

Story 986 (1966 Dictated)

Narrator: Mrs. Sümer, in 90s,
the grandmother of the
historian Faruk Sümer

Location: Aliçerçi village,
Bozkır kaza, Konya
Province (She was in
Istanbul when tale was
collected.)

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The Cock and the Prince

There was once a ^{vobste ✓}cock that flew over the fence surrounding the palace garden. He began scratching the ground in the garden, looking for food. As he was scratching away, he dug up a gold coin. When he looked up, he saw the son of the padişah looking down upon him from a window of the palace. The cock then sang loudly, "I've found a gold coin! I've found a gold coin! I've found a gold coin!" When there was no response from the young man at the window, the cock sang, "The son of the padişah is afraid of me The son of the padişah is afraid of me The son of the padişah is afraid of me!"

When he heard this, the son of the padişah ordered one of the palace servants, "Go down and take the gold coin away from that cock!"

After the gold coin had been taken from the cock and brought into the palace, the prince held it up and said

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"Here it is! Here it is! Here it is!"

Upon hearing this, the cock responded so loudly that everyone could hear him: "The son of the padişah is so poor that he needs my gold! The son of the padişah is so poor that he needs my gold! The son of the padişah is so poor that he needs my gold!"

The son of the padişah became so angry now that he said to his servant, "Go and cut the throat of that cock and bring him here!"

After his throat had been cut and he had been taken to prince, the cock sang out, "What a sharp knife it was! a sharp knife it was! What a sharp knife it was!"

They cleaned the cock and put it into a pot to be cooked. From the pot, however, came the cock's voice singing loudly, "What a fine bath this is! What a fine bath this is. What a fine bath this is!"

When the cock was cooked, it was placed upon the table and served to the prince in the great hall of the palace. From the platter where it lay, the cock sang out, "What a big barn this is! What a big barn this is. What a big barn this is!"

Barbara Walker: What did the cock mean by saying that the room was a big barn?

Narrator: The cock meant that he was not dead at all

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and that he had come to a barn to eat grain. Calling the great hall of the palace a barn was another of his insulting remarks. 7

They served the cock to the prince, and as he was eating it, the cock sang out after every swallow, "What a narrow street this is What a narrow street this is! What a narrow street this is!"

After it had gone down into the stomach of the son of padişah, the cock called out loudly, "What a nasty-smelling place this is! What a nasty-smelling place this is! What a nasty-smelling place this is!"

Upon hearing this, the prince said, "What a terrible creature this cock is! I must get rid of him!" Going to the toilet, he took with him a servant bearing a loaded gun. When the cock came out, the servant shot at it, but the cock flew away unharmed.