

Story 1513 (1976 Tape 26)

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Location: Çıkırıkçı village,
Sarıkaya kaza,
Yozgat Province

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Ebali Sinan and Ebul Halis

Ebali Sinan and Ebul Halis were brothers. They lived in a land which contained a cave of enchantment. The stone gate of this cave rolled open only on a certain Friday of the year and at the end of that day it rolled shut again. The walls of that cave were covered with all sorts of magic formulas and descriptions of how to perform different kinds of enchantment. People entered the cave on the day that it was open and studied what was written on the walls, but they sometimes did not understand them completely before the day was over, and they sometimes forgot the formulas and descriptions they had actually been able to memorize.

Ebali Sinan and Ebul Halis made a decision about a way in which they could get more of the information written on the walls of that cave. They said to each other, "The next time when the cave opens, let us go there with a whole year's supply of food and water. By remaining inside the cave until it re-opens a year later, we shall have plenty of time to learn everything written on the walls." They got all of their supplies together, and on that special Friday they moved it all into the

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cave. They forgot just one thing, however, and that was their razors.

Ebali Sinan and Ebul Halis remained in the cave all year long, and when the Friday arrived for the reopening of the stone gate, they were standing right inside the gate ready to get out. But outside the gate there was a large crowd of people waiting to enter the cave. When the people outside saw Ebali Sinan and Ebul Halis, who had not shaved for a whole year, did not recognize the two brothers. They thought that two were enchanted creatures of some kind, and they tried to capture them. To escape, the two brothers dove into the large lake whose waters came to within a few meters of the cave. During their escape the two brothers were separated, and as a result they landed on two widely separated shores of that lake.

Ebali Sinan wandered around for several years making a living by using the magic skills he had learned from the cave walls. While traveling, if he failed to reach the city that his destination, he used his magic to bring the city closer to him. He would eat and drink there and then move on to another place. For a while he was a soldier.

One day after he had left the military service, he came to a city where he met a boy who had only one parent, his mother. This boy kept a small shop in which he had for

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sale only such small things as thread, needles, and soap.

Ebali Sinan asked the boy, "Son, are you poor?"

"Yes."

"Will you accept me as a partner in your business? I could make you quite rich."

"I shall accept you."

From that day onward Ebali Sinan worked in that shop. He cast a spell which caused the customers of other shops to go to the boy's shop to buy things that they needed. With so much trade, it was not long before the boy grew rich.

When the boy reached a marriageable age, Ebali Sinan asked him, "Do you want me to make wedding arrangements for you?"

"Yes, I do."

"Well, whom do you want to marry?"

"I want to marry the padishah's daughter," the boy said.

"Very well," said Ebali Sinan. He cast a spell which caused the daughter of the padishah to come to the boy's house every night.

After this had been going on for some time, the padishah discovered that his daughter was missing from the palace during the evening hours. One day he asked her, "My girl, where do you go every night? No one in the palace can find you."

"Father, I do not really know where I am. I go somewhere

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to a house where a young man caresses and kisses

The padishah then said, "Take this seal with you tonight and press it against the door as you are leaving that house. Then tomorrow I shall have all of the houses in the city inspected and discover to which house you are going each night."

That night the girl was again under a spell which led her to the same house. When it was time for her to return to the palace, the girl took the seal from beneath her clothing and pressed it against the outside of the door of the boy's house. But Ebali Sinan noticed this seal mark on the door. Casting another spell, he had the seal mark removed from the door of the boy's house and impressed upon the door of the padishah's toilet.

The next day when the padishah saw his seal mark on his toilet door, he asked himself, "Is it possible that my daughter is coming here? What is this all about?" Later that day he said to the girl, "My daughter, when you leave the palace tonight, take along with you this handful of flax seed. Sprinkle it along the way that you take to reach the house to which you have been going. Then tomorrow I shall be able to trace that trail of flax seed to the house where you have been going. The girl did exactly what her father had ordered her to do.

On the following morning, however, Ebali Sinan arose early

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and noticed the line of flax seed leading to the boy's front door. By casting another spell, he had the paths leading to all of the doors in that part of the city covered knee-deep with flax seed. Again the padishah was unable to determine which house it was that his daughter had been visiting nightly. He therefore said to her that day, "Tonight dip your hand in dye and press your hand against the boy's back without letting him know that you are doing it.

The following morning Ebali Sinan noticed the handprint on the boy's back. He immediately cast a spell which placed a similar handprint on the backs of all of the young men in city.

In every effort to discover where his daughter was being forced to go every night, the padishah had been defeated. Realizing that his daughter had been compelled to go somewhere every night by some sort of magic means, the padishah decided to hire a magician of his own. It so happened that just at that time Ebul Halis arrived at that city, and it was he whom the padishah hired. When the padishah explained to him what had been happening, Ebul Halis discovered that there was a magician living in such and such a house who was casting spells. He suspected that it might be this magician who was responsible for the nightly disappearance of the padishah's daughter. With-

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out knowing who that magician was, Ebul Halis sent him a song through the air

Not knowing who had sent the song, Ebali Sinan was able to trace its source to the palace. He therefore sent back a rose upon which a fatal spell had been placed. As soon as Ebul Halis smelled that rose, he died.

Shortly after that, Ebali Sinan said to the boy, "I shall soon die. I am going to mix three bowls of medicine and give them to you. After I die, if you pour one bowl of this medicine down my throat, I shall be revived up to my knees. If you pour a second bowl down my throat, I shall be restored up as far as my waist. And if you pour the third bowl down my throat, I shall be fully restored to life

Just as Ebali Sinan had predicted, he soon died. The boy poured the first bowl of medicine down the dead man's throat, and his body was restored up to his knees. When he poured the second bowl of medicine down the dead man's throat, the boy heard a very sad sound coming from the body of Ebali Sinan. Frightened, the boy poured the third bowl of medicine down the drain. It has been said that the same sad sound can still be heard coming from the grave of Ebali Sinan.