

The Wife of Hasan Ağa

Hasan Ağa of Maras [a city in south central Anatolia] went to the village of Murat Ağa on the Plain of Antioch in Hatay Province. Murat Ağa had a beautiful daughter with whom Hasan Ağa fell in love immediately when he saw her. Hasan Ağa made up his mind to ask Murat Ağa to give him his daughter in marriage. This request was granted by Murat Ağa.

After the wedding, Hasan Ağa took his wife back to his home town of Maras. He was a wealthy man but he had taken only a small amount of money with him to the village of Murat Ağa, and in order to pay for his share of the wedding ceremonies, he had to borrow money there from a man named Ahmet Ağa.

Several months after this Ahmet Ağa decided to pay a visit to Hasan Ağa in Maras with the view of getting back his money. So he went to Maras. When he arrived there, he was told by Hasan Ağa's grooms that Hasan Ağa had gone to Antioch. Hasan Ağa's wife asked the grooms who the stranger was, and they told her that he was a certain Ahmet Ağa, a friend of her husband. She ordered the grooms to go and tell Ahmet Ağa to dismount from his horse and stay as a guest until her husband returned from Antioch.

Hasan Ağa's wife and Ahmet Ağa ate a meal together, and after they had finished eating, two beds were made up on the floor of the room, one for Ahmet Ağa and one for Hasan Ağa's wife. Then they went to bed, each in his own bed. Soon, however, the devil began to tickle Ahmet Ağa. He made up his mind to crawl over to the woman's bed to ask her to let him make love to her. The woman, without showing any sign of anger, said sternly to

Ahmet Ağa, "Sir, go straight back to your own bed." Ahmet Ağa obeyed her command and went back to his own bed

In his own bed Ahmet Ağa said to himself, "Did this woman insult you? Did she say anything bad to you? Well, then, why didn't you make love to her?" Arguing with himself in this way, and still tickled by the devil, Ahmet Ağa decided to make another attempt, and so he crawled to the side of his hostess' bed once more. He said, "May I please have the pleasure of making love to you?"

To this the woman said again, "Please, sir, go straight back to your own bed.

When Ahmet Ağa went back to his own bed, the devil argued with him again, saying, "Well, why did you return? She didn't insult you or say anything bad to you. Why don't you go back and ask her again? I think that she is willing. Otherwise, she would have reacted more strongly to your request." Ahmet Ağa was now quite restless, and he decided to go back and repeat his request to his hostess. Ahmet Ağa had a pistol in his belt. He took this out and said to the woman, "You either let me make love to you or take this pistol and shoot me."

This woman, whose name was Meriç Hatun, called her husband's grooms and told them to tie Ahmet Ağa hand and foot and put him in a room in one of the outhouses

In the morning Ahmet Ağa was released and he came back to the house. And not long after that Hasan Ağa returned from Antioch, and when he saw Ahmet Ağa, he ran up to him, kissed him on both cheeks, and said, "Oh, my dear friend, Ahmet Ağa, where have you been all this time? What winds have blown you this way? Have you been on the ground or in the sky? I am so happy to see you again."

But Ahmet Ağa was rather sad and somewhat sullen, and Hasan Ağa wondered about this. He turned to his wife and asked, "What's the matter? Didn't you look after our dear guest, Ahmet Ağa?"

Meriș Hatun replied, "I did indeed look after him, all right, and there was only one thing that I didn't do for him. I had a (sheep) killed for him. I fed him well. But I refused him just one thing

Hasan Ağa said, "Why on earth didn't you give him that? You stupid woman.

"Well, he wanted me to let him make love to me," replied Meriș Hatun, "and I refused."

To this Hasan Ağa said, "Oh, that's what it is." And then, turning to Ahmet Ağa, he said, "Don't feel bad about this, my dear Ahmet Ağa. She is such an obstinate woman that, believe me, she doesn't even let me make love to her unless she is in the right mood, let alone you!"