

Story #216 (Tape #6, Summer 1970)

Narrator: Kara Yakup, 58, carpenter

Location: Yukarı Kise Köy
Güvem nahiye
Kızılcahamam kaza
Ankara vilayet

Date: July 1970

The Girl from the Stone and the Eyvah Mountain

Two men once went to Istanbul. They had planned to go together and then return to their village together. After earning some money there, they started toward home. They reached a fountain by the roadside where there was a stone that looked like a chest. They agreed that whichever had more money should own the stone. They took out all their money, and the one who had more than the other took the stone and the other took the money. The man with the money returned to his village, while the man with the stone returned to Istanbul and came to the cottage there where he had formerly stayed. He put the stone in his room and said, "Let me go to the docks and see if I can earn a few kurus."

His neighbors there said, "We thought you had gone to your village. Why did you come back?"

He told them what had happened. He went out and bought some vegetables but when he got back, two hours later, he found that the house was swept and food was cooked. He was greatly surprised, for he could not understand how it all happened. This went on for five days. One day he shut the door and hid himself in the house. He saw the stone split into two and a girl as beautiful ^{yo} ~~as the fourteenth day of the moon~~ come out of it. He grabbed the girl by the wrist and asked her, "Are you man or jinn?" ^{ko}

The girl answered, "Neither man nor jinn, but the child of a mortal person, just as you are."

They lived together three or five months. Finally she asked, "Have you not parents? Would you not like to send me to them?"

"Yes, I have.

He shipped the stone to his mother's house. The postman brought the stone and delivered it to the old woman, who lived in a very dirty house. Whenever the old woman would go out, the house would be cleaned and food would be cooked. The old woman was amazed at this. One day she hid behind the door to find out what happened in the house. She saw the stone split into two. A girl came out and started to clean the house. She grabbed the girl by the wrist.

"My girl, are you man or jinn?"

The girl answered, "I am neither man nor jinn, but the servant of your son and your daughter-in-law. Is there not any work for me to do?"

"I am a poor woman. What job can I give you?"

"Buy me a metre-long cloth and thread and I shall do some embroidery.

When the embroidery was ready, the old woman took it to market to sell. It was so beautiful that no one could afford to buy it. Finally a Circassian asked the woman, "Why are you wandering about?"

"I am trying to sell this piece of embroidery.

He looked and saw it was something very beautiful. He took it from the hand of the old woman and paid a large sum of money for it.

When the old woman returned home, the girl asked for more cloth and thread and she made another piece of embroidery. The old woman again went to market to sell it. The same man bought it, and again she got a large amount of money for it. He realized that there was someone very skilled making such embroidery.

When she returned, the girl said, "Mother, we have much money now. Write a letter to your son and ask him to come home

She wrote a letter to her son for her and said to the old woman, "Take this letter to the post office yourself and mail it."

She met the Circassian on the road to the post office. The man asked, "Sister, where are you going?"

"To mail a letter."

"Let me mail it for you."

"No, you cannot. I will mail it with my own hand."

But finally the man took the letter from her to mail. His intention was to discover who was making the embroidery.

When she returned home, the girl asked the old woman, "Did you mail the letter?"

The old woman said, "The same man who bought the embroidery took the letter to mail it."

"Oh," the girl said, "you made a mistake. From now on, you cannot be so certain of your future."

That man who had the letter opened it and changed its contents. He sent a letter to the son and said, "Son, you sent a whore here and all the young men of the town are after her."

The Circassian rode from there and started watching the girl. When she went outside the house, he then kidnapped her.

When the old woman discovered that the girl was gone, she was greatly upset. She explained to her son, when he returned, that she had gotten along very well with the girl.

When the son realized what had happened, he said, "Eyvah!" and disappeared.

Let us go now to the other place, where the Circassian was. He wished to make love to the girl and said he would marry her.

"You will have to gather all your nation. Then we shall have our wedding,"

the girl said. When all the people had gathered, she jumped into the sea, shouting, "Ya Allah!"

The Circassian was so surprised at this that he said, "Eyvah!", and he also flew away to the Eyvah Mountain

The girl swam until she reached a different territory. There a gendarme saw the girl and wanted to take advantage of her. The girl said, "Let me ride a little, and then you can do as you wish to me." As soon as she had mounted the horse, she rode away to another land. The gendarme said, "Eyvah!" and he also flew to the Eyvah Mountain.

The girl put on shepherd's ^{clothes} and became a shepherd. One day she was in a city where a padişah was to be elected by setting loose a bird. Whichever person on whose head the bird alighted would become the padişah. The bird came and landed on the shepherd's head. *Bird alighted
on the bird*

"Oh, the mad bird was confused," the people said. They tried again, and the bird landed on his head again. Again the people said it was mistaken. They tried it a third time, and the bird still landed on the shepherd's head

"Apparently he deserves to be made padişah," they said, and so he was made padişah

There was a good source of water in Eyvah Mountain. The new padişah had this water brought to the city. He had a fountain built and near it a statue erected, behind glass, by the trunk of a tree near the fountain, and had "his" picture pasted on it. He placed two watchmen to guard it, giving them instructions, "Whoever comes to look at it and says, 'Eyvah!' should be arrested."

Fifteen or twenty days passed. Then the young man who was the girl's husband came, washed his face, drank water, tilting his head back, and suddenly saw the girl's picture. He said, "Eyvah!"

The guards arrested him at once and locked him in a room.

[Ahmet Uysal: Is it the first man who had the girl who comes now?"]

Narrator: This was the first man.

Then the Circassian came and drank water. When he saw the picture of the girl, he also said, "Eyvah!" The guards arrested him, too.

Three or five days later the (gendarme) came, washed his hands and face, drank water, and when he saw the girl's picture, he too said, "Eyvah!" and he also was arrested.

The padişah then had all three of them brought before him to be questioned. He first questioned the first young man. "Why did you say, 'Eyvah'?"

"Your majesty, m . . . , m . . . , m . . . [stammering]."

"No, you must tell the truth," the padişah insisted.

"Your majesty, I had a wife and she looked like this picture. That is why I said, 'Eyvah

The padişah asked, "Would you recognize your wife if you saw her? What did she look like?"

The young man was too shy to describe her, but finally he said, "She looked like you.

When he said this, the padişah removed "his" outer garments and said, "It is I." He put on "his" clothes again, and said, "It is I

Then he called the second prisoner and said, "Why did you say 'Eyvah'?"

At first he feared to tell the truth. "There was a woman who threw herself into the sea and put me to shame before my people, and this picture looked like her. That is why I said, 'Eyvah.'"

The padişah said, "All right. Take him over there."

Then the (gendarme) was brought in. "Why did you say, 'Eyvah'?"

"Well, a girl deceived me. She mounted my horse and ran away. The picture looked like her. That is why I said, 'Eyvah.'"

She said to the first [her husband], "You are now the padişah." She said to the gendarme, "You are the vizier." She had the other man ~~executed~~.

In this way, the husband and wife were reunited.