

Story 1060 (Transcribed from
tape by Tuncer
Gülensoy; tape
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Narrator: Durkadın Turhan

Location: Çayhisar village,
Köyceğiz kaza,
Muğla Province

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The Stone of Patience

Once when a girl was walking to school, a small bird came along and landed upon her head. There the bird began to sing. When the girl reached home that day, she told her mother what had happened. Her mother said, "If that should happen again, you are to say, 'Oh, my poor bird, what are you trying to tell me?'"

On the following day the same thing happened. As the girl was on the way to school, the bird again landed upon her head and began to sing. The girl said, "Oh, my poor bird, what is it that you are trying to tell me?"

The bird replied, "You are going to wait by the side of a dead person for forty days and forty nights"

After the bird had flown away, the girl continued on to school, but she was very frightened by the message she had received. When she went home after school, she told her mother what had happened. Then she asked her mother angrily, "Why did you make me ask the bird that question?"

Her mother was also upset, and she said, "Let us leave this place and go to some faraway country to live so that

Çayhisar, Köyceğiz

*Hümmet
Adnan İyigör
İzmir*

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you can escape this prediction." They then packed up all their belongings and moved to a distant land. When they arrived there, they began to look for a water fountain, but they did not know where to go. Then the girl heard the sound of running water coming from an old deserted house. Taking her water pitcher she entered that house. While she was filling her pitcher, however, the door swung shut and locked. She was unable to get out of the building. She began crying and calling to her mother from inside the building, and the mother began crying and calling to her daughter from outside the building. After the mother was unable to get her daughter out of the old building, she went home and left the girl there.

The girl began looking through room after room in the old building.

The gypsy girl said to her, days and forty nights beside this young man, and then I shall have the two of you married to each other." The gypsy girl then left.

On the night of the fortieth day the gypsy girl returned told the schoolgirl to leave. Although the schoolgirl pretended to leave, she did not do so but hid in the building.

*Death, resurrection
from*

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A few minutes later the dead young man came to life again and began talking to the gypsy girl. Preparations were then begun for the wedding of the young man and the gypsy girl.

Vey upset by this, the schoolgirl went to the young man and said, "Why are you marrying that gypsy girl? It was I who sat by you for forty days and forty nights."

"But she was the first person I saw when I came back to life, and she is the one I shall marry. You may also come and live with us, however," said the young man.

One day the young man announced that he was going to a nearby city to shop at a large market. The gypsy girl said to her husband, "Bring me several dresses, this-and-that kinds of food, and such-and-such kinds of drink.

"And what shall I bring for you?" the young man asked the schoolgirl.

"Bring me only a stone of patience," said the girl

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In the city the young man bought all of the things that his gypsy wife had ordered but forgot to buy a patience stone for the schoolgirl. As he was on the way home, all of the things that he had bought for his wife began disappearing into the air. He wondered, "Why are these things disappearing in this strange way?" Returning to the mar-

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ketplace, he bought more of the same objects for his wife, this time he remembered to purchase the stone of patience for the schoolgirl. When he reached home, the gypsy took all of the things which he had bought for her went to her room. The schoolgirl put the stone of patience inside her dress and she went to her own room.

There the schoolgirl took out the stone of patience and spoke to it: "Stone of Patience, Stone of Patience, when I was a little girl a bird came and settled on my head. That bird told me that I was going to watch by the side of a dead man for forty days and forty nights. I was frightened by this prediction, and so my mother and I fled from our own country and came to this country. Looking for water, I entered an old building where I heard a fountain running, but once I was inside, the door of the building locked, and I could not get out again. I cried to my mother from the inside of the building, and she cried to me from the outside of the building. When it became clear that there was no way for me to escape, my mother returned home

"As I looked through room after room in the old building, I came upon a young man lying dead with a gypsy girl sitting beside him. I waited forty days and forty

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nights by the side of the young man, but when he came back to life, he married the gypsy girl, not me."

After it had heard the schoolgirl's story, the stone of patience cracked and fell apart. The young man saw this, for he had been looking into the room through a crack in the door and listening all during the schoolgirl's account of what had happened to her. Putting the gypsy girl out of the house, he announced that he would marry the schoolgirl. They had a wedding ceremony at which drums and pipes were played continuously. I drank some of their coffee and some of their tea, and then I returned home here.