

Story 1269 (1969 Tape 3)

Narrator: Adnan Akbal

Location: Rüstü village, Bayburt
kaza, Gümüşhane
Province

Since the time of tapping, Bayburt became capital of newly created Bayburt Province

Date: July 1969

Collected by Dr. Saim Sakaoğlu

A Host Can Do No Wrong

There was once a padişah who set out on a trip with his grand vizier. At one of their stopping places they were the guests of a Kurdish farmer. This Kurd butchered a sheep for the evening meal, and he and his guests dined very well. As the second evening approached, the Kurd butchered another sheep. Observing this, the padişah asked his host, "Why did you slaughter a second sheep when there was so much meat left over from the first sheep?" As soon as he heard this question, the Kurd gave the padişah a resounding slap on his neck. This behavior of the Kurd seemed very offensive to the grand vizier, but the padişah himself let it pass without saying a word.

When the two travelers were ready to depart the next morning, the padişah, thinking about some revenge for the slap he had received, invited the Kurd to visit him in İstanbul. He

Story 1269

gave the Kurd a slip of paper on which he had written address. "I live in such and such a kiosk in İstanbul.

It was some time later before the wanderings of the Kurd took him to the vicinity of İstanbul, but when he finally did come close to that city, he decided to accept the padişah's invitation to visit him. As soon as the Kurd had been accepted as a guest, the padişah and his vizier decided upon a way in which they could avenge the Kurd's insult to the ruler. The vizier advised the padişah in this way: "Serve dinner at a place that is right at the very edge of the sea. When you have finished eating, throw your plate and other dishes into the sea. This will shock the Kurd, and he will ask, 'Why do you throw away such good dishes?' That will give you reason to take your revenge against him."

Well, the Kurd was there as a guest, and it was proper to provide a good meal for him. This was served in a little garden house right along the seashore. When the dinner was finished, the padişah threw his dishes into the sea. The Kurd observed this, but he did not say a single word about it. The vizier was greatly surprised, and he thought to himself "I wonder why he does not say anything about this?" The padişah then gathered up the other plates from the table and

Story 1269

threw them into the sea, too. Still the Kurd said nothing. Finally the vizier grew so exasperated that he said to the Kurd, "Look! Look! Don't you see the padişah throwing the dishes into the sea? What do you think of that?"

When the Kurd heard this, he arose at once and dealt a resounding slap on the head of the vizier. "How dare you interfere with the affairs of a host?"

Thus it turned out that the Kurd reprimanded both the padişah and the vizier. Each of them was properly punished for bad behavior.