

Story 715 (1970 Tape 13)

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A Marriage Dilemma

There was once a widow who had a son. Because the boy's father was dead, she decided to have him married at an early age so that she could see him enjoying a happy life. Across the street there lived a judge who kept proposing to her, but she declined his offer because she did not want to have her son come under the domination of a stepfather

One day, as she had planned, she had her son married. During the nuptial night the bride was sulking. Surprised at this, the bridegroom inquired about the reason for her sulking: "What is the matter? Is it me or the house that you do not like? Why are you sulking? Why don't you tell me what is bothering you? We have everything in this house to make us happy."

The bride said, "I am upset by the youth of your mother. She will live for a long, long time and never allow us to be really comfortable."

"What a thing to worry about. You can badger her during the day, and I can badger her during the evening. In that way we can be certain that she will soon die, no matter how

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young she may be.

While they were talking in this way, the young man's mother was listening outside their door. She said to herself, "So that is how it will be She will badger me all day and he will badger me in the evening, and thus they will cause me to die young." After thinking about this for a while, she wrote a note to the judge across the street: "Open the door, for I am coming."¹

The judge was looking forward to this, and so he opened the door. When he did so, the woman went across the street to his house to live.

The next morning the young man and the judge met each other on the street when they were both out shopping for food. After they had bought what they wanted, the judge said, "Let us go to my house first."

"No," said the young man, "let us go to my house first. My mother will be waiting for me at home."

"Why, I am older than you, and of all the people on our^{street} am most like a father to you."

Under these circumstances the young man could no longer refuse the judge's invitation, and so the two proceeded to the judge's house. When they got there, the judge knocked on

¹This is simply a figurative way of indicating that she accepted his proposal.

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door, "Tak Tak! Tak!" The woman opened the door and said, "Come in!"

Greatly surprised to see his mother there, the young asked, "Why, mother, what is the meaning of this?"

She said, "Well, what could I have done, son? You were going to badger me by night and your wife was going to badger me by day. Therefore, I moved here so that we may live comfortably