

Story 1336 (1987 Tape 2)

Narrator: Kezban Dağdelen

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Ankara Province

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The Son of the Padişah and the Gypsy ALL

Once there was and once there was not a padişah who had one son. The son began preparing one day to go into military service in order to do his duty in a war which was going on at the time. In those days when one went on a military campaign, one took with him a small tent, all of his necessary clothing, candlesticks, and a supply of candles.

The prince passed through a neighboring country on his way to the war. One day as he was on the edge of a town in that country, he felt very tired and so he decided to rest for a while. He pitched his tent in a field there. He then lighted a candle in one of his candlesticks, lay down on his blankets and fell asleep

The place where he had pitched his tent was just across the way from the palace of the padişah of that land. This padişah had a daughter who had never in all of her life been outside the palace. When she looked out of a window on that day, she saw a pearl-studded tent, and inside that tent she could see a tall candle burning and a young man sleeping. She passed through the palace gate for the first time and walked over to the tent. There she made some noises in an effort

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awaken the young man, but he did not stir from his sleep. Then she picked up a handful of snow and squeezed it over his head until ice-cold water dripped on his face, awakening him. When he opened his eyes, he saw a beautiful young girl standing beside him. The girl sat down, and they talked for a while. Then the prince said, "Why don't you spend the night here with me?"

After midnight the prince woke up and realized that he was supposed to be on his way to the battlefront and not lingering there. Wishing to escape from the girl, he left of his equipment in the tent and fled. In the morning some traveling gypsies came along and saw the elegant pearl-studded tent. When they reached the tent, the girl said to the gypsy leader, "If you will trade clothes with me, I shall give you this expensive tent and everything that is in it." The gypsy accepted that bargain gladly, and after they had exchanged clothes, the girl set off hurriedly in the direction she knew the prince was to go.

When the girl, disguised as a gypsy boy, caught up with the prince, she said, "May you have a safe journey!"

"Thank you," replied the prince

"Where are you going?" asked the girl

"I am going to the war to do my military duty." As he was walking along, however, he was crying about the girl he had left

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behind in his tent. "Where did you just come from?"

"From an empty field that lay near the palace of our padişah," said the girl, and then she sang:

I saw a pearl-studded tent pitched there.
Rolled up inside was a shirt made of hair.
A golden candlestick with candle all aglow;
A silver candlestick with candle burning low.
Whether the one inside was girl or bride,
"Ah-h-h, ah-h-h, ah-h-h!" she sobbed and cried.

"Why don't you go along with me to the war? After it is finished, I shall take you back to my own country with me."

"Very well," said the gypsy--who was really a girl, of course.

After the two had walked some distance farther, the prince asked again, "My gypsy, where did you say you had just come from when we met?"

"From an empty field that lay near the palace of the padişah of our land." Then she added, singing:

I saw a pearl-studded tent pitched there.
Rolled up inside was a shirt made of hair.
A golden candlestick with candle all aglow;
A silver candlestick with candle burning low.
Whether the one inside was girl or bride,
"Ah-h-h, ah-h-h, ah-h-h!" she sobbed and cried.

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They both fought in the military campaign for two years, and then the war ended. "Let us now go to my home," said the son of the padişah.

right," answered the gypsy.

When they finally reached the palace of the padişah, the prince--even before he had greeted his parents--asked the gypsy, "Where was it you said you had just come from when we first met?"

The gypsy said, "From an empty field that lay near the palace of the padişah of that land." Then the girl, still pretending to be a gypsy boy, sang:

I saw a pearl-studded tent pitched there.

Rolled up inside was a shirt made of hair.

A golden candlestick with candle all aglow;

A silver candlestick with candle burning low.

Whether the one inside was girl or bride,

"Ah-h-h, ah-h-h, ah-h-h!" she sobbed and cried.

This time after hearing these lines, the prince fell to the floor in a dead faint. "What is the matter? What is wrong with him?" the people in the palace asked. Upon hearing of this, the padişah decided that his son needed to be married and ordered that a suitable girl be found to become his wife. At first he rejected the suggestion that he be married, but

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when his parents insisted on this, he finally agreed to wed the girl who had been selected for him, even though he did not like her at all.

A long wedding celebration was started, and it continued for many days. When it came time for the guests to give the couple presents, the bridegroom stood in the center of the crowd with a small child beside him. Everyone greeted the bridegroom by placing a gift in the basket before him and then hanging on his neck. While all of this was going on, the prince saw the gypsy in the crowd, and he could not help asking the gypsy again, "Where did you say you had come from when we first met along the road?"

The gypsy repeated what he had said each time this question had been asked before: "From an empty field that lay near the palace of the padişah of that land." Then the girl dressed in gypsy clothes sang:

I saw a pearl-studded tent pitched there
Rolled up inside was a shirt made of hair.
A golden candlestick with candle all aglow;
A silver candlestick with candle burning low
Whether the one inside was girl or bride,
"Ah-h-h, ah-h-h, ah-h-h!" she sobbed and cried
When the bridegroom heard these lines, he grew dizzy

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fell to the ground crying. They took him back to the palace. There, after a short while, the bride was brought to him, and a hoca¹ performed the final marriage ceremony.

When it was time for the bridegroom to enter the nuptial chamber, he said that he would do so only if the gypsy could go with him. This seemed like a foolish idea to the people in the wedding party, but the prince insisted upon it. The gypsy was then told, "Go ahead in with him but stay there just a minutes and then come back out."

"All right," said the gypsy.

When the prince saw the gypsy entering the nuptial chamber, he said, "My gypsy, tell me one more time where you were coming from when you met me along the road."

"I came from an empty field that lay near the palace of the padişah of that land." Then the girl dressed in gypsy clothing sang:

I saw a pearl-studded tent pitched there.

Rolled up inside was a shirt made of hair

A golden candlestick with candle all aglow;

A silver candlestick with candle burning low.

Whether the one inside was girl or bride,

"Ah-h-h, ah-h-h, ah-h-h!" she sobbed and cried.

While the girl was singing these lines, she was also re-

¹A hoca is a preacher and religious leader of a community In the Ottoman period, when most education was in the hands of

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moving the gypsy clothes which she wore on top of her female clothes. When she stood before the prince wearing only her female clothes, he recognized her at once, and the two at once embraced. The bridal gown was transferred to this girl who followed the prince throughout the war and ever since then two were married and lived happily after that.

the clergy, the hoca was both preacher and teacher. After the coming of the Republic, teachers and professors were secular, not religious, but the practice of calling a teacher hoca lingered on and exists, to a lesser degree, even to the present day.