

Story 741 (1976 Tape 14)

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Location: Bektik village,
Şereflikoçhisar kaza
Kırşehir Province

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The ~~Fox~~ and the ~~Wolf~~

Once there was and once there was not a lazy donkey who was on his way to Flower Mountain to eat some grass. Along the way he met a calf, who asked him, "Where are you going, Lazy Donkey?"

"I am going to Flower Mountain to eat some grass."

"May I go with you?" asked the calf.

"Yes, just climb into my saddlebag and come along with me."

After a while the donkey met a rooster, who asked, "Where are you going, Lazy Donkey?"

"I am going to Flower Mountain to eat some grass."

"May I come with you?" asked the rooster.

"Yes, just climb into my saddlebag and come along with me."

Not long after that, the donkey met a cat,¹ who asked him, "Where are you going, Lazy Donkey?"

"I am going to Flower Mountain to eat some grass."

¹Although the narrator here calls this animal a cat, she calls it a fox throughout the rest of the tale.

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"May I come with you?" asked the cat.

"Yes, just climb into my saddlebag and come along."

When they reached Flower Mountain, these animals ate as much grass as they wanted. When all of them had eaten as much grass as they wanted, the donkey put the other animals in his saddlebag again and started to descend the mountain. Along the way he was met by two wolves.²

(One of these wolves was rather ^{Deaf} deaf. A couple of times while the donkey and his friends were eating grass on Flower Mountain, this deaf wolf had heard the donkey bray. Each time this happened, he said to the second wolf, "I hear a donkey braying on Flower Mountain."

"Oh, be quiet!" said the second wolf. "You are deaf. How could you hear something like that if I did not? But to be sure about it, let us go to Flower Mountain and if there is a donkey there.")

When the two wolves saw the donkey, they began to attack it at once, hoping to kill it and eat it. But the calf, the rooster, and the fox jumped out of the saddlebag and joined the donkey in the struggle. The four of them defeated the two wolves and drove them off.

The deaf wolf did not go very far, however, and after

²Sometimes the narrator refers to these two predators wolves; sometimes she calls them monsters.

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the second wolf was out of sight, the deaf wolf became friendly with the fox. As they were talking, the deaf wolf asked, " Brother fox, what is your occupation?"

The fox answered, "I am a maker of coats

"Make a fur coat for me," said the wolf.

The fox said, "All right, but you must give me the materials to be used in the coat. Go and get me seven black sheep with their lambs." When the wolf brought seven black sheep with their lambs, he and the fox slaughtered the sheep and lambs. Setting aside their fleeces, they roasted the meat and made kavurma,³ By using different tricks, the fox managed to eat most of this meat. When they had finished eating, the fox said, "There is not quite enough material here to finish your coat. I shall need two more black sheep in order to complete it." When the wolf started out to get those two more sheep, the fox took the coat and disappeared.

The wolf was unable to find the fox when he returned with the two additional sheep. He said, "O fox pasha,⁴ you will pay for this!" He started at once to search for the fox. When he finally saw him again, he said to the fox, "Look at me! Why did you cheat me so? Where is my fur coat?"

³Roasted meat braised in its own fat.

⁴The word pasha today means simply general; in Ottoman times it referred to the military governor of a province. Here it is used as a bit of sarcasm.

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But the fox, who was wearing several necklaces of cheap jewelry, pretended not to know what the wolf meant: "What coat? Have you mistaken me for some other fox?"

Then the wolf said, "Put some of that jewelry around my neck, too.

"The way to get such jewelry is to lie down in the channel of water leading into a mill. The water there flows so swiftly that it will be difficult for you to get to your feet in it. If you continue struggling and get to your feet, you will receive such jewels."

The wolf went to the mill and lay down in the channel leading into the mill. As he was swept under the paddle wheel that powered the mill, much of his fur and some of his skin were scraped off. "Vah!⁵ You damned fox! I shall take vengeance against you!"

Some time later when the wolf was walking about, he met the fox. He was still very angry at him and shouted, "Look at me, O fox! You are the reason for my having been almost skinned alive!"

The fox said, "I have done no such thing to you. Was it some other fox! I am a basketmaker and have nothing to do with having anyone skinned."

The wolf then said to the fox, "Make me a basket--one
⁵Vah! means what a pity!

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big enough so that I can sleep in it!" They went to a place along a river and collected many reeds for making the basket. Then they took them to the side of the mountain where the wolf lived, and the fox began to weave the basket. When it was about half finished, the fox said, "Climb inside your basket now so that I can be certain of making it the right length for you

The wolf climbed inside the basket, and the fox continued to weave it. Before long the wolf asked, "Say, there! How shall I get out of this basket?"

January "The top will be open," said the fox, "and so you will be able to climb in and out through the top." But the fox did not leave any opening at the top. He kept weaving and weaving until he had woven the top shut. He then rolled the basket down the mountainside with the wolf inside it. As it rolled downward, the fox shouted to the shepherds below, "Coming! Coming Coming Your enemy is coming!" When the shepherds opened the basket, they found the wolf inside. Their dogs killed the wolf at once

I ate and drank.

I reached my goal.