

Story 1354 (1969 Tape 5)

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Three ^{As}Tricksters Outwitted

Once there was and once there was not, back in the old times, a man who was named Halil ^{all}Ağa. This Halil Ağa had a good team of oxen. One day while he was plowing his field, three tricksters went to him and said, "Halil Ağa, we need a good ox just as soon as we can buy one, and we will give you a very high price for one of your oxen. Will you sell it to us?"

"All right," answered Halil Ağa.

"But we want you to alter the ox somewhat for us before we buy it. We want you to remove one eye. We shall pay extra for this alteration." After Halil Ağa had removed one eye the ox, the tricksters had him also cut off one ear. Then they also had him do several other strange things to the ox.

When he had fulfilled all of their requests for altering the ox, Halil Ağa said, "There you are. This ox has now been changed to meet all of your requirements."

The tricksters then said, "We wanted to buy an ox, but this creature is no longer an ox. We do not want it."

When Halil Ağa realized how badly he had been deceived by the tricksters, he said to himself, "They will pay dearly

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for this!" But to the tricksters he said, "Whether or not you buy my ox, I am inviting you to dinner at my home this evening." Halil Ağa then went home and said to his wife, "Cook something for dinner tonight, for I have invited some friends to eat with us." He then slaughtered a sheep and caught the sheep's blood in a skin bag. Going to his wife again, he said, "Put this bag of blood in your bosom. During the meal tonight, I shall pretend to be angry at you, and I shall pretend to stab you, but in fact I shall stab this bag of blood. When I do that, you are to fall down and pretend to be dead. But when I play my ⁵⁹⁻⁶⁰ flute, you are to arise as if you had been revived from death."

Then Jeppad

The three tricksters came to dinner at the time that been set. When the meal was almost finished, Halil Ağa pretended to be angry at his wife about something, and drawing his knife, he stabbed her. When blood spurted from her wound and the woman fell to the floor, the guests were shocked. But Halil Ağa said, "Do not be concerned, for I shall restore to life." He took down his flute from the wall and played a brief tune on it. Just as he predicted, his wife was restored to life

*Resuscitated
pretended*

The three tricksters were very impressed with what had just seen. They wanted to buy the flute from Halil Ağa, and after they had greatly increased the price they had first

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offered, he sold it to them.

The three tricksters departed after dinner and returned home with the flute. Each of them wanted to kill his own wife and then restore her to life by playing the flute. Each of them really did kill his wife, but not one of those women was restored no matter how long her husband played upon the flute.

Meanwhile, Halil Ağa, knowing what would probably happen when the tricksters reached home, made preparations for their return. He said to his wife, "When those dinner guests of ours return and ask for me, you are to burst into tears and tell them that I have died." He then went to the cemetery, dug a grave for himself, and lay down in it as if dead.

Death, feigned

A short while later the angry tricksters arrived and asked where Halil Ağa was. His wife began to cry and said, "Alas, my poor husband has died, and he is already in his grave." But the tricksters did not believe this. They went to the cemetery, pulled Halil Ağa out of the grave, and tied him inside a large sack. They intended to throw him into the river, but they decided to wait to do so until the morning when they could see better what they were doing and enjoy it more. They therefore left the bag containing Halil Ağa on the bank of the river for the rest of the night.

After the three tricksters had gone home, Halil Ağa began shouting, "No! No! I don't want her! I don't want her!"

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Toward morning a shepherd came along with a large flock of sheep. Hearing Halil Ağa's shouts, he went to him and asked, "Who is it that you don't want? Why are you tied inside that sack?"

Halil Ağa answered, "Oh, brother, they are going to force me to marry the padişah's daughter, but I do not want to marry her!"

"I should be very pleased to marry the padişah's daughter," said the shepherd.

"Well, in that case, you should be the one inside this sack. Untie me and then I shall tie you in this sack to be taken to the palace." The shepherd agreed to this, and after releasing Halil Ağa, he himself got into the sack. After Halil Ağa had tied the top of the sack tightly, he took the shepherd's staff and led his large flock away.

The three tricksters went to the riverbank later that morning and found the sack where they had left it. Two of them swung the sack back and forth a couple of times and then threw it far out into the river. They thought that that was the last they would see of Halil Ağa, but on their way home, they came across their enemy leading a large flock of sheep. They were amazed to see him and they asked, "How did this happen, Halil Ağa? Where did you get all of these sheep?"

Halil Ağa answered, "When you threw me into the water, I

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Sheep in the river
found this flock of sheep grazing at the bottom of the river. There are several large flocks down there. If you wish, I can throw you into the river right above them." So Halil Ağa threw the tricksters into the deep water, one by one, and all three of them drowned.

*Two - formal
dances*
Three apples fell from the sky. One is for me. One is for the listener. And the third should be cut into pieces and distributed to the listener's friends