

Story 1322 (1981 Tape 3)

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Location: Narrator is from
somewhere in Urfa
Province

Taping done at
Fırat University,
Elazığ

Date: April 29, 1981

The February¹ Woman

The February Woman lived in a stream in Urfa named Karakoyun Creek. She was a very large person with very large breasts, one of which she slung over her right shoulder one of which she slung over her left shoulder. She was not human but a supernatural creature of some kind.

One day a farmer was passing Karakoyun Creek and he saw the February Woman on the bank. He threw a sack over her and pricked her with a needle. It was known that the way to make her submissive was to prick her with some sharp piece of iron. After that, the February Woman went home with the man to his house.

Before they went to bed, the farmer placed his money and his small supply of wheat near the woman. When they arose on

¹This is clearly just a fragment of a folktale or myth. Does Şubat, the Turkish word for February, have some dialectal meaning or code meaning in Urfa?

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Story

the following morning, the man discovered that both his money and his wheat had been multiplied many times. There was so much wheat there in the morning that it almost filled the room. The farmer said to her, "You have done much to help me. Tell me what I can do in return for you."

"There is just one thing that you can do for me. Release me so that I can return to my baby and my husband in the creek

The farmer released her, and she returned to the stream. The next day, however, several people reported that water flowing in Karakoyun Creek was bright red. It was said that the husband of the February Woman had become angry at her for serving mankind and had killed her. It was her blood that colored the water.