

Story #287 (Milli Kütüphane Tape)

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Location: Collected in
1950's by student of
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by Neriman Hızır and
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Mahi and Hürşit

There was a padişah, and one day he had a son. In the olden days, people would become enemies of the padişah's children. [the padişah's children had enemies]; that is why they used to raise them secluded.

fifteen.

bones out of that meat.

"What is this?" He

looked at it one side and another. Then he threw it at the window and the glass broke, and the (sun) fell [came in through the window].

He was fifteen years old, and he saw the sun through that hole. He tried to catch the sun; he tried very hard, so hard that he was exhausted and fainted. When he fainted, he had a (dream).

They came--well, they came, and they brought him to. He had a teacher who used to teach him lessons. The teacher said, "My son, what happened to you like this?"

And the boy said, "Well, this is what happened; the glass broke, and the sun came in, and I tried to catch the sun, and I don't know what became of me."

*Servant placed in charge of a boy.

Story #287

And the teacher said, "Now, look, son, there is the sun, there is the moon, there is the sea, there is the horse, there is the riding the horse around, and everything else outside. Only you are like a prisoner here, and you don't know anything."

And the boy went to his father and said, "I'll go out and go around. I won't stay here any more." And they put him out, and he rode on a horse and went here and there. When he had fainted, in his dream, he remembered having drunk love's nectar. He went round and round and everywhere, and he tried to find this love.

*Behaikal
dream*

So, trying to find his love, he got thinner and lost weight and got pale. He went to the doctor, and the doctor said, "You're not sick."

*Love
sick*

The father said, "So what is it?"

And the doctor said, "Well, send him to the open spaces and let him find his friends, and let his friends find out what is wrong with him."

And one day he gave him friends and sent him to the Sahara. Well, they went, and his friends got him drunk, and while he was drunk he started calling, "Mah! Mah!" That was the name of the girl he was in love with.

And his friends rushed back to the padişah and they said, "It's Mah he is after."

The padişah said, "Oh, nonsense! 'Mah' only means 'the moon.' It's not a girl."

"All right," they said, but the boy went on getting paler

Story #287

and paler, and melting away. Well, one day again he rode on his horse and went away. They had a little woodland, and he went out there. He had a bird, and in olden days, the padişah's son's [birds] used to have feathers on their heads, and he had his own bird. That bird flew away, and he followed the bird, and that bird came to green pastures.

When he came to the green pastures, he saw some tents, and the bird went and perched on one of the tents. He ran to catch his bird, and when he ran here and there he found his Mah there. And, you know, she also had seen him in her dream on the same night. When they saw each other, they were so excited that both of them fainted.

The neighbors came and sprinkled water on them, and woke the girl up and the boy up, and the girl took the boy into the tent. They talked with her mother, and the mother said, "Well, son, she has seven brothers, and they are away now. When they return, I'll send them to you, and you can talk with them and come to an understanding."

*Dr
Son's
Conflicts
#46*

"All right," he said, and went back and started waiting, and one day the brothers came.

The mother said, "Look, sons, it seems this pasture belongs to the padişah, and it seems that one day his son came, and we've talked with him, and we came to an understanding. Now, you take some butter and some honey and go to him and talk to him."

"All right," said the sons. And they got whatever was light to carry, but heavy in price; it was loaded on the horses, and

Story #287

they went.

When the padişah's son saw them coming, he was very happy, and he said, "Come in. Come in." He took them in. Let me tell you. They became his guests, and they stayed there.

The boy said to his father, "Well, the girl I fell in love with--the girl I fade for and melt for--is the sister of these boys. Won't you by the will of God ask her hand for me from them?"

Yes, they did ask for her to marry him. And the point was, the girl was already engaged, and the name of her fiancé was Karakan [a Kurdish bey]. The brothers said, "Why should we give her to the old man? Let's give her to this young man." They decided to give her to the padişah's son, and they started on their way home.

Meanwhile, the padişah's son dug a well and put 40 stones in it, and then they said, "In 40 days, come and get the girl." So every day he took one stone out. Well, let's leave him there and come back to the boys.

The boys went to their tent and said, "Mother, we decided to give Mah to the padişah's son."

"Well done," said the mother. "May God bring them luck."

Well, when she said that, there was a witch there, and she came to them and she said, "Oh, you boys, you don't know what happened when you were away. He came to your house and he ate and drank and had all the fun with your sister, and now he wants her away."

Decretis - Jaks

When the boys heard this, they were so angry that the next

boy

Story #287

morning they gathered their tents and loaded the horses and put the girl on the white one and pulled away. The girl wrote a note in a hurry. They were supposed to go to Moğan, and she wrote a note and put it next to a stone in the fireplace. They started going. Let them be going. The girl was crying all the time.

Let's come back to the boy. Now, he took one stone out every day, and finally it had been 40 days, and the padişah's son got ready. He dressed and all, and the boy was very impatient. He said to his father, "I can't wait. Let me go, and you come after."

The padişah said, "Oh, no, son. Don't do that. You must go with all the panoply that becomes you."

"All right," they said finally, and he took his head off* and went. When he came to the pastures, there were no tents. And he fell down and fainted again, and he fainted there with the horse standing at his head. After a while, he awoke and looked around, and he saw a fireplace, and a letter right next to a stone, and it said in the letter, "My brothers took me away. If you want to look for me, I am in the Moğan country."

After that, the father came, with all his soldiers and all his trumpets and all the splendor of his following. When they got there, they found nothing but the boy crying. "Well, son, you told me that she was so and so, and we were coming to get her."

"Well, but she's gone," said the son.

*This was the expression the informant used to indicate that Hursit went ahead of the rest.

Story #287

"Well, if she's gone, that's our lot. Let's go and try to find someone else for you." And he was also the only son of the mother, and the mother wanted him to come back.

