

Story 943 (1977 Tape 26)

Narrator: Dilfülöz Yolcu

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Göle kaza,
Kars Province

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The Stone of Patience

Once there was and once there was not a family consisting of a father, a mother, and a daughter. One day a passing soldier said to the daughter, "My dear girl, do not try in vain to avoid your kismet. You are destined to spend part of your life watching beside a grave."

Time passed, and the daughter forgot all about what soldier had said to her. One day near the end of the day while the family was taking a trip, they saw a house in the distance. Because darkness was approaching and they would need a safe place to spend the night, they decided to go to that house. No one answered when they knocked on the door, and so first the father and then the mother tried to force open the door. Neither was able to budge the door, but as soon as the daughter tried, the door opened at once. But no sooner had she stepped inside the house than the door swung shut again and locked. No matter how hard the three of them tried to get the door open again, they could not move it. The frightened girl began to shout and scream.

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mother called in to her, "My daughter, what can you see there inside this building?"

daughter answered, "Mother, there is some money piled in one corner. In another corner there is a heap of barley, and in the center of the room there is a grave

The mother said, "Oh, my dear Daughter, see what has happened! The soldier's prediction has come true. You will now have to watch beside that grave!" There was nothing that the parents could do about this, and so they went away and left her there.

Time came and time went. After seven years had passed, the girl was still in that house watching beside the grave there. One day some passing country people entered the garden of that house, and the girl could hear them outside. She called to them, "Oh, good people! I shall give you some money if you will give me a servant girl to keep me company in here." The country people gave her a servant. As soon as this servant entered the house, the girl said to her, "Please watch that grave for a short time. I should like to sleep for a little while."

However, the girl had hardly fallen asleep when the grave in the center of the room opened up and a very handsome young man stepped out of it. He said to the servant, "Who are you?"

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She said, "I have been waiting alongside your grave for seven years, and that person sleeping over there is my servant."

young man then said, "I am going to town now. Tell me what you would like to have me bring you from the town. What do you want?"

servant said, "Bring me everything."

Then the young man awakened the sleeping girl and asked, "What would you like me to bring you from town?"

The girl said, "Please bring me a ^{patience, knife} knife, a ^{patience, stone} stone of ^{patience, stone} patience, and a stone of marble." 4

While the young man was in town, he went to a store to make these purchases. When he told the storekeeper what the girl wanted, the storekeeper said, "Brother, watch very carefully the person who has asked you for a knife, a stone of patience, and a stone of marble." Accepting this advice, the young man returned and gave the things he had purchased to the girl and to the servant.

After the girl had received her gifts from the young man, she spoke to the piece of marble, "Oh, marble stone, marble stone, tell me whether it is you or I who has the greater patience." When the marble stone heard this, it split right down the middle into two separate parts. When she asked the stone of patience the same question, it too

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cracked into two pieces.¹ After that, the girl picked up the knife and tried to kill herself with it, but the young man prevented her from doing so.

He asked, "Why have you tried to do such a thing?"

The girl said, "I waited by your graveside for seven long years, and after that I slept for only ten minutes. During that brief time the servant took my place.

When he heard that, the young man ordered the servant to leave the house. He and the girl were then married, and they lived together very happily²

¹ The marble stone is a needless repetition here. Although the narrator includes the traditional stone of patience, she detracts from its effect by having, as it were, a second stone of patience.

² As she has done with all of her performances, the narrator has mutilated a well-known folktale here. Instead of telling the traditional Stone of Patience story, Dölfülöz Yolcu has given a very skimpy summary of it.