

Story 1046 (1973 Tape 3) Narrator: Muammer Badem

Location: Gümüşhacıköy, kaza  
town of Amasya Province

Date: Summer

The Boy, the (Cat) and the Village of Simpletons

There was once an old woman whose husband had died. She lived with her only child, a son. They were very poor. Every day the woman spun wool into yarn, and then on the following day the son took it to a market in the nearest town and sold it. In this way they earned just barely enough money to stay alive.

One day as the boy was returning from the market, he saw a large crowd gathered. When he went to where the crowd was, he found that they were watching some children stone a cat. The boy shouted, "Stop! Don't hit that cat again. Instead of hitting it, sell it to me."

"All right," said the children. The boy paid the price they asked for the cat, but it took all the money he had received for the yarn. Then, taking the cat, he went home with it.

His mother greeted him when he arrived home. She said, "My son, how did you do at the market today?"

He answered, "Mother, I bought a cat at the market

She said, "A cat? What can we do with a cat? What

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feathers." He flew up into a tree and began pulling out his feathers.

tree asked, "What happened, Brother Bird? Why are you pulling out your feathers?"

"A snake has carried away Brother Louse. In our sadness about this, Brother Flea is pulling out his hair, and I am pulling out my feathers

"Then I shall start shedding my leaves," the tree said, and its leaves began to fall to the ground

A cow came along and saw the leaves falling. It asked, "Brother Tree, what is the matter? Why are you shedding your leaves?"

Sister Cow, a snake has carried off Brother Louse. We are so sad about this that Brother Flea is pulling out his hair, Brother Bird is pulling out his feathers, and I am shedding my leaves."

"Then I shall break off both my horns and stick them in my bottom," said the cow.

When the cow walked past the fountain, the fountain called to it, asking, "Sister Cow, what has happened to make you break off your horns and stick them in your bottom?"

"A snake has carried away Brother Louse. We are all

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boy said, "Its name is Lion."

They said, "Very well. Will you sell this Lion to us? How much money do you want for Lion?"

"I want an amount of gold that weighs as much as the cat does.

people of the house agreed to this and they gave the boy much gold--enough to weigh as much as the cat did. The boy took the gold and left quickly. He started running, for he was afraid that the people might take the money back again. But one member of the family followed him as he left the village and called to him, "Brother, what does the cat eat? What shall we give it to drink?"

Still running, the boy answered hurriedly, "It could eat you! It could eat me too!"

When the man got back to the village, everyone asked him, "What did the boy say? What does the cat eat? What does the cat drink?"

The man replied, "The boy said, 'It could eat you! It could eat me too!' Let us leave this village! Let us save ourselves by moving to some other place!"

Everyone agreed with this, and everyone moved to another village. After they had been settled there for a while, however, they decided one day to visit their former

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village to take another look at the cat which they called a lion. When they arrived there, they saw the cat licking its chops and its nose and looking at them. The cat looked very contented. His expression terrified all the people who saw him. They thought his looks meant, "I can eat you! I can follow you to your new village and eat you there!" Returning home, they all packed their belongings and secretly moved to a third village. And so the story ends here.