she saw a beautiful girl. She liked that girl very much, and she ran back home and said, "Oh, Your Honor, she's a beautiful girl. Let us take her for you."

An engagement ring was sent to the girl, and all the wedding preparations were made. When it was time for the wedding, he said to his wife, "You wait behind the door for me here. I'll go to the mosque to pray. And by the way, if you cannot stand this, you may take your belongings and go back to the broommaker's house

"Oh, no, Your Honor," she said. "I did not say anything." And she waited for him. There were candles burning in front of her. Though she had not said anything to her husband, she felt very unhappy about his marrying again. While she was waiting, she almost fainted, and fell on the burning candles. Her kerchief and part of her clothes got burned. When her husband came back, he saw that her clothes were partly burned; he held her by the arm and took her upstairs with him, saying he was going to pray now. "By the way," he said, "You are going to join us hand in hand. And, broommaker's daughter, if you cannot stand this, you may take all your belongings and go back to the broommaker's house."

"Oh, Your Honor," she said. "I did not say anything."

"Then go and wash yourself properly for the prayer, and come and be ready to pray with me." So she went and washed, and came back and stood to pray

Then her husband said, "Now, turn on your right." She turned on her right and she saw a handsome young man, handsome as a growing sapling, and with a beautiful girl next to him, ready to be married

And then her husband said, "Turn on your left." She turned on her left, and there was a beautiful young girl with a young man, both ready to get married

"Now look behind you," said her husband. She looked behind her, and there was her second son, also ready to get married. And she knew all three of her children when she saw them

It seems this is what happened. Each time the padişah took the babies and threw them into the water, he had taken measures to have something spread underneath, and the children were thrown into it without being hurt. They were then taken away and brought up, and their mother did not know anything about it. And all the time this poor woman had her heart burn for her children. Now all three of her children were there, one at her right and one at her left and one behind her.

Her husband said, "From now on, we shall live happily ever after. My sons with their wives, and my daughter with her husband, and you and I shall live happily ever after."

And so it went. After a grand wedding of forty days and forty nights, they did live happily ever after.