

Story #267 Tape #2, 1969)

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The Shrewish Wife and the Fairy from the Well

There was once a couple who were continually at odds with each other. If the man asked his wife to come this way, she would go in the opposite direction. The man became thoroughly sick of his life because of his trouble with this woman

One day when he was ploughing his fields, she brought him his lunch. Before she had come, he had covered over an old well so that it could not be seen. He planned to stand in the direction opposite from the well and ask her to come toward him. Since she always did just the opposite of what he asked, she would walk into the covered well and be drowned. When she refused to walk toward him, he warned her not to walk the opposite way or she would fall into a well. She kept going in the opposite direction from him, however, and, as he planned, she fell into the well.

That night, however, his children behaved so badly that he decided to try to recover his wife from the well. The next day he lowered a rope down the well, and when he felt a heavy weight on the other end, he began to pull it up again. When he had pulled the rope completely to the top of the well, an

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old man with a white beard appeared at the end of the rope. When he was about to lower the rope again, the old man said, "Please let me out of here."

"Who are you?" the man asked as he pulled him out of the well.

"I am the Pasishah of the Fairies," replied the old man

"Well, what have you been doing down there?" asked the man.

"This was my dwelling place. I am only eighteen years old, and until yesterday I did not have a single white hair in my beard. But yesterday a woman came down into my well, and she is such a terrible person that she caused my hair to turn white. In return for your kindness in saving me from her, I shall teach you something very profitable. I shall tell you how to cure *Heals* the sick. You can go about as a doctor, and you will pretend to be praying over your patients. I shall then come and cure *Phyca* *Skun* the patient, and you can collect your fee and depart."

The man treated several rich people successfully in this manner, and he earned a great amount of money as a result. One day the Padishah of Fairies appeared to him as he was praying over a patient and said to him, "This is your last patient. After this patient, I forbid you to treat any others." *etc*

A few days later, the man went to call upon another patient. When he arrived at the bedside of the patient, he discovered there the Padishah of Fairies.

"Did I not warn you not to visit any more patients?" asked the Padishah of Fairies.

"I am not here to visit the patient," said the man. "I have come to warn you that the woman has escaped from the well

and is searching for you

"In that case," said the Padishah of Fairies, "you may treat this patient after all. I am leaving!"

Clever