

Story 1045 (1973 Tape 3) Narrator: Unidentified woman

Location: Gümüşhacıköy, a kaza
town in Amasya Province

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The Girl Who Fled Her Father and Married the Hunter¹

There was once a family that consisted of a father, mother, and a daughter. One day the mother became seriously ill. Before she died, she said to her husband, "After I have died, you will marry only a woman who can wear my shoes."

Some time after the death of his wife, this man decided to marry again. He took his first wife's shoes everywhere looking for a single woman whom they would fit. No matter how much he searched, he was unable to find such a woman anywhere. After he returned home, he set the shoes aside and went on with his usual work.

One day his daughter put on these shoes. They fitted her feet exactly. When her father saw this, he was pleasantly surprised. He said, "My daughter, I shall marry you, for these shoes fit you perfectly"

The girl said, "Oh, no, no, my father! I cannot be married to you! Have you gone mad?"

¹This tale is an inept melange of motif clusters from several major folktale types. It draws most heavily from the Frog Maiden type and the Cap o' Rushes type. A good ATON variant of the former is Tale No. 65 and a good ATON variant of the latter is Tale No. 117.

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father took this matter to a hoca² and asked him, "Is it permissible for me to marry my daughter, the young tree which I raised?"

"Of course!" said the hoca. "You raised her, and she is yours."³

Returning home, the father said, "My daughter, I have asked the hoca about our situation. He said that there was no reason why we should not get married.

Again the girl said, "No, my father It is impossible You are my father, and I am your daughter."

But the man intended to force his daughter into marriage. He made preparations for the wedding. Among other things, he bought gold jewelry and pearls for her.

evening the girl said, "My father, I want to go outside for a little while."

"You intend to escape, don't you?"

She answered, "No, my father, I shall not escape. You can tie a rope around my waist and hold the other end until I return."

father tied a rope around her, and the girl went

²A Moslem preacher, similar to a priest

³Despite the fact that a hoca within the tale approves this kind of relationship, incest is not acceptable to Islam.

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outside. After she was alone, however, she unfastened the rope and tied the end to an ibrik⁴ that was filled with water and thus heavy. She then fled from home. She walked and walked until she reached Arafat Mountain.⁵ There she saw a number of men who were cutting cloth and making kaftans⁶ from it. She asked, "Can you make a kaftan for

She bought a kaftan which covered her completely from the top of her head to the sole of her feet. Putting on over her other clothes, she continued walking.

She walked and walked until she came to a vineyard. There she stopped to rest, and to protect herself, she climbed up into a tree and sat on a branch. While she was there, two hunters came along and saw something in the tree. One of these hunters said, "I have found my prey, and I shall now shoot it."

⁴A large metal or ceramic water pitcher with a long curved spout. It is used for pouring water over the hands of one wishing to cleanse his/her hands.

⁵Arafat Mountain is just outside of the holy city of Mecca. This place name seems to be no more than a reckless pot-shot by the narrator, for there is nothing else in the tale to suggest such a site.

⁶A kaftan is a ceremonial robe, often quite decorated --a most inappropriate garment to use as a disguise. In Turkish tales girls wishing to disguise their sex more often cover themselves with sheepskins--which would constitute an appropriate wrap here.

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The other hunter said, "No, don't do that. Let us take this creature home with us."

Because it was completely covered with the kaftan, they did not know what this creature was, but they took it home with them and placed it in an empty shed. From time to time they took food for it and left that food inside the shed door.

The two young men continued their hunting every day as usual, but one day when they returned home, they found that everything in their house had been cleaned and that a good dinner had been prepared. It was all ready for them to eat. They were puzzled by this, especially when it continued to happen day after day. Finally one of them said, "I shall remain here today and see what happens. Shortly after the other hunter had left, there entered the house a very beautiful girl. She cleaned the house, cooked the food, and left, but the young man had fallen in love with her the moment he saw her. Afterwards, he told everybody what had happened, and he said to his mother "I shall get married to this girl. She is very beautiful " His mother did not approve of this.

One day when she was mixing dough for bread, the young girl took a ring off her finger and dropped it into the

I have cut it right

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dough. Later, when the young man was eating the bread he found the ring and knew at once that it belonged to the girl. He went to his parents and said again, "I am going to marry that girl

They said, "You are the son of an aga.⁷ You should not marry such a girl as that.

But he insisted, "I shall marry that girl!"

Shortly after that they were married, but the boy's parents continued to be worried about their relationship. They feared the girl their son had married was not really a human being at all.⁸ After the wedding was completed and the boy and girl had gone to the nuptial chamber, the boy's parents went and stood outside the door of that room. Both parents kept thinking, "It isn't a human being that our son has married. Perhaps it will kill him.

Removal of the kaftan revealed a very beautiful girl. The young man gathered up the kaftan and threw it into

⁷An aga is a rural landowner, often wealthy, sometimes powerful. Although not an aristocrat, he is almost always a prominent person.

⁸This is a reflection of the Frog Maiden or Swan Maiden tale from which this confused tale borrows heavily.

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flames burning in the fireplace.⁹ The girl exclaimed, "What did you do?"

When the parents heard this sound, they decided that their son must be dying. They immediately smashed in the door and rushed into the room. To their surprise saw with their son a very beautiful girl. They were so pleased that they gave a second wedding celebration for their son and daughter-in-law. It was a wedding celebration that lasted for forty days and forty nights. In this way they all had their wishes fulfilled.

⁹In the Frog Maiden or Swan Maiden story the girl remains human as long as she does not again put on her covering from the other world--her feathers or fish skin. In order to prevent her from ever returning to the other world, her covering is burned or otherwise destroyed. The kaftan is just an ordinary man-made garment, but being the wrapping that she came in, it is treated like supernatural garb.