The son said, "No, I won't go back." He said, "Give me whatever you brought, and I'll go on." And he did. The man went a little; he went far, over the hill and over the river. He went straight six months and a summer; he turned back and looked, and he'd gone only the length of a barley seed. He saw people washing laundry in the river. He stopped and he sang them a song and asked if they had seen his sweetheart.

They said, "No," and he went a little farther, and there was a tent by a hill. "I guess my sweetheart is here."

And he saw a young girl there, and the young girl asked him in and asked if he were hungry. He said he was. She said, "Whom are you looking for?"

He said, "They took my sweetheart away, and I'm looking for her."

She said, "Don't go away, and I'll be your sweetheart."

"No," he said, and said goodbye and left. Then he met a shepherd. It seems Mah had given the shepherd a comb, and the shepherd gave this comb to the boy and showed him the way they had gone

He went and went, and finally he arrived at the country. It was late. Late in the evening he tied his horse by the side of a fountain and he began to think. He heard a drum being

Story #287

beaten, and a bold girl came to the fountain. "What are you doing here?"

"I'm tired. By the way, what are the drums?"

"Oh," the girl said, "There is a Kurd bey named Karakan and a girl called Maki [sic]. She was engaged to him. They went away, and then they came back, and now they are getting married."

The boy said, "Oh, sister, please can you keep me in your house tonight?"

She said, "We have no room."

He said, "What if I gave you a belt full of gold?"

"Well, we have room for you and for your horse."

He followed the girl, and they went to her home. She introduced him to her mother, and the boy told them all that had happened to him. The mother said, "Stop worrying. I have three sons. One of them is the groom for Karakan's horses and one is his servant and one is his chamberboy. We can solve this problem." And the boy slept.

In the morning, they were to go to the wedding. It seems the girl had given the boy a ring, too, and he gave the ring to the old woman, saying, "Now, run and give her the ring and tell her to hurry to me."

There was a very beautiful dress that he had gotten ready for the girl, to be fit for the padişah's daughter. He let the bold girl wear that dress, and they got ready to go to the wedding. When they got to the wedding, everyone said, "Oh, you bold girl, where did you get that beautiful dress?"

And she said, "My Uncle Hursit brought it."

The girl was behind the curtains, and she had seven bottles of

Story #287

(poison,) and whichever of them killed her, she was going to have that. During the wedding, the bold girl wanted to have a drink of water. She went near the bride and she said,

Karakan's wedding (hana gece). The three boys said to the boy, "Let's take you along to the hana gece." He took his saz and he went to the hana gece, and Karakan "Do you know the songs about Mahi and Hurşit?

"Yes," he said.

"Well, s

The grass in the green pastures has grown knee-high;

Made the troubles worse

Lady Mahi--where are the places she roams?

it

The next day, the bride was to go to Karakan's home. Early in the of the boys took care of the drinks, and he said to the boy,

You get two horses ready by the gate.

what I'm going to do."

They brought the bride out, and Karakan He was old, and he saw the girl and liked her very much and wanted to have some aged wine. They had lots of aged wine

...ory #287

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and more wine, and he just flopped down as if dead, and knew no more of the world.

They held the girl's hand and ran home to Hurşit and they said, "Here, brother, there you are." Hurşit was happy, and he gave each a belt full of gold.

They rode on the horses, but the boy didn't know where to go, because he was new there, and they went around and around, and still they were on the farm and they couldn't get away from it.

They couldn't get far from there until morning, but when it got light they got away. They came to a mountain, but they were very tired, and he said, "Oh, Mah, I am very tired. I am going to sleep. You sit down, and I'll lie on your knees and sleep." The girl sat, and he lay on her knees. Let them be lying there. Let's come back to that dog Karakan.

He opened his eyes, and he saw there was no girl. "Vay!" he said. "Where is the girl?"

They said, "We don't know."

He gave orders to his soldiers, and they all started on their way. As all the soldiers went sıkır sıkır sıkır *on* on the way, Mahi heard the noise and said, "Oh, Hurşit, wake up! Karakan has opened his eyes and is coming after us." The boy got up. The girl said, "You give me a sword, and I'll fight him."

The boy said, "No, I won't let you face him again. You sit down here." Now, they were on top of the hill, and the others were below, and he swung the sword so that it flew and cut Karakan's head off.

Story #287

The soldiers said, "Oh, she is young and he is young. Let the old dog die. Who cares? Let's go back. What if he's dead?" they ate and they drank there, and then they got on their horses and they went on again. They saw a pasture in the distance, and he said, "Let's tie our horses there and sleep." They tied their horses and they hugged each other and lay down buried in the green grass.

What do you know? It seems that place was the little woodland that belonged to the 40 thieves. The head of the thieves looked and saw that there were people sleeping in the green grass. "Go," he said to the other thieves. "See. If it's property, it's yours. If it's people, it's mine."

They went there and they saw two young people hugged to each other, asleep. They caught them, tied them together, put them in the cart, and brought them back. And what did they see but a beautiful young girl and a handsome man, a girl like an angel and the boy like a seraphim. They said, "Oh, this is nice." They took the girl, and they gave the boy to an Arab [Negro] and they said, "Kill him."

The girl kept on crying and kept on crying. She cried, with her eyes like two fountains. They said, "Stop that!" and they made her sit, and they took Hursit away.

Oh, what do you know! It seems this Arab was a slave who had been set free by the padişah. When he put the boy down to kill him he saw his eyes and then he recognized him. He said, "Oh, Hursit, is that you?"

"Yes," he said, "it is." And the Arab set him free.

Story #287

[There is another version saying that the Arab killed him, with the girl on the other hand shouting, "I won't be yours! I won't be anybody's!" She died of grief, and that's how the story ends.]