

Story 728 (1976 Tape 10)

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From lot

The Youngest Son and the Giant in the Orchard

Once there was and once there was not a man who had three sons. In the garden before their house there were growing three large apple trees which bore very special fruit. Each year each of these trees bore just one apple, but they had never been able to pick these special apples, because every year when they were almost ripe, a giant appeared during the night and stole them. *Left*

One year when it was almost time for the apples to ripen, the oldest son said to his father, "Father, let me take a gun to kill that giant. I shall climb into the top of one of the apple trees and wait for the giant to appear. When he does appear, I shall shoot him."

"Very well," said the father

That night the oldest son took the gun and climbed into one of the apple trees to wait for their enemy. The giant that came in a little while was a horrible monster. One of his lips dragged on the ground and the other swept

*noyer
feature on
superstition here*

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the sky.¹ The oldest son took just one look at this giant before jumping to the ground and fleeing. In the morning he reported to his father, "Father, I was too terrified by that giant to kill him.

When apple season was near the following year, the middle son attempted to kill the giant and save their apples. When the giant appeared, he too discovered how really huge it was, with one lip on the ground and the other in the sky. He, too, was so frightened that he leaped from the tree and fled.

The next year the youngest son asked, "Father, may I try to kill the giant this time?"

His father said, "Go ahead and try if you wish. Your older brothers achieved nothing when they tried, and you will probably do the same." He did not take the youngest son very seriously.

When the apples were nearly ripe, the youngest son took the gun and went at dusk to the orchard. He waited in the top of one of the trees for the giant to appear. When the giant got very close to the tree in which he was hidden, the youngest son fired a shot that wounded the monster but

¹This is a traditional way of describing a giant or a Negro person. An Arab who serves as a genie may also be so described, but this is because the folk imagination in Turkey pictures Arabs as being black people. Most Arabs are not, of course, even nearly as dark as Negroid peoples.

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did not kill him. The giant once more grabbed the apples and escaped with them. But as he fled, the giant left a bloody trail behind him, and the next day the three brothers traced him to his lair.

discovered that he lived in a ^{well} ~~pit~~ beneath a large rock. They struggled to remove this cover over his lair, and after trying for three or five days, they managed to pull it to one side. When the light streamed into the opening, the brothers saw that the pit was very deep--almost like a well. The only way to reach the bottom of that pit would be to be lowered on a rope.

The oldest brother said, "I am going down there after the giant. If I call, 'I am burning,' then pull me up at once. If I call, 'I am freezing,' then lower me still farther.

After they had tied a rope around the oldest brother, they started lowering him into the pit. Before long he started screaming, "I am burning! I am burning!" Hearing that, the two brothers on the surface of the earth began pulling him up as fast as they could. The second brother then tried to make the descent, but he, too, had to be pulled up because of the heat.

When it was the turn of the youngest brother, he said, "No matter what I say, whether it is that I am burning or

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freezing, don't pull me up!" Thereupon, he took the gun and was lowered with it into the pit. When he reached the bottom, he saw a building standing nearby. Upon entering this building, he found that it contained three rooms. He opened the door of the first room and found the room empty. In the next room he found three beautiful girls, all sitting on the floor. He asked them, "Where is the giant?"

They answered, "He is sleeping in the third room, but if he should hear you and awaken, he will eat you. Return to your home, young man, before it is too late!"

But the youngest brother was not frightened by this warning. He entered the third room with his gun. There he saw the giant sleeping and snoring loudly as he breathed. Aiming his gun carefully, he killed the giant with one shot. He then took the three girls to the bottom of the pit and, pointing upward, said, "My two brothers are up at the top of this pit, and that is where we shall go also

After two of the girls had been pulled up by the older brothers, the youngest girl said to the youngest brother, "After they pull me up, they may very well leave you down here. Before long you will see two great sheep running around in circles and weaving in and out. If you can manage to mount the white sheep, it will carry you up to the surface of the earth, but if you should mount the black

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one, it will carry you even farther down into the under-
 world." Then, pulling two strands of hair from her head,
 she added, "Take these two strands of hair and rub them to-
 gether if you are ever seriously in need of help; when you
 do that, help will arrive immediately."

*magic
 object*

The two older brothers then pulled this youngest girl
 to the surface. As she had predicted, however, they did
 not bother to raise their young brother. They went home-
 ward and deserted him at the bottom of the deep pit.

Soon the two great sheep appeared, one white, one
 black. He tried to mount the white sheep, but they moved
 about so fast that he had difficulty in keeping them apart.
 Finally the black sheep dashed between his legs and carried
 him away to an underworld village where there was little
 water, and what water there was seemed to him too dirty to
 drink. He soon met an old woman who accepted him as a guest
 for the night.

[This poorly told fragment of a very well-known and
 widely distributed tale ends here.]