

Story 987 (1966 Dictated)

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Location: Aliçerçi village, Bozkır kaza, Konya Province (She was in İstanbul when tale was collected.)

Date: July 1966

*all*  
*Her - all*  
The Cock Who Carried Off the Bride

*Exchange*  
*all*  
Once there was a cock who was scratching in the garbage in the garden, looking for food. As it was doing this, it got a thorn stuck in its foot. "What shall I do now?" the cock asked himself

The cock went to a nearby house and knocked on the door. The old woman who lived in that house left her bread-baking to go to the door and see who it was that was knocking. The cock said to her, "Grandmother, I have gotten a thorn stuck in my foot. Will you take it out for me?"

The old woman pulled out the thorn and threw it into the stove. The cock left the house, walked for a while in a large circle, and then returned to the house again. He said to the old woman, "Grandmother, give me back my thorn!"

"I can't," said the old woman. "When I took it out of your foot, I threw it into the stove. It is now completely

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burned up!"

"In that case," said the cock, "I shall take a loaf of bread in its place and be gone." Taking a loaf of the fresh bread, he left. When he looked around, he saw the old woman chasing him with a stick in her hand, but he very easily escaped from her

After he had traveled for a while, he came upon some shepherds who had made a small fire over which they were heating some milk. The cock said to them, "I'll give you a loaf of bread with which you can sop up your milk."

The shepherds accepted this offer. Breaking the bread into several pieces, they dipped it into the milk and ate it. Thanking the cock, they said, "May you live long!"

The cock then left the shepherds. He took a short walk and then returned to them again. "I want my loaf of bread back!" he said to them.

"What? Why, that is impossible. How can you have your bread back? You know that we ate it.

"In that case," said the cock, "I'll take a sheep in its place." Grabbing a ram by the ear, he mounted it and said, "Giddap!"<sup>1</sup> Then he rode off before the shepherds could stop him. One of the shepherds chased him for some distance while the others watched the flock, but the man was unable to catch

<sup>1</sup>The Turkish word is "Deh!"

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cock.

The cock rode the ram to the next village. There he heard drums beating and saw great crowds of people in the streets.

Riding among these crowds on his ram, the cock discovered

there was a wedding in progress. He also learned that there was no meat for the wedding feast. This village was in a rocky area where no one raised sheep, and the people were about to butcher a dog for the wedding feast

"No, no!" said the cock. "Don't do that, for a dog is an unclean animal. Take my ram instead and slaughter it for your wedding feast.

Killing the ram, the people cut it into several pieces and began to cook the meat. While it was cooking, the cock took a walk. After a short while, he returned to that village and said to the people there, "I have changed my mind. Give me back my ram!"

"How can we do that?" they asked. "You gave the ram to We slaughtered it and cooked its flesh."

"No, no," said the cock stubbornly. "I want my ram back!" Just then the bridal procession was passing down the street. The cock said, "If you do not give me back my ram, I shall take the bride in its place!" When they were unable to return the ram to the cock, he grabbed the bride and ran away with her.

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"Gum-bee-dee! Gum-bee-dee! Gum!<sup>2</sup> Swarm with people, O streets, swarm!" said the cock. "In such a great crowd, could find the bride?" Saying this, the cock departed with the girl

After they had gone for several hours, the cock said to himself, "I exchanged the thorn for a loaf of bread. Then I exchanged the bread for a ram. And, finally, I exchanged the ram for the bride!"

<sup>2</sup>This is standard Turkish onomatopoeia for the sound of drumbeats.