

Story #644 (1974, Tape #50)

Narrator: Bayram Şahin

Location: Limonlu village, kaza of
Mersin, Province of İçel

Date: January 8, 1974

#644 #644
wife -- beautiful -- of Kadı
The Kadı's¹ Beautiful Wife and Seven Lovers #644
lover -- seven

There once was a kadı who had a beautiful wife. Whenever she went to the village fountain to fetch water, several young men from the village would gather around and would make passes at her. She, one day, came from the village fountain and told the kadı that the young men at the village gathered around and made passes at her. He told her not to worry about it, but just to make a date ^(appointment) with whoever made a pass at her.

That day, around the fountain, she made dates with seven of the young men. All seven men were to come down through the chimney to meet her.² She came back and told the kadı that she had made dates with seven of the young men. The kadı went and lighted a fire in the hearth. He flipped the inner dampers of the chimney upside down and left a couple of pokers on the fire.

At about that time one of the young men climbed to the roof and as he was about to descend the chimney, he saw another young man climbing up to the roof. He asked him what he was doing there, and

¹The kadı was a judge in the system of canon law (şeriat law) before the founding of the Turkish Republic.

²Homes in Turkish villages have very large chimneys leading up from wide fireplaces and ovens. Any person could easily pass through one.

was told that he had business to attend to. Meanwhile, one by one the rest of the young men climbed up to the roof. They discovered that the woman had accepted dates with each and every one of them. They asked each other what they should do next and decided to go ahead as planned. They would one by one go in through the chimney, and when they were through with their business, the ones at the roof would pull them back out through the chimney. They decided on a password for whenever the one to come out would be ready to ascend. Whenever one was done with his business, he would call out "Piştof!"³

Meanwhile, the kadı and hoca⁴ continued to turn the heated pokers over the fire. As each young man was lowered down the chimney, his feet would land on the hot pokers and he would cry out "Piştof!", and immediately they would pull him up again. This continued until there was just one young man left to go. Before he went down, he said to the rest of them, "I certainly don't understand how you could come up so quickly. As soon as each of you got there, you yelled 'Piştof!' I don't understand it at all, but unless I cry out seven times do not hoist me up!"

The kadı, who heard this comment, prepared hot coals, and as the

³Piştof is a combination of the exclamation of! and pişmek, meaning to cook. Thus piştof! could be translated literally as Oh, cooked!

⁴How the hoca became involved in this is not explained. The narrator failed to introduce him into the tale at an appropriate place and for an appropriate reason.

young man descended, he took seven hot coals with the tongs and pressed them against him, and shouted, "Piştof all seven at one time!"

[Ahmet Uysal: Why seven?

Narrator: Well, instead of waiting around for the young man to shout out seven times, the kadı shouted the password all in one time."

Ahmet Uysal: Oh yes, I now get it.]