

Story #44 (Tape #27 & 17)  
1961-1962

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#44

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The Widow's Unruly Son -- of widow

Widow -- son of

Once there was a good sultan who tried to help his people. On the anniversary of his coming to the throne, he had built a fountain with two pipes, from one of which flowed honey and from the other cream. poor people -- fed by sultan's honey-and-cream fountain cream and All the poor people of the land came there to fill bottles with this honey -- flow honey and cream. Among them was a widow who brought along with her to from two the fountain her unruly son. She filled her bottles, expecting to have pipes of fountain food from the contents for several days, but the son carelessly broke bottle -- broken by stone thrown in mischief one of her bottles while throwing stones. The woman was so anger with honey and cream her child Curse -- on son -- by mother! that she cursed him, saying, "May you fall in love with a girl who is above you, and may your love for her be a torture to you."<sup>1</sup>

The curse had its effect quite soon, for shortly after that the daughter -- youngest -- of sultan boy fell in love with the youngest daughter of the sultan. He saw her one day when she was out walking with her sisters, and so deeply did he fall in love with her that he could hardly sleep at night. "Rather than stay here and undergo such suffering for something I cannot have, I had better go to a strange land and try to forget," the young man said to himself. Exile -- self-imposed -- because of hopeless love for daughter of sultan

He left his home, and after a long journey on foot, he came to a castle -- at center of desert -- desert, in the middle of which he saw a castle. He was very hungry and he wanted to enter the castle in hope that he would be given food inside, but though he walked around the castle several times, he could find no door (gate) -- absent from castle walls gate (door) -- absent from castle walls gate or door in its walls. He picked up a few scraps of bread which had been thrown out, ate these, and then, tired from his trip, lay down

<sup>1</sup> Parental curses are always effective in Turkish folk tales; others are usually effective.

forty fairies -- beautiful  
fairies -- forty -- beautiful

and fell asleep. While he slept forty beautiful fairies came and stood around him, speaking softly to each other lest they should waken him.

When the young man had slept enough, he opened one of his eyes, looked about, and saw the forty fairies, <sup>Beauty -- formulaic description for:</sup> each more beautiful than all the others.<sup>2</sup>

Taking him up in their arms, the forty fairies carried him into the <sup>Hero -- carried by fairies -- over gateless wall of castle</sup> palace by flying over the walls. They all wanted this young man and

they were unable to share him, shouting at each other, "He is mine!

He is mine!" They served him in every way and tried to make him happy,

but the young man was never at ease among them. They were not human

beings, and, furthermore, his mind was completely occupied with thoughts

of the youngest daughter of the sultan. He decided to explain his trou-

ble to the fairy girls.

"I have fallen in love with the daughter of a sultan," he told them.

"She is a girl whom I cannot possibly possess by myself. You are fairy girls and capable of many things. Will you show me a way of attaining her?"

When the fairy girls heard the young man complain in this way, they

had great pity for him. They took him to the stable of their castle

and they told him to choose the horse that he liked best there. "You <sup>Magic horse -- anticipates</sup>

do not have to feed or water this horse," they told him. "It will take <sup>owner's commands</sup>

you wherever you wish to go without your even giving it orders, for it <sup>-- by reading his mind</sup>

will read your thoughts. Whenever you leave it, always remember to take

three hairs from its tail. Then when you are in trouble, place the <sup>Horse -- magic</sup>

three hairs in some tinder, strike fire into it with your flint and steel, <sup>same as above</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Although illogical, this comparison is used frequently in Turkish folk tales.

<sup>3</sup> Many Turkish peasants still use flint and steel to start fires, even though matches are very inexpensive.

Three hairs -- from tail of magic horse -- to be burned to summon supernatural assistance

Hairs -- three -- same as above

Magic horse -- requires no feeding or watering

House -- magic  
same as above

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and when you burn the hairs, the horse will come at once and take you where you wish to go."

