

Story #324 Tape #10, Summer 1970) Narrator: Huseyin Kılıç Arslan

Location: Akça Bey Köy, kaza of
Gerede, Bolu Province

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The Padishah and the [?]Patricidal Vezirs

One day a padishah gave the following order to his vezirs
"You will all go home and kill your fathers." Some of the vezirs
were convinced that they had to carry out this command, and they
proceeded to comply with it. One vezir, however, was unable to
do this. Near the end of the time allowed, the padishah called
the vezirs together to see what they had done. He had warned them
that anyone who failed to obey his command would be executed

They said to him, "Efendi, there is still one more day
before the time you allowed us is finished. We shall report to
you tomorrow about this matter."

In the meantime, the padishah had issued another order to
his vezirs: "I want you to make me a chain out of sand, and I ^{Jask}
give you fifteen days in which to do it. At the end of fifteen
days, I want you to report to me both about your fathers and
about the chain of sand."

No matter how hard they tried, the vezirs failed to make
even a meter-long chain of sand. At dinner one night, the vezir
who had refused to kill his father sat deep in thought. His
father noticed his gloomy state and said to him, "Son, what is

it that is troubling you? Tell me.

The vezir did not want to tell his father the cause of his worry. At his insistence, however, he explained the whole situation to him.

After listening to his son's account, the father said, "Well, son, this is what you should do. Ask your padishah to provide you with a sample of what he wants you to make. Tell him that you will use that as a model."

When the time was up, the padishah assembled the vezirs again. "Did you carry out my orders about your fathers and about making the chain?" he asked.

The vezir who failed to kill his father said, "Your Majesty, you give us a model of the kind of chain you want and we shall make one like it."

The padishah said to him, "It is clear that you have not killed your father."

The vezir could not deny the fact that he had not killed his father. "Yes, that is so, Your Majesty. I couldn't do it. Do what you will to me. Kill me or forgive me.

When the padishah asked the others what they had done, they said, "Yes, Your Majesty, we have killed our fathers.

The padishah then said, "I may have given you such an order, but that does not mean that you should have followed it. Old men are of great value, and we do not know when we may need their assistance. You should know their value. As you can see, you were saved by the father of this man."

The padishah then had executed those vezirs who had killed

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their fathers.¹

¹The words of this last sentence are not clear on the tape, but this seems to be what the narrator says. Taping was done on a high upland pasture where the wind caused a great deal of surface noise in the microphone.