

Narrator: Ibrahim Gürsoy

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The Girl Created by Four Friends

Once there was and once there wasn't, four friends set out on a business trip together. One was a carpenter, another was a silversmith, the third was a tailor, and the fourth was a dervish. They were in a forest, and they thought it was safe to sleep out there. Therefore, they decided to keep watch, taking turns. First they asked the carpenter to stand guard.

To pass the time while he was on guard duty, the carpenter started hewing a tree with his adze and saw, and after some time he made it into the form of a human being and erected it on the ground. Then he turned over the watch duty to the tailor and went to bed.

When the tailor looked, he saw something shadowy standing there, and when he got closer he saw it was a statue. He said, "Oh, our friend showed something of his skill. I might as well show some of mine." The tailor dressed the statue to look like a woman. He turned over the watch duty to the silversmith and then returned and went to bed.

When the silversmith looked, he saw that there was a woman there. He said, "Oh, our friends have shown their skill."

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I might as well show mine. He then made bracelets, a necklace, and rings for the figure. He went and awakened the dervish and asked him to take up his watch duty

When the dervish looked, he saw something in the dark and he thought it might be a thief. When he got closer, he realized it was a wooden statue dressed and decorated like a woman.

"Oh, they showed their own arts. My art is knowledge. I'll recite a prayer and blow at it, and beg God to give it life." He recited a prayer, blew at it, and the statue came alive.

In the morning, the four friends disputed among themselves as to who should possess her. The carpenter said, "I am the one who laid her foundation. She is mine."

The tailor said, "But what you made was a wooden statue. It wouldn't have been a woman unless I had clothed her, so she is mine."

The silversmith said, "Yes, one of you made her of wood and one of you clothed her like a woman, but she would never have been really like a woman if I hadn't decorated her with gold and silver jewelry."

Then the dervish said, "You have done all those things, but your skills were limited to craftsmanship. It was through my prayers that God gave it life, so she belongs to me."

Failing to agree among themselves, they ended up in court. When the judge saw the woman in the court, he thought, "Oh, the woman I have searched for has finally arrived." The judge said, "This woman used to be my maid. She robbed me and ran away. Now she has returned and fallen into a trap."

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But the problem as to whose the woman was could not be solved. They finally agreed to take her to the cemetery. They leaned her against a tree in the cemetery. The dervish prayed while the others said, "Amen!" Right then, the tree split and the woman was received by the tree.

They said, "Oh, her origin was a tree, and now she has rejoined that world."