Very grateful to the fairy girls, the young man mounted the horse he had chosen and flew away on its back. He flew to the garden of the palace in his own <sup>town</sup> ~~town~~ and landed there. Dismounting, he took off the beautiful clothes which the fairy girls had given him, put them in his saddle bags, and put on his old clothes again. He took three hairs from the horse's tail and told it to go. The horse flew up into the air and disappeared. When the young man saw the chief <sup>-- chief</sup> gardener, he asked him for a job. "I don't want anything from you except food," he said. "Just let me be your apprentice." <sup>Apprentice -- to gardener</sup>

Every Friday<sup>4</sup> the young man used to burn the three hairs from the horse's tail, put on his fairy clothes, mount the horse, and go for a ride. One Friday when he was out riding, he came to a field where the <sup>Here -- on</sup> sultan's forces were engaged in battle with their <sup>magic horse -- aid</sup> enemies. He joined the <sup>Sultan's army</sup> battle on the sultan's side and showed great bravery. The daughters of the sultan were watching the battle from a distance, and the youngest daughter, with whom he was already in love, fell in love with this <sup>the</sup> unknown young man. After the battle had continued for several days, the <sup>bandaged by</sup> young man was wounded while helping the sultan's troops, and the sultan <sup>sultan with</sup> himself tied up his wound with his own handkerchief. After the battle <sup>Sultan's own handkerchief</sup> was over and the sultan's forces had won, the young man flew back to the <sup>where -- of her --</sup> garden, changed back into his old clothes, took three hairs from the <sup>same as above</sup> horse's tail, and let the horse go. He worked again as an apprentice to the chief gardener.

The daughters of the sultan now felt that the time had come for them to get married. To suggest this discreetly to their father, they

<sup>4</sup>Until recently Friday was the sabbath day in Turkey, when all work ceased. Now it is Sunday.



Story #44 Symbolic language -- three melons -- in different stages of ripeness -- 4  
 to represent three daughters -- and their readiness for marriage  
 put three melons on a tray and sent them to him. One of the melons was  
 overripe, representing the oldest daughter; one was perfectly ripe,  
 representing the middle daughter; and the third was still green, repre-  
 senting the youngest daughter.<sup>5</sup> Understanding the significance of these Daughters -- of  
 melons, the sultan ordered all the young men in the city to parade before sultan -- select  
 the palace so that his daughters might pick their future husbands. The husband by hitting  
 girls were to throw balls at the men they wished. The oldest daughter with ball -- man  
 liked the son of the Grand Vezir and threw her ball at him. The middle of realm, passing  
 daughter chose the son of another vezir. As for the youngest daughter, before palace in  
keloglan -- disguise parade  
 she did not throw her ball at any man, although they had all passed  
 under the windows of the palace. They searched all over the city for Sultan -- daughters  
 the young man whom she might like to marry, but they couldn't find any- of -- same  
 one who pleased her. Finally, she saw the chief gardener's apprentice, as above  
 dressed like a keloglan, in the crowd, and she threw her ball at him as  
 he passed under the palace window.

The sultan was shocked at first with his youngest daughter's choice.  
 "Of all the young men in this city, why did she have to choose him?" he  
 asked. Not satisfied with her choice, he made her throw her ball again,  
 and again she threw it at the same boy. After this had happened several  
 times, the sultan finally accepted her choice. Wanting to see what sort  
 of a young man his future son-in-law was, the sultan had him called into  
 his presence. When the young man came to the palace dressed as a kelo-

the sultan asked him, "What is it about you that attracts my daugh-

The young man answered, "If you will give me a little time, I can  
 explain to you what sort of a person I am." He took from his pocket the

<sup>5</sup>This is a common motif in Turkish folk tales.

Melons -- in different stages of ripeness -- to represent three daughters  
 and their readiness for marriage

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three hairs, struck flint against steel, and burned the hairs. The horse reappeared at once. He exchanged his old clothes for the fairy suit in the saddlebag and mounted his horse, and then the sultan immediately saw that this was the same young man who had helped his forces several times in his recent battle. As a result, the wedding of the youngest daughter took place along with those of her two elder sisters, and they all lived happily after that.

Sultan three daughters of -- a married in same  
wedding ceremony

Daughters three -- of sultan -- (Same as above)

Three daughters -- of sultan -- (Same as above)