

Story #219 (Tape #6, Summer 1970)

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Chastity Wager on Unfaithful Wife

A wife said to her husband, "Man, go and sell these dogs at Túrbaşaran,* the dappled one at sixty liras and the black one at seventy liras."

The husband took the white and black dogs and started for the market. On the way, he met a large caravan. The caravan driver asked him, "Where are you going, sir?"

"I am going to sell these dogs at Túrbaşaran."

"Your wife is a bitch."

"No, she cannot be," the man said. "My wife is not a bitch."

"Well, suppose I prove it to you before your eyes. What would you me?"

"I shall serve you a year in return for it."

"All right, then. I shall feed you a year."

The caravan driver unloaded his load of cloth and wrapped the man in a of cloth, hiding him inside. Then he took the roll on his shoulder, along with a few other rolls of cloth. He then went to a village, crying, "Will you not buy cloth? Will you not buy cloth?" They finally reached the

*Is Túrbaşaran a real place or a play on words? Başar means success, and Başarmak, to succeed. İş başarın means to achieve something. What does Túrbaşaran mean?

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house of the man, through his direction, for his eyes could see through the roll of cloth. "There is my house

The merchant said to his wife, "Sister, will you not buy some cloth?

"I shall buy if you know the meaning of the following verse:

Dappled dog at sixty liras;

Black dog at seventy liras.

I sent my man to Türbaşaran.

is a woman here who does it well."

(The woman wanted to trade herself for some cloth [the narrator explained].)

To this the merchant replied,

is a hole in the cloth,

And the eye sees through it.

If I let him loose,

Hell will also break loose.

The merchant unrolled the cloth before the lewd woman. The man dismissed his wife, sold his house, and went to serve the merchant, as he had promised, for a year.