

Story #379 (Tape #2, 1972)

Narrator: Bayan Sabire Tezcan

Location: Village of Doğla, kaza
of Karacabey, Province
of Bursa

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Semsi Bâni, Padishah of Pigeons¹

4 Once upon a time a woman had a son. The woman and her son went to the stream to wash their clothes. The boy became bored and wanted to fish. Since there was a strong current in the stream, it carried away the boy's fishing rod. When he tried to catch his rod, the boy also was carried away by the current, and he found himself in the middle of the stream. Right then a lone donkey carrying wood approached the stream. It crossed the stream very easily. The boy took the opportunity to catch the donkey by the tail. They reached the other side of the stream. The boy still did not let go ^{of} the tail of the donkey. The donkey stopped at a village. It unloaded the wood all by itself. The boy found himself alone and hungry. He smelled fresh bread. When he went to the bakery to get the bread, a shovel hit him on the head. Then he smelled other food. He found food cooking in large pots. When he reached out to get the food, the ladle in the pot hit him on the head. Next he saw three juniper trees. Three doves were busy hanging rings, gold, and earrings on the branches of the trees. At this moment he saw the donkey approaching him. He caught the donkey by the tail again and they returned to the stream. Then he went home and related his adventures to his mother.

A rich man had a daughter. One day when the girl was doing needle-work, three doves flew into her room and carried away her jewelry. The

¹ Although the protagonist of this tale is not called Semsi Bâne, the tale is clearly that of Semsi Bâne as it appears in Tales Alive in Turkey, UW #122. Here the tale is badly telescoped, so much so that many of the motifs make no sense and there is no real plot.

to give food and for bath
for telling story

girl had a bath house built and announced that whoever volunteered to tell the adventures he had had in the past could have a free bath. When the boy heard this, he asked his mother to go to the bath. Before they entered the bath, the rich girl asked the boy to relate his adventures. The boy told about his following a donkey and seeing strange things happen in a strange village. When he told about the three doves hanging jewelry on the branches of the juniper trees, the girl said, "I am sure these are the doves that stole my jewelry." She gave the boy a large sum of money and asked him to bring back her jewels. The girl was happy to get her jewels back, and the boy was happy to see that his strange adventure ended in a pleasant way.