

#380 (Tape #2, 1972)

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Quest

How the Young Man Came to Marry Sabire Sultan

Picture of person comes in hand with subject

Once there lived a very handsome young man. As he was walking in the woods one day, he found a picture. It was the picture of the sultana, Sabire Sultan. He fell in love with the beautiful girl in the picture and decided to find the owner of this pretty face. His mother warned the young man, "Don't go away, my boy. How can you find this girl?"

"I am determined to find her," the young man answered. Then he took leave of his mother and started out on his adventure.

He had two older sisters who were married. They were living in distant places, but the young man did not know the whereabouts of his sisters. One evening he stopped by a farmhouse. He sat under a tree and began to think what to do next. One of the servant girls came out to get water from the fountain. When she went back in the house, she told her mistress about the young man sitting under the tree. The lady of the house told the servant girl to call the man inside. When he walked in, the lady recognized him-- she was his sister. They embraced and shed happy tears. But the sister was afraid of her husband, and she feared to make her brother's presence known to him right away. She hid her brother in the closet. This done, she wrapped a scarf around her head¹ and started waiting for her husband.

Recognition

¹wrapping the head with a scarf is thought by some Turkish peasants to be a cure for headache.

When the husband came, he asked, "What is the matter Are you sick?"

"Yes, I am, she answered, "I was thinking of my mother and brother, and I got homesick. This gave me a splitting headache."

This was the signal for the young man to come out of the closet. He embraced his brother-in-law and showed him the picture of Sabire Sultan.

sorry, but I cannot help you," his brother-in-law answered, " I don't know where she lives."

The young man left his sister's house the next morning. That evening he stopped at another farmhouse. A servant found him sitting under a tree and reported this to the mistress of the house. The lady told her servant

*Recognized
none* to bring the young man to her presence. When he entered the house, he recognized the lady of the house as his other sister. She at once hid her brother for fear of her husband, and when the husband returned

she pretended to be sick.

"Are you ill?" he asked her.

"Yes, I am sick with thinking about my family. I miss them.

"Your family is welcome here," he said.

When he said that, the young man came from hiding and greeted his brother-in-law and told him of his love for Sabire Sultan.

The brother-in-law said, "Sabire Sultan lives in a palace nearby. Before you go there, get some helva and disguise yourself as a street vender, for she loves helva and will want to buy it from you."

The young man followed his brother-in-law's advice He bought the helva and went to sell the helva. He started to cry, "Helva, helva. I sell helva."

The servants told Sabire Sultan there was a helva vender downstairs. She told them to bring him up. Since the man was very handsome, Sabire Sultan fell in love with him at first sight. They were married and lived very happily.