

Story 733 (1976 Tape 10)

Narrator: Lütfiye Göbelez, 47Location: Yakacık village,
Söğüt kaza,
Bilecik ProvinceDate: August 1976The Boy Born from a Stone

Once there was and once there was not a married couple who had no children. The wife used to say, "Oh, I do wish that I had a child, as other people do--a child who would be able to go out in public among others." One day when she was outside by a stream she picked from the running water two small smooth stones. Taking these home with her, she put them in one of the divisions of the box in which she kept her table silverware

A few days after that the husband went out to one of his fields to plow. The woman said again, "O my God, I do wish that I had a child as other women do. If I had one right now, he could take this lunch to the field to my husband."

At that very moment she heard a voice speaking from the silverware box and saying, "Mother, Mother, here I am! I'll take the lunch out to my father!"

She went quickly to the silverware box and, looking inside, she saw there a child, a small son. She gave the lunch packet to her son and sent him to the field with it

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for her husband.

The son went out to the field and called, "Father! Father! Shall I come by way of the lower side of the field or the upper side?"

The father answered, "Come from the lower side of the field."

When he heard the man say this, the boy ate half of the yufka¹ which the woman had prepared for her husband. After he had finished eating it, he called out again, "Father! Father! Now should I come from the lower side or from the middle part?"

The father answered, "Come from the middle part of the field." When the boy heard that, he ate still more of the yufka and then took the tiny bit that was left to father.

After he had delivered the lunch to the man, the said, "Father! Father! I am very thirsty. Permit me to go and drink some water from the stream, and then I shall go home." He went to the stream to get a drink of water. There was a cherry tree growing beside the stream, and on

¹Yufka is a kind of unleavened bread that looks like a very large pancake. It is baked not in the oven but on top of the stove on a slightly convex piece of sheet metal called a saç. Yufka remains unspoiled almost indefinitely, and one often sees in rural kitchen piles of yufka five or six feet high. Loaves are between 18 and 24 inches in diameter.

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that tree there were many ripe and attractive cherries. Climbing to the top of the tree, the boy started at once to eat cherries. As he was doing so, a giant woman came along on the other side of the stream.

This giant woman said, "Son, give me some cherries too."² The boy threw a few cherries to the woman. When the giant woman asked for more, he threw her a few more. Then she said, "The cherries which you have given me so far have not been sufficient to fill even one of the cavities in my teeth."³ Bend down one of the branches so that I can pick the cherries for myself." But when the child did this, the giant woman caught him. She put him in one of her pockets and took him to her house

Note: This tale is obviously incomplete

²The giant cannot get the cherries herself because running water separates her from them. Witches, giants, and other supernatural creatures are unable to cross running water. This motif occurs countless times in folklore. It has also been transferred to literature. Well-known instances occur in Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and in Burns's "Tam o'Shanter."

³This is a common folk expression in Turkey.