

Story #442 (Tape #2, 1972)

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of Nevshir

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Resignation to One's Lot

Once there was a man who was very poor but who was resigned to his lot. He had nothing in this world but a camel with which he used to carry water through the streets of the city, selling it, and in this way he was barely able to support his family.

When his son was old enough, he sent him to a hoca to be educated. In the past, as you know, the hocas used to be interested in acquiring wealth. After receiving one's education from a hoca, one was expected to give him a gift. Unfortunately, this family had nothing to give but its camel.

"Father, the hoca wants a gift," said the son.

"My son, what can we do? We have only a camel. Go and take the camel to the hoca," said the father. The boy did as he was told, and the hoca accepted the camel.

Now the man's wife started complaining, saying to the man that it was he who had placed them in such dire circumstances. The man went to the mosque for three consecutive days and prayed that God would, in a dream, tell him of his lot. During those three days they went hungry, but the man still maintained his resignation. Finally he had a dream in which he was told that his lot in life was in Damascus.

He set forth from Istanbul and traveled to Damascus. [?] When he arrived

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there, the people who saw him seemed also to see a loaf of bread rising from his back. They said among themselves, "Let us give this poor stranger a loaf of bread to eat."

The man ate the loaf of bread, and he then went and sat in front of a coffeehouse. The people there said to him, "You have had your lot. It is now time for you to leave this place."

Someone from inside the coffeehouse asked, "From where did you come?"

"I came from Istanbul to receive my lot in life here. It was a loaf of bread which I have now eaten, and so now I am going to leave."

"Kah! Kah!,"¹ someone laughed, and a voice said, "Once I was told that on such-and-such a street in Istanbul, under such-and-such a doorway, there was a jar full of gold, but I did not bother to go and get it. Did you come all the way here because you were told of a loaf of bread?"

*Treasures,
kurof*

Kah! Kah! is onomatopoeia for laughter.