

Story 2157 (1999 Tape 6)

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Dreaming for Baklava<sup>1</sup>

There were once three friends who went on a journey together. They all talked pleasantly with each other as they traveled. When they came to a village one evening, they were accepted as guests for the night by a man who owned a large and comfortable house.

The host was very hospitable to them in every way. When dinnertime arrived, the host invited them to sit down at a table loaded with several kinds of tasty food. The three friends ate and drank and ate again. To conclude the meal, the host had a servant bring in a tray of baklava. The guests had already eaten too much, for they had no idea that baklava was to come later. They were so full that they could not eat any of the baklava right then. The baklava was therefore left on the table.

When it came time to retire, the three guests could not take their eyes off the dessert. Two of the guests

<sup>1</sup>Baklava is a very popular pastry in Turkey. It is made of many layers of very thin dough known as filo or phylo. After the dough has been baked, honey is poured into the bottom of the baking pan. Wicking action carries the honey upward through the pastry.

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fancied themselves to be among the most clever people in the world, and they considered the third friend to be rather simpleminded and even foolish. The two clever friends made an agreement for the disposal of the baklava. They said to the third man, "Whoever dreams most deeply tonight will eat the baklava in the morning." The third man accepted that proposal, but as he went to bed, he had a feeling that something strange was going on.

After the three guests had arisen the next morning, one of the clever fellows said, "Now each of us should tell what he dreamed last night. I dreamed that strangers came here, got me, and took me up into the sky."

The other clever fellow said, "I dreamed that some people came here, got me, and took me to a place deep in the earth."

It was then the turn of the third man to describe his dream. That foolish one said, "I dreamed that one of you had been carried to heaven and the other had been carried to hell. It seemed to me very unlikely that you could ever return from those places, and so I ate the baklava."