

Story 1204 (1990 Tape 12)

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İzmir Province

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The Beautiful Girl and the Donkey

One day two old friends met on a street after not having seen each other for many years. One immediately invited the other to his home, and the second man was especially grateful for this hospitality, for he was a stranger in that city. The two of them talked at great length, and in the evening they ate dinner together. When it was time to retire, the host asked his guest, "Where would you prefer to sleep? Would you like to sleep here in this main room of the house, or would you like to sleep with Baby?"

The guest reflected upon this choice. He thought, "If I sleep in the room with the baby, I may not be able to rest very well, for the baby will probably cry during the night." He therefore said to his friend, "I'll sleep right here in this main room." There was a sofa in one corner of that room, and the guest slept on that sofa.

morning came, the guest went outside to the fountain in the garden to wash himself. There he saw a ravishingly beautiful girl of about eighteen years of age. She said to

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him, "Hello! Welcome!<sup>1</sup> I am Baby."

"I feel welcome! Who am I? I am a damned fool--a donkey who slept in the main room!"

<sup>1</sup>The girl uses the standard courtesy expression of welcome to a stranger into the household: Hoş geldiniz! The guest here gives the standard response to indicate his appreciation of this welcome: Hoş bulduk!