

Story #305 Tape #22, 1970

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Location: Iskenderun, Hatay
Province; military base;
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town of Arsuz

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How the Padishah's Youngest Son Succeeded Him

Son, youngest - Successful

Once upon a time there was a ruler who had three sons, one who was twenty years old, one thirteen, and one five. The youngest of these sons herded cattle. After he had been doing this for some time, he was called by his father who asked him "Can you do anything besides herd cattle? That is all you ever do."

The son answered, "Father, that is my craft, herding cattle. If there are other jobs to be done, have my older brothers do them."

One day after that the father called this youngest son to him again. "Son," he said, "I want you to undertake this special job [not specified] for me."

"No," the son said.

"Yes, I want you to," the father replied.

After an argument the father finally forced his son to take up this special job.

The son worked for several years. One day he came to his father and said, "Now I'm old enough to get married. My older

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brothers are already married. Why don't you let me get married, Father?"

"You have to do your military service first, son," was the father's answer.

This boy showed patience, and he joined the army to do his military service. Afterwards, he returned home and asked his father once more, "Father, I have finished my military service. Now won't you let me get married?"

But the father said, "No, you'd better work and make some money first."

And so, the boy had no other alternative but to work. He worked a little, he worked a lot, and he made money. He came to his father again and asked, "Here's the money I've earned. I brought it to you. Won't you now let me get married?"

This time the father answered, "All right. But I have one condition. Here's a white horse. Mount the horse and be on your way. I give you three days' time. Within this time I want you to make 100 liras and bring it to me." Task
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The boy mounted the horse and he rode for some time--for three or five days. Then he came across a very large rock. He found a cave under one part of this rock. When he was walking in the cave, he saw a huge giant ⁶¹⁻⁶² to protect himself from the giant--of course, he had to save his life--he ran away. As he was running through the different compartments of the cave, he noticed a sword hanging on the wall. He took the sword and hit the giant's tail with it once. Then the giant asked, "Why don't

Jaboo
you hit once more?"*

"My mother didn't tell me to hit twice," answered the boy. "I hit only once." So he slew the giant with one blow. Afterwards, he examined all the rooms in the cave. When he opened the first door, he found gold, silver and other valuable things. In the second room he found jewelry, clothing, and such things. In the third room he again found valuables. In the fourth room he found a woman suspended on the wall. He was surprised to find a woman hung in that fashion. He did not know that another giant was in the habit of catching one woman a day and bringing her to the cave where he later devoured his victim. One day the boy decided to hide behind the door and wait for this giant. When the giant came, the boy hit him once. The giant asked, "Why don't you hit another time?"

The boy's reply was, "My mother did not tell me to hit twice. So I hit only once."

The giant died right there. Then the boy saved the woman; he took her upstairs and later to his father. He said, "Father, to save you from the trouble of finding me a woman, I found one myself. I'm going to marry her

*The narrator here has included part of a folktale convention about giants. Often giants are many-headed; if the hero cuts off all the heads, the giant will revive and the heads will grow back. The hero, aware of this, strikes off all heads but one, causing the giant to bleed to death.

The narrator says that the boy struck off the giant's tail. Dev. can mean both giant and monster, and the narrator may be thinking of a monster

But the father said, "No, son, no. You have to marry the woman I choose for you. You cannot marry this woman. Now, you go back and make some money."

Thereupon, the boy returned to the cave. He took forty loads of the gold, money, clothing, and other goods from the cave to his father and asked him, "Father, would these do?"

The father asked, "Where did you find these?"

"I found them some place."

"All right, will you take me to that place?"

The son took his father to the cave. The padishah was surprised to see all the valuables in the cave. He turned to his son and said, "All right, son! I declare you heir to my throne."

They took all of the valuables from the cave to their home. Then the padishah abdicated his throne and declared that his youngest son was the next ruler. The boy ruled the whole country now, and he was married soon after that.