

Story 1390 (1989 Tape 6)

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c. 38

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Unalterable Fate

Near Mersin there is a tower in the sea which is known as Tower of the Girl. There is a very interesting story about that tower, and many people in Turkey know that story. It is about something that happened a long while ago.

*Sten Long*  
In early times there was a padişah at Mersin who for a number of years remained childless. He and his wife prayed repeatedly for a child, and at last Allah accepted their prayers and gave them a daughter. They were pleased at the arrival of that child, and they took best care of her. Because they had waited so long for a child, they worried about her a great deal. They wondered what would happen to her in the future, and to learn more about this, they consulted a soothsayer.

After consulting all of the evidence about the girl, the soothsayer gave a very disturbing prediction. He said, "My padişah, when your daughter reaches the age of nineteen, your daughter will die of a snakebite."

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Greatly upset by this prediction, the padişah began to think of some way in which he could prevent it from coming true. He finally decided to build a palace in the sea near Mersin where his daughter could live, a place far enough from land so that no snake would be able to reach it. She lived there throughout her childhood, attended by a few trusted servants.

When her nineteenth birthday was approaching, her parents planned to give a party in her honor at her castle in the sea. All of the guests who had been invited were searched very carefully before they were permitted to enter the castle for this occasion. Among those guests was an old woman who arrived with a basket of grapes as a birthday present for the princess. The guards searched the old woman, as they had searched all of the other guests, and they searched her basket of grapes, too, but they found nothing harmful in either.

The princess took the basket to her room, where she began to eat the grapes. As she was doing this, a small but very poisonous snake crawled forth from among the grapes and bit her. The girl died within a very few minutes.

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This story shows that there is no way in which we can escape our fate. Whatever it may be, we cannot change it.

Having concluded this tale, the narrator turned to Memduh Derin (who had just told several brief anecdotes) and asked, "Do you know any stories like this one?"