

Story #264 Tape #8, Summer 1970)

Narrator: Ibrahim Gürsoy

Location: Camlidere, kaza town in Ankara Province

Date: August

*Dilemma*

The Girl Rescued by Three Suitors

Once there was and once there wasn't, there was a merchant in the city of Kaboul, Afghanistan, by the name of Sait who had a daughter by the name of Zohre. When this girl was of marriageable age, she said, "I am going to put the man I marry to a test. Whoever can win the test I'll marry."

This was announced throughout the country. Many tried without succeeding. One day three fellows came, one a carpenter, one a dervish, and one a warrior who was a good horseman and swordsman. They had heard of the tests and they had come and submitted their applications. The girl's father said, "You arrived too late for the test today. You will take it in the morning, God willing, and if you win, you will marry my daughter."

*Test - 25  
Suitor  
Test*

They went to sleep, and during the night, the girl disappeared from her room. The father had a search made for her, but they couldn't find her. He finally went to the three companions and said, "The girl you applied to marry is missing. I had her searched for everywhere and I cannot find her. Now I have come to hear what you will say about her disappearance."

The dervish said, "The girl is imprisoned in the home of a giant on an island in the Indian Ocean, but it is a difficult

*Seer*

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thing to bring her back from there."

The carpenter, who was able to make a horse that would go on both land and sea, said, "I can make a magic horse, but someone has to ride it."

The warrior said, "If you make the horse, I'll ride it and go and get that girl and bring her back

The carpenter made a horse of wood. The warrior rode it and brought the girl back. Now the girl had returned, but a dispute arose among the companions as to which should get her

The dervish said, "I discovered where the girl was; therefore, the girl is mine. If I hadn't found her, how would you have located her?"

The carpenter said, "Yes, you discovered where the girl was. But I made the horse that brought her back. How would the girl have returned if I had not made the horse?"

Then the warrior said, "You discovered where the girl was, and you made the horse, but who would have brought the girl back if I hadn't ridden there? Therefore, the girl is mine."

To whom did the girl belong?

Abdurrahman Erkaya: She belongs to the one who brought her back.

Narrator: Yes. That's right. She is his.