

Story 1222 (1991 Tape 2)

Narrator: Beyhan Kavasoğulları,
54

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İzmir Province

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Dead Mother Offers Sympathy to Her Murderer

Once a long while ago there was a young man who fell in love with a young lady. Even if such a relationship seems perfectly normal, there was one aspect of it that was very unnatural. The girl, for some reason or another--people often do unexplainable things--attached a most unusual condition to giving herself in marriage to her suitor. She said to the young man, "Only if you behead your mother and bring her head to me will I accept you as my husband."

The poor young man found himself in a great dilemma. could anyone kill his own mother? On the other hand, he was unable to relinquish his love for the girl.

He tried to persuade her to change her mind, but he could not do so. In all of their conversations, she persisted in her demand. Finally, she said to him, "Don't even come near me again unless it is to bring me your mother's head!"

After a considerable period of delaying and faltering, young man at last said to himself, "Apparently the only solution to my problem is to decide to cut off my mother's head."

When he went to his mother, carrying an axe in his hand,

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he found the poor woman carrying on her usual work. At a moment when her head was bowed down, her son struck her on the neck with the axe, separating her head from her body. In great agitation, he grabbed the head and started running with it in the direction of the girl's home. He ran and ran, and as he did so, he grew more and more frantic, until he was quite out of his mind. He stumbled and fell at full length upon the ground. As he did so, his mother's head flew out of his arms and rolled several meters away. When it came to a stop, a voice came from the head, saying, "Did you hurt yourself anywhere when you fell, my son?"