

Story #573 (Tape erased)

Narrator: Nebiye Birkan, c. 50

Location: Taşköprü, kaza town
of Kastamonu Province

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Adık and Bıdık¹

Tenarleme

Sisters -- two # 573 Once there was and once there was not, a time when there were two # 573

sisters. One of them had a married daughter. When the mother and aunt were going to visit, they wanted to take a gift to the girl, but, being quite uninformed about the manners of wealthy people, they could not at first make up their minds about what to take. They were simple people. The girl was married to a rich man, and they did not know what would make a suitable gift. They lived in a pine forest, and so they decided to take some pine cones for, after all, the daughter did not really need anything.

When they reached the home of the wealthy man to whom the daughter was married, they were amazed to see that it was all made of glass.² Because the girl knew that they were coming, she had warned all of maids and other servants about her visitors. "They may be confused here," she said, "and so you are not to leave them alone. Follow them wherever they go, and see to it that they make no mistakes. If they should do anything wrong, do not let my husband hear about it."

When they arrived with a saddlebag full of pine cones, the daughter hid them in a corner quickly. She had made up their beds in one of the finest glass-faced ^{rooms}. When they retired in this room, they saw the moon and

¹ This tale appears under the names of various titular characters. The names are usually humorous, their sounds suggesting the stupidity of the two lead characters. Also in this collection is Hilili and Dilili, Story #202.

² Until recently rural homes had little or no glass, and so the many large windows of urban apartment houses amazed rustic visitors.

Story #573 Names -- pairs of
Adık and Bıdık
the stars in the room. "Adık!"

"What is the matter, Bıdık?"

"Our daughter will be frozen to death in this house."

"Well, you defecate, and I shall plaster it. Let us cover all these holes [the windows]." In this way they covered all of the glass windows as well as they could.

"Now we can sleep comfortably, and we have also saved our daughter from freezing to death."

In the morning the daughter came into the room, and she was horrified at what she saw. "What did you do here?" she asked.

"We covered up the glass wall to keep you from freezing to death," they said.

The girl realized the mistake she had made in putting them in such a fine room. She decided to move them down into the goose pen. When they were sleeping there next night, Bıdık said, "Adık!"

"What is the matter, Bıdık?"

"Do you not hear those geese making that hissing sound at this time of night?"

"They have not been house-trained, even though they are so large. Any goose not house-trained by the time it has grown so big should be killed."

"Get up and kill them, and I shall clean them."

The sisters got up out of bed, and while the one cut the throats of the geese, the other cleaned the dead birds. There was a heap of geese on the floor

Story

In the morning the daughter entered the goose pen and asked, "What have you done here?"

"Any goose that makes that wetting noise should be killed," they told her.

The daughter then decided that her mother and aunt should be moved to the sheep fold. Next night while they were sleeping there, they heard some sheep start to cough, Coughing "Ca--ca--ca!"

"Any sheep that coughs so ought to have its throat cut," one of them said. They killed every one of the sheep by morning.

When the daughter saw this the following morning, she decided to send them home. She wrapped up some pies and cakes and such things for them. As they were leaving the house, some ^{dogs -- hunting} hunting dogs started to bark at them. To escape the dogs, they threw all of the pies and cakes and buns at the animals. It was a very cold and windy day as they traveled home, and they felt sorry for the trees and bushes they passed along the way. They therefore wrapped the trees and bushes with the rolls of cloth which the girls had also given them.

When they arrived home, quite exhausted, they were hungry. They made some böreks³ to eat. Before eating them, however, they went into the woods to search for toothpicks. There they saw a man riding past.

"Where are you going, uncle?" they asked. Uncle -- as term of respect rather than kinship

"I am going to the blind spot in the middle of your head,"⁴ he

³ A meat- or cheese-filled pastry made of rolls of very thin dough fried in deep fat.

⁴ A retort indicating that what is asked about is none of the asker's business.

Retort -- to indicate listener should mind his own business

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said.

"We have been on the road," one of the women said. "By the door of house we have a key beneath the black stone. In the center of the house there is a tray of böreks. Don't you dare go into our house and those böreks!"

The man decided that these women were crazy, and so he decided to go and eat their böreks. After he had finished eating them, he let his horse defecate and urinate on the tray, and then he left.

When the sisters returned from the forest, they were so hungry that they wanted to sit right down and eat their böreks. But when they saw the horse dung left on the tray in place of the böreks, they fainted and died of heart attacks.⁵

⁵ Usually tales of this type have one final bit of stupidity at the end wherein the noodleheads offer an ingenious but ridiculous interpretation to what has happened to their food.