

Story 1329 (1988 Tape 6)

Narrator: Safiye Kılıç, 65

Location: Ortahisar village,
Ürgüp kaza, Nevşehir
Province

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The Silly Couple Have Their Daughter Married

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There were once a silly man and his silly wife who had a daughter named Necibe. When Necibe reached a marriageable age, young men began to come to the parents to ask for her hand. But the silly couple were very poor, and this caused a problem for them now. The wife said, "What am I going to do? Young men come and ask to marry our girl, but we can not afford to provide her with a necessary dowry."

Her husband answered, "Wait, wait! What could be simpler to solve than that problem? I shall go out in the morning and do some pimping, and in that way I shall get some money to purchase a dowry."

The following morning the silly man went out along the road looking for work. He stood on a bridge, where everyone passing could see him, and began shouting, "I am a pimp! I am a pimp!"

Soon a man came along and asked him, "Are you a pimp?"

"Yes."

"Then take this bag to such and such a woman at so and so

Story 1329

place."

silly man took that bag, which was full of dry fruit and nuts, to the woman. The woman opened the bag and started eating what it contained, but before the silly man could leave, there was a knock on the door--tak, tak, tak. "That is my husband returning," she said.

"Where can I hide?" asked the silly man.

"Go up on the roof and hide there." And that was what the silly man did.

the husband entered the house, he said, "I do not know what we shall do! The price of everything is increasing so much."

His wife answered, "Don't worry. The One above us will give what we need."

When the man on the roof heard this, he shouted down, "You gave me only twelve and a half liras. How can I give you some of that back and still have enough to get my Necibe married?"

The husband shouted, "Are you a jinn or some other supernatural being?¹ Come down from there!"

silly man came down and began at once to explain his difficulty. "I have a daughter at home whom I cannot afford

¹If a person appears suddenly in an unlikely place, the viewer

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Story 1329

to have married. I am a poor man and I am trying to earn enough money to provide her with the necessary dowry. I went out pimping, and a man sent me here with a bag of dried fruit and nuts. Your wife gave me twelve and a half liras for my pay."

The husband looked at the silly man and realized what kind of person he was. He felt sorry for the poor fellow and said, "Since you have told the truth about all of this, I shall give you a spare bed and a comforter which you can take for part of the dowry." He also gave him 10,000 Turkish liras.²

The silly man took these gifts home to his wife and asked, "Is this enough?"

His wife answered, "It is enough for part of what will be needed, but it is not enough for the whole dowry

quite understandably becomes wary of the true nature of the intruder. The formulaic query in Turkish is İnmisin cinmisin? --are you a jinn or other supernatural being? In some early interpretations of the word in it seems to have meant human being, and so the response then is "I am human and not a jinn." But in most uses of this expression in Archive holdings, the question seems to be that given in the text above, for otherwise the response "Neither" would make no sense.

²This figure is a sign of the time in which this tale was told. At mid-century 10,000 Turkish liras would have been a very large gift to give a peasant--the equivalent of \$1,000.

Story

"Well, instead of being a pimp again, next time I shall become a robber and earn even more money.

That night he set forth to be a robber. Going to the home of a rich man, he entered the house very quietly. Inside, he came upon a servant woman on the brink of death from a fatal disease. He recited some verses from the Koran for this woman, and then he proceeded to the kitchen. There he saw hanging on the wall a row of golden necklaces. He was going to steal these necklaces, but then he decided not to do so. He thought, "If I were to take these necklaces, it would make the girl who owns them cry as my daughter, Necibe, does." He therefore left them where they were. He then found some spoons and thought of stealing them, but then he thought, "If I should take these spoons, the people who live here would not have anything with which to eat their breakfast in the morning." He did not take the spoons. Next he saw a pepper grinder. Grinding up the peppercorns that were in it, he put the empty grinder in his pocket

Not having gotten much from that floor of the house, he

By the time this tale was told, the value of the Turkish lira was spiraling downward. Three years later (1991), devaluation had reduced the TL/\$ ratio to 5000/1, making 10,000 TL worth but \$2.

Story 1329

said to himself, "Let me see what there is upstairs." Going upstairs very quietly, he saw, in the moonlight shining through the window, a man and a woman sleeping there. Slowly and carefully, he tried to pull the quilt off their bed, as he did so, the man awoke.

"Are you a jinn or some other supernatural being?" the man demanded.

"I am neither a jinn nor any other kind of supernatural being," answered the silly man, and he began to explain his reason for being there. "I saw your dying servant and I cited some verses from the Koran for her. In order to leave you something to eat with in the morning, I did not take your spoons. Because I did not want your daughter to cry, I did not take the golden necklaces in the kitchen. After grinding up the peppercorns, I put the powder on a piece of paper in the kitchen and put the grinder in my pocket. I am a poor man, and I am trying to collect enough to provide a dowry for my daughter's marriage."

Having heard this story, they felt sorry for him. gave him two quilts and two blankets for the dowry

After the silly man had taken these home to his wife, a wedding was planned, and then Necibe was married. They all ate and drank and had their wishes fulfilled

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