

Story 740 (1976 Tape 12)

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Location: Savalı Büyük Ova
village, Kaman kaza
Kırşehir Province

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The Good Friend and the Demons *MM*

One day two friends set out together on a journey. The one man was a good friend, and the other was a bad friend. After they had walked for some distance, the good friend said, "I am hungry. Let us sit down and eat some of our food."

The bad friend said, "All right, but let us not open up both our food packets. Let us eat your food first and save mine for later."

"All right," said the good friend, and the two of them hungrily devoured the contents of his food packet

After eating, the two friends continued on their journey together. Some time later, the good friend grew hungry again. He said, "Come, my friend; let us eat some of your food now."

"No!" said the bad friend, "not now."

After walking a way farther, the good friend said, "My friend, we are so hungry that we are almost ready to faint. Please give me some food."

The bad friend said, "If you will give me one of your

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eyes, I shall give you some food." Close to collapsing, the good friend gave him one of his eyes for some food. After a while he was again hungry, and again he had to give his friend his other eye for more food. Because the good friend was completely blind now, the other man just left him alongside the road beneath a plane tree.

When night came, the good friend climbed up into the tree for safety. While he was there, a group of demons and other supernatural creatures met beneath that tree. They talked and gossiped about many different things. One of them said, "There is a village right over there whose well has gone dry. The lack of water has almost completely ruined that village, but on the side of yonder mountain there is plenty of water which could easily be piped over to that village."

Some time later another of them said, "This tree has medicinal qualities. If any blind person rubs a leaf of this tree over his eyes, his sight will be restored." Of course, the man hiding in the top of the tree heard all of conversation

When dawn arrived, the demons and their companions departed.¹ After they had gone, the good friend climbed

¹Ghosts, vampires, werewolves, and certain other supernatural beings are active only at night. When the first rays of dawn arrive, the must return to the graves or other places from which they had come.

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down and rubbed his eyes with a leaf of that plane tree. As soon as he could see again, he looked for the village that suffered from a lack of water. When he found that village, he went there and announced in the public square, "I can bring you all the water you can use, but in order to do so, I need fifteen workmen to help me."

A town crier began to announce this throughout the village, and in a short time enough workmen had been gathered to do the necessary work. Taking these men to the side of a nearby mountain, the good friend had them construct a water line from there to the village. It carried enough water for everyone in the village.

After he had returned from his work of bringing water to the village, the good friend had the town crier make another announcement to everyone:

office." When they had all assembled there, he rubbed the eyes of each with leaves from the plane tree, and the sight of each was restored.

The good friend then announced that he intended to remain in that village and build a house for himself in its outskirts. While the construction of that house was going on,

²The muhtar is the elected head man of a village or city mahalle (ward). In some rural areas, the muhtar may be the only elected official with whom most people have any contact, all other officials being appointed by a federal ministry or agency.

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the workmen discovered a pot of gold on the site. The good friend then built a mansion instead of a small house, and he lived there after that both comfortably and happily.