

Story 1583 (1977 Tapes 18, 19) Narrator: Behçet Mahir, 68

Location: Erzurum, capital city
of Erzurum Province

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The Behavior of Hesabi-Kep's¹ Daughters Betrays
Their Origins²

Hesabi-Kep once wished to build a mosque. In order to do this, he needed three workers: a carpenter, a mason, and a stone carrier. He said to a stone carrier, "If you will haul the stones I need to build this mosque, I shall give you my daughter in marriage." To the mason he said, "If you will lay up the walls of this mosque, I shall give you my daughter in marriage." And to the carpenter he said, "If you will build the roof of this mosque, I shall give you my daughter in marriage." Hesabi-Kep had only one daughter, but the three workers that he hired did not know each other, and so they were not aware that he had promised all of them the same girl.

Construction of the mosque began, and each of the three workers performed his job well. The work went on for many months, but finally the mosque was completed. Then each of the workers went to him and said, "I have finished the job that I agreed to do. Now I have come for the daughter which you promised me." /Tape 18 ends here and 19 begins with the next

¹If this is a real person, we have been unable to identify him.

²This is one of several anecdotes and brief tales that Behçet Mahir narrated during interludes of the taping of ATON 1700,

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Time passed, and about a year later Hesabi-Kep decided to go and visit each of his daughters. He said to himself, "I shall go to visit my daughters and see how their married lives are getting along."

First he went to visit his carpenter son-in-law. After they had eaten their dinner, Hesabi-Kep asked his son-in-law, "Tell me, Son, how you are enjoying married life. Are you happy with my daughter?"

yes, Father; everything is fine. In almost every way your daughter is a perfect wife, but occasionally she becomes very stubborn. Otherwise, everything is going well. When Hesabi-Kep heard his son-in-law's remark about his wife's stubbornness, he realized that this must have been the girl who had been transformed from a donkey.

following week Hesabi-Kep went to visit the daughter who had married the mason. When he asked this son-in-law about his married life, the young man answered, "Oh, everything is going quite well, and your daughter is an excellent wife. There is only one slight problem, and that is her habit of scolding me very loudly at times. Otherwise we have no problems." When he heard about this girl's loud and aggressive behavior, he realized that she must have been the girl transformed from the dog.

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The next week Hesabi-Kep went to visit his third daughter, the one who had married the stone carrier. After the evening meal, Hesabi-Kep said, "Tell me, Son, whether or not you are pleased with your married life.

"Oh, yes, in every way, Father," answered the stone carrier. "May God bless you! I wish that all of my friends could have a wife like mine. She is very courteous and agreeable, and I am very happy with her. You reared her very well. It is not everyone who could have such a daughter." Hearing these remarks, Hesabi-Kep understood that this girl was his own real daughter.

People are not all the same. They have differing qualities. Some are stubborn--like donkeys. Some are loud and threatening--like dogs. And some are gentle and compassionate--as human beings were intended to be.