

Story 693 (1981, Tape 4)

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Location: Çıkırıkçı village,
kaza of Sarıkaya,
Province of Yozgat

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#693=

Jale with
Jale

The Padişah, the Vizier, and the Valuable Handkerchief

There were a padişah and a vizier who were good friends. When the father of the padişah had died, his son, the present padişah, had succeeded him. One day the new padişah and his vizier went horseback riding for pleasure, and along the road they came upon a beautiful and valuable embroidered handkerchief.

The padişah thought to himself, "If I take this handkerchief, the vizier may be offended."

And the vizier had the same thought, "If I should take this handkerchief, the padişah may be offended"

The two men came to an agreement about which of them should have the handkerchief. They agreed that each should tell an adventure he had experienced, and whichever of them had had the more remarkable adventure would be the one to take the handkerchief.

Jale tells
content

The padişah said, "O my vizier, as you know, when my father died, I succeeded him. After I became padişah, I placed in the treasury every day a quantity¹ of liras, but

¹The quantity that the narrator designates is a şinik. A grain measure, a şinik equals 1/4 bushel or a peck

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when the following morning arrived, the liras had always disappeared. I could not understand this, for neither the door nor the windows nor the walls of the room had been damaged.

"After this had been going on for a while, I went walking one day in disguise. After I had walked some distance, I saw three dervishes who had little bells attached to their shoes. They wore these bells on their shoes to *Pretz falls* frighten away insects lest they step on ants and other little creatures unwittingly and thus commit sins.

"I joined these dervishes, and the four of us walked along together. When we came to a cave, we entered it to await the arrival of the night. To pass the time, they decided that each man should explain what his special criminal ability was.

This is 11 hours to "The Padishah" Captive 3 Professor "The..." (1914, near London) "The first dervish said, 'I can open the iron gates of the padişah's palace not just in seven but in seventy places with no effort.'

*Exhausting
Confusion*

"The second dervish said, 'I can understand the language of dogs.'

"The third said, 'Once I see a man, I can always recognize him again, no matter how he is dressed--even if he has put on women's clothes and is wearing a veil.'

"When they asked me what my special skill was, I said,

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'By moving my hand this way, I can condemn a man to be hanged, and by moving it this way, I can save him from the executioner

"'That is very good,' they said.

"We set out again, and after a while we came to a dog that was barking, 'Tan! Tan!'²

"The dervish who could understand the language of dogs said, 'The dog says, "Hey, where are you going? The padişah is among you!"'

I said, 'Well, I shall be damned. What should the padişah be doing among people like us?'

"When we reached the treasury, the iron gates were opened by the gate-cracker, and they went 'Tangır! Tangır!'³ as they swung on their hinges. We took the liras that had been deposited in the treasury that day and returned to the cave and hid them there. After leaving the cave for the second time, we went to the marketplace, and while we were among the crowds of people there, I quietly slipped away from the three dervishes. Going to my office, I had the police notified, and they soon found the three thieves and arrested them.

"The three were placed on trial, found guilty by the

²Onomatopoeia for barking of dogs. Many Turkish dogs bark, "Hav! Hav!"

³Onomatopoeia for the sound of heavy gates creaking.

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court, and condemned to be hanged. The ropes of which the nooses were made were oiled,⁴ and the nooses were ready to be placed around their necks. Gallows were set up in the courtyard.

ingine "Before going down to the courtyard myself, I dressed in women's clothes and placed a veil over my face. As I passed the condemned men, the one who had claimed the ability to recognize any person he had formerly seen, even if that person disguised himself as a woman and wore a veil, said to me, 'Get along! Get along It is no wonder that we are in this plight when we were foolish enough to befriend an unreliable fellow like you!

that very moment, I moved my hand up and down in // this way and saved all three of them. --That was my most remarkable adventure in life," said the padişah

vizier then said, "I was the grand vizier for your father before I served in that role for you. Well, back in that earlier time, I got a haircut one day as I was sitting in front of a coffeehouse drinking coffee. As two ladies passed along the street, one of them tall and one of middle height, I remarked, 'That tall woman is all right, but I

⁴In Turkish folktales (and possibly in real life) hangmen always oil the rope in order to make it more supple. Stiffness in a rope might prevent the noose from gripping the throat tightly.

think I'd rather spend a night with the woman of middle height.

