

Story #565 (1963 Tape #1)

Narrator: Unidentified Turk repatriated from Bulgaria

Location: Pazarören, kaza town near Pınarbaşı, Kayseri Province

Date: 1963

Why the Jew Was the Bravest Man

One of the padişahs of the old times decided to take his military conscripts from the nation whose people were the most courageous. Orders were issued to his artillery to place the guns at a certain position and to fire a volley at a set time. People from many nations had been gathered in a nearby barrack, and the padişah wished to see which of these would fall back on their asses when the guns were fired. As they began to fire the cannons, some of the people climbed out of windows; some fled through doors; and finally there was no one left in the building but a Jew. the padişah entered the barrack, he saw that there was only this Jew there.

"Well, young man, what do you wish from me [i.e., make a wish]?"

"What should I wish for but your good health?"

"But ask for something for yourself from me."

Again the Jew responded, "I wish only your health."

But the padişah insisted for the third time that he ask for something.

"Make your wish so that I may leave!"

"Well, then, give me a vest and underpants so that I can change soiled clothes."