

Story 2076 (Transcribed from his field tape by Ahmet Ali Arslan and used later in his unpublished dissertation.)

Narrator: Güneş Öztürk, 40, housewife

Location: Ardahan, capital of Ardahan Province

Date: March 25, 1978

### The Fox and the Old Woman

There was once an old woman who had a cow. Every time that she milked her cow she placed the pail of milk behind a door. After a while a fox observed her doing this. When the old woman was no longer near the milk, the fox sneaked into the house and drank the milk. After this had happened several times, the old woman decided to put an end to that theft. After putting the pail of milk in its usual place behind the door, she took an axe and hid quite close to the door. When the fox crept up cautiously to the door and began to drink the milk, the old woman struck him with her axe, cutting off his bushy tail. In great pain, the fox immediately fled into the forest.

After several days had passed, the fox went to the old woman and said, "Give me back my tail. Let me replace it so that I will be respected among other foxes and perhaps win back some of my former friends. I cannot get

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along without my tail."

The old woman answered, "If you will repay me the amount of milk that you stole from me, I shall return tail to you

The fox went to a cow in that area and said, "Give me some milk."

That second cow responded, "I need a great amount of fresh grass in order to be able to produce milk. Bring me a good quantity of grass."

The fox went to a pasture and said, "Give me a good quantity of your grass. A certain cow will give me some milk for that grass. Then if I give that milk to an old grandmother, she will give me back my tail. And with that tail, I shall again be accepted by my former friends."

The pasture replied, "You must first bring me some water so that I shall be able to grow some grass for you."

The fox then went to a nearby stream and said, "Creek, please give me some water. I want to take it to the pasture so that it can grow for me a good quantity of grass. When

grass is given to a certain cow, the cow will produce some milk for me, and when I take that milk to an old grandmother, she will give me back my tail. Once I have recovered my tail, I shall again be accepted by my former

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friends."

The creek answered, "Go and tell that to the rain. If the rain will pour down and give me a great amount of water, then I shall have enough to spare some for you."

The fox went to the rain and said, "Rain, please pour down into the creek a great amount of water. If you will do that, then the creek will give me some water to take to the pasture. With that water the pasture will grow a good quantity of grass for me. I shall take that grass to a certain cow, which will produce milk for me. When I give that milk to the old grandmother, she will give me back my tail, which I need in order to be accepted again by my former friends."

The rain answered, "Go and ask the wind to blow from the east so that I can send a storm down upon the earth."

The fox next went to the wind and said, "Wind, please blow from the east so that the rain can send a heavy storm down upon the earth. That storm will fill the creek enough so that it can spare some water for me to take to the pasture. The pasture will then grow the good quantity of grass that I must take to a certain cow so that she can produce the milk which I must take to the old grandmother

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to exchange for my lost tail. I need my bushy tail in order to be accepted again by my former friends.

The wind responded, "Go to the dancing girls and ask them to dance for me. When I see them dance, then I shall blow from the east."

Going to those dancers, the fox said, "Girls, please dance in order to make the wind blow from the east and cause the rain to pour down into the creek. The creek will then provide water for the pasture so that it can grow a good quantity of grass which I can take to a certain cow. After the cow has eaten that grass, it will provide me with the milk which the old grandmother has demanded in exchange for my lost tail. I need my bushy tail in order to be accepted again by my former friends."

The girls answered, "We shall dance for the wind if you will bring us some pearls and jewels to wear."

When the fox went to the jewelry shop, he asked for some pearls and jewels to give to the dancing girls. "If I can give pearls and jewels to those girls, they will dance for the pleasure of the wind. The wind will then blow from the east and cause the rain to fall and put much water into the creek. The creek will then be able

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to give the pasture enough water to make it grow a good quantity of grass. I shall then take the grass to a certain cow so that it will be able to produce some milk for me. When I take that milk to the old grandmother, she will give me back my lost tail. I need my bushy tail in order to be accepted again by my former friends."

The jeweler said, "I cannot just give you such expensive things, but if you will bring me a large basket of eggs, I shall exchange some pearls and jewels for those eggs

The fox went to a farm and found a flock of chickens. "Chickens, please give me a large basket of eggs which I can take to the jeweler and exchange for some pearls and jewels. I shall take those pearls and jewels to a group of girls in order to have them dance for the wind. In exchange for that, the wind will blow from the east and cause the rain to fall and fill the creek. The creek will then be able to give the pasture enough water to grow a good quantity of grass, and when that grass is taken to a certain cow, the cow will give me the milk I need to recover my bushy tail from the old grandmother. I need my tail back in order to be accepted again by my

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former friends."

The chickens said, "Go and get a bag of barley for us, and we shall then lay enough eggs to fill a large basket."

The fox went to the farmhouse and pleaded, "Please give me a bag of barley. I am much in need of barley

Amused by the request for barley from a fox, the farmer said, "If you will dance for us, I shall give you a bag of barley."

As the fox was swirling around, he told the farmer about his problem. He spoke about his lost tail and about the fact that he could recover it only by getting some milk for the old grandmother. He told how a certain cow had promised to give him some milk if he would bring it a good quantity of grass. He said that the pasture would grow that grass only if it received some water, but that the creek would not supply any water unless ample rain fell. Then he explained how he had asked the rain to fall and fill the creek to overflowing. The rain had agreed to do that if the wind could be persuaded to blow from the east. He related how he had bargained with the wind, which first wanted to see a certain group of girls

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dance. The girls, he said, would dance only if given pearls and jewels, precious objects for which the jeweler demanded a large basket of eggs. The flock of chickens had agreed to lay the necessary eggs, he said, if he would bring them a bag of barley." After hearing about the fox's many difficulties, the farmer felt sorry for it and gave it a bag of barley

Taking the barley to the chickens, the fox received the eggs. Taking the eggs to the jeweler, he received the pearls and jewels. Taking the pearls and jewels to the girls, he persuaded them to dance. When

wind saw the girls dancing, it blew from the east, causing a shower of rain to fall into the creek. When the creek received so much water, it gave part of it to the pasture, which immediately began growing a good quantity of grass. When the grass had grown and was taken to that certain cow, she gave him the amount of milk required by

old grandmother to return the bushy tail to the fox. Swinging his tail with great pride, the fox returned to fox pack at the edge of the forest.