

Story #643 (1974, Tape #50)

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The (Husband), His (Wife) and the Deceived (Lovers)

Once there was a man who had made a comfortable living, but his luck changed, and he became poor. He called his wife and said, "Do you have some friends from the old days?" She said she did. He said, "Fine! Go and bring them here, and we will rob them."

So the woman went to see a hoca whom she had known before she had gotten married. She invited him over, and told him her husband would not be home. That evening the hoca came to the woman's house. He put his religious ring on her finger and sat down at the table. The woman put on a pot of water for coffee, but before it came to a boil, there was a knock at the door. "What shall we do?" said she. "My husband has come home unexpectedly."

She took him down to turn the mill. He tried but it was slow work. He asked the woman if she had not fed the animals, because they were turning the mill so slowly. He fell in and the mill turned and churned and gurgled. They got him out. The man got his ring, but could not call it his own.

So the woman went to fetch a porter she used to know. They robbed some odds and ends from him too, and also injured him. Again she had barely put the coffee on before her husband showed

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up. These people [the clan of which the visitor was a member] were known to defecate in a basket. She lowered him downstairs. The husband came and sniffed around, and said, "Woman haven't you dumped out the day's waste? It smells here."

She told him she would get it done in the morning, but he said it would not wait. So he picked up the basket and threw it out the window. ^{back -- broken} The man's back was broken, and he went away dragging himself along. So the day passed by that way.

The next day the woman went to the kadı¹ of the village, told him her husband would not be home, and asked him to come and visit. The kadı came all spruced up that evening. He had a fancy cane. He went in, went to the bathroom, and then sat down at the table. Before the coffee pot had a chance to boil, again there was a knock at the door. The woman seemed to panic. The kadı asked what he should do. She pointed to a large trunk at the corner of the room and hid him there.

The husband walked in and pretended to pick a fight with his wife. They continued to argue until finally they decided to separate. Talking of divorce, they started to claim and divide their belongings. They went through all the items in the house,

¹Prior to the establishment of the Turkish Republic (in 1923), canon law (Sheriat law) was decided by a judge known as a kadı. In folktales the kadı stereotype was pictured as one who was corrupt or vulnerable to all the temptations of ordinary mortals.

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each taking his share, until they came to the trunk. The woman claimed the trunk to be hers. The husband demanded to know why it should be hers. The man said he would get his sword and cut the trunk in half. One half would be hers, the other his. The woman soiled her pants from sheer fright. But suddenly she had an idea. She said they should auction the trunk off in the morning and then share whatever they got out of it. So, they went to bed and the kadı slept in the trunk.

In the morning they called a porter, who placed the trunk on his back and started carrying it to the market to sell.

"Together with the kadı, 1500 kurus² for the trunk!" said a voice. The porter was perplexed at first, but finally he realized that the kadı was in the trunk. The kadı told the porter to take him to the street where the hoca lived. The hoca took the trunk, opened it, and asked him what he was doing there. The kadı told his story and found out that the hoca had been misused in much the same way.

They all three decided to go to the woman's house, and while two of them held her down, the other would rape her, all in turn, since she had played such tricks on them. They decided to get even with her, for she had thus insulted them.

When they reached her house, they discovered that there was a

²At the time when kadis existed, 1500 kurus would have been a considerable sum of money. Today it would be very little. The kurus is the 100th part of a lira, and in the early 1980s the lira was worth roughly half an American cent.

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crack in the door. When the three men came to the door, the hoca
 , "I'd better sniff before we go in; they might be drinking
 in there." He stuck his nose to the crack, and the husband, who
 used a straight razor, cut his nose. The hoca said, "Oh, yes, my
 nose certainly got a sniff!"

The porter said, "I better listen to see what else is going on."
 He stuck his ear to the crack, and got the razor too. He said he
 had gotten an earfull. But neither had said he had gotten cut.

Then the kadı said, "It's plain that we shall not get inside.
 I might just as well piss on them!" And he put his penis to the
 crack and also got the razor. He cried out, "Well, why didn't you
 tell me that there's a Circumcision celebration going on in
 there!"