

Story 784 (1970 Tape 15)

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kaza merkezi of
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An Insolent Child Taunts the Padişah and the Vizier

Once the padişah of the time and his vizier rode horseback across the country on a tour of inspection. As they were passing through a village, the padişah felt very thirsty, but they could see no fountain anywhere. The padişah said, "Let us ask for some water at one of these homes."

"Yes, let us do that."

When they saw a small boy in the street, the padişah asked him, "Son, have you any water at your house? We are thirsty. Will you bring us some water to drink?"

"I'll bring you some," the boy said. He went home and said to his mother, "There are two visitors who want some water."

The woman had made a cold drink with pekmez¹ diluted in water. When she glanced out the door and saw that the strangers were well dressed, she decided that she would

¹pekmez is a syrup made of grape juice boiled down until it thickens.

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them some sherbet.²

The sherbet was taken to the two men by the boy. He handed up the drink to the padişah

The padişah accepted the sherbet pitcher, and after he taken a few sips, he said, "Your sherbet is delicious Of what did you make it?" As he asked this question, he passed the pitcher to the vizier, and the vizier started to drink some.

As the vizier was drinking sherbet, the boy answered padişah's question. "We never have any pekmez of our own, but our neighbor often does. Last week a rat fell into that neighbor's pekmez jar and died there, and so she gave it to us. We made this sherbet out of that pekmez

When the vizier heard that, he threw down the sherbet pitcher. It lay smashed on the ground.

When the child saw this, he began to cry and said, you have broken my father's chamber pot!"

²In Turkey sherbet is not the frozen, low-calorie dessert that it is in the U S. Instead, it is a cold fruit drink.