"Hearing this, that woman said, 'Very well, then, come along with me.'

"I followed her to wherever she was going. We finally arrived at an apartment building^{81, 83} and climbed up the stairs several storeys. It was evening by then, and so we ate drank for a while. When it was time to go to bed, a of pajamas was brought for me. I took off my clothes hung them on a hook and then put on the pajamas. The woman said to me, 'Sir, you go to the bathroom, and then we shall go to bed.'

"When I went downstairs to the toilet, carrying an ibrik⁵ in my hand, the woman hit me with a stick and said 'Chush!'⁶ and I was transformed^{81, 83, 84} at once into a red donkey. She then called out the window to a groom, saying, 'Hey groom, take this beast to the stable! Make it carry wood and show it no mercy. Let him lie wherever he collapses from exhaustion.

"The groom came, hit me twice--once on the left side and once on the right--took me to the stable, and tied me there. When he placed hay and barley before me, I managed

⁵An ibrik is a pitcher with a long curved spout. It is used to pour water over the hands for washing.

⁶This is one of the commands given to donkeys and sometimes to oxen.

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to eat the barley but I could not eat the hay. I could and understand what people said, but I was unable to respond.

"Well, I worked for a week carrying wood on my back. One day when there was no strength left in my legs, I was lagging along about 100 meters behind the other draft animals when my foot struck a stone in the path. I stumbled and fell. My load of wood on my back was so heavy that I could not rise again. The groom showed me no mercy and would not even lift the wood from my back. Instead, he looked for an axe with which to cut off my head. Fortunately, the axe was not part of my load but was on the back of one of the beasts ahead, and so the groom had to go after it. While he was going for the axe, a couple of workers there took pity on me. 'How ^{cruel to animals} ~~cruel~~ to treat an animal in such a way,' one of them said. When they removed the load of wood from my back, I was able to get on my feet again, and so I ran away from that place.

"After a while I found a place to hide. After I had been there for just a short while, a small girl came out of a nearby house and shouted, 'Mother, there is a donkey in our courtyard!'

"The mother answered, 'Daughter, do you really think that that is a donkey? Actually, he is not a donkey but a

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man.' Coming closer to me, she asked, 'Are you not a man? Did not such-and-such a woman living in so-and-so apartment house place you in this condition? Would you take your revenge⁸³ upon that woman if I returned you to your former condition?'

"I nodded.⁷

"She brought a small stick and struck me with it lightly a few times. All of a sudden I found myself restored to the form of a man wearing pajamas. *Transformation*

"But during all this time, the padişah, your father, had had people searching everywhere for me, but I could not be found. After I had been restored to my true self, I went into the padişah's presence, even though I was in miserable condition.

"The padişah greeted me by saying, 'Where have you been for a whole week, O vagabond?'

"'Please do not ask me, your majesty! I have had a terrible experience!'

"The woman who had restored me to my true shape had told me how to get my revenge. She had said, 'You will go back to that evil woman. Again she will tell you to undress, and she will bring an ibrik and tell you to go down to the toilet.'

⁷Nodded is the word that was used here, but it could be confusing, for ordinarily moving the head up and down indicates "No!" in Turkish rather than "Yes!"

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tell her that you do not know the way to the toilet and that she must lead you to it. Then as you descend, strike with a stick when you reach the same place at the bottom of the stairs where she transformed you into a donkey.'

"After I had recovered my strength, I went again to the same barbershop. After having my hair cut, I again sat outside drinking coffee. Soon the same two women came walking along the street. As before, I said, 'That tall woman is right, but I should rather spend the night sleeping with the woman of middle height

"'All right, then, come along with me,' she said. I again followed her to the apartment house and to her apartment where we ate and drank. When it was time to go to bed, she said, 'Get up and undress, sir, and put on these pajamas.' Then, handing me an ibrik and a lamp, she said, 'Here, take these and go to the toilet, and then we shall go to bed.'

"'But I do not know the way to the toilet. You show me the way, and I'll follow you.'

"The woman went on ahead, and I followed. When we reached the place where I had been ~~transformed~~ into a donkey, I struck her with a stick and ~~turned her~~ into a yellow mule. I also attacked her sexually. 'Is that not so, yellow mule?' I asked

"My yellow mule nodded in affirmation