

Story #532 (1969 Tape #12)

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Informant: Mehmet Tekçe, a green grocer, and hence often called Manav Mehmet

Location: Aliçerçi village, kaza of Bozkır, Province of Konya. Taping was done at nearby village of Akpınar of the same kaza.

Date: October 1969

The Beautiful Woman and the Wife of the Miller

One day two men and a woman from Yazı village went to a mill. The woman's physical contours were very attractive.¹ One of the men went to the miller and said, "Ömer Ağa, put a stick or something else through the spokes of the water wheel so that she [the woman from the same village] will have to remain here for the night."

A female language
"You mates of whores! You will give this house a bad reputation, and my customers will stop coming here," said the miller, and he refused flatly to cooperate with them.

Later the two peasants approached him again. "We shall each give you five measures of flour, ten in all [to detain the beautiful woman]. Where will your female guest sleep, Ömer Ağa?"

"We shall not let her sleep here anywhere but inside my house." He then took the woman to his house and said to his wife, "Make up the guest's bed on the right-hand divan, and you and the children sleep on the left-hand divan."

Cleverman
The woman from Yazı village was a very shrewd person. She wrapped herself with a sweater, covering even her head with it, and went to sleep on the left-hand divan, leaving the other one for the miller's wife.

¹ The narrator says literally that her scenic organization (manzara teşkilâli) was good.

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At twelve o'clock one of the men came to the house. The miller had told the two men that his wife and family would be sleeping on the left-hand divan. "Don't you touch her," he warned them, "or I shall have your wives mated with a donkey." When the first villager came in, he dropped an anchor on the right-hand bed² and then departed. Then he whistled to the other man, swung his string of beads to him, and said, "Come on and get busy. It is like a yayla!"³ *long*

The second man came and also dropped an anchor. Now it was Ömer Ağa's turn. They said, "Are you not going to go to her too, Ömer Ağa?"

"Why shouldn't I? Am I dead?"

Ömer Ağa also went to the woman on the right. When he started making love to her, however, she [his wife] said, "Oh, Ömer Ağa, this is not the first time you have done this tonight but the third time."

"Oh, how many men have slept with you? What are you doing here on the right-hand side?"

"Well, she just went to bed on the left-hand side, and I was unable to her to move. Was I to sleep on the bare floor?"

The miller then pulled his wife from the bed and started trampling on her. Then he went to the mill and started stirring the ashes and thinking. He said, "If I ever again take another woman into my house, then may my

be mated to a donkey!" He then picked up two rocks and used them to hit on the head the two peasants who were sleeping there. They awoke in great surprise.

² This is figurative way of saying that he slept with her.

³ Just why it is like a yayla (summer pasture in the mountains) is not clear.