

Story #220 (Milli Kütüphane Tape)

Narrator: Saliha Arel

Location: Sivas

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by a student of P.N. Boratav.

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Walker

The Trouble Bird

TEK

Once there was and twice there was not, time in time, when the sieve was in the hay, when my mother was on the doorsill and when I was rocking my father's cradle ^{mom} tingir mığır, in olden times, a padişah had one daughter And she used to go to school, until one day she went to school and the teacher was thinking with his hand on his forehead. The girl said, "What are you thinking?"

The teacher said, "I have troubles

"What are troubles?" said the girl

"Well, they are just troubles. You would not know, being the daughter of the padişah," said the teacher

"All right," the girl said, but she did not understand.

One day she was sleeping in her bed when a bird came. It was the trouble bird, and the bird shook her by her collar and said, "My princess, this is what trouble is. You will see it." He caught her with his wings and took her to the mountains and left her there all by herself. She found a tattered and torn dress and put it on. Then she walked down to a nearby village. She roamed around, and finally she came to a tailor's shop.

She said, "Oh, please, I am poor and lonely. Can you take me as an apprentice? I can stay here, too."

In the morning the man came and saw all the things broken. "Is this what you were going to do for me?" He beat and beat and beat her, and sent her out.

She went to an old mountain, and there was a tree there. She said, "This trouble bird will never give me peace, and I will not go anywhere else. I shall just sit here." And she sat in the tree.

Beauty - reflected in water

Right under the tree there was a watering trough where the animals came to drink. When the animals came to drink, they saw the reflection of the girl. When the padişah's horses were brought by the grooms, they bent down to drink, but pulled back. They were brought near again, and they would not drink. "This is the place they drink every day. What happened today? Why do they not drink?"

The padişah's son was passing by on his horse, and he said, "What is it?"

The grooms said, "The horses will not drink the water. What is it, I wonder?"

The prince lifted his head up and he saw a girl beautiful as the moon sitting in the tree. "Now, you go along," he said to the grooms. He sent the grooms home and brought the girl down from the tree. He put her on the horse and brought her home. "Mother! Father!" he said. "I have found what I have been looking for. Please take her for my bride by the will of God."

Formidable Express

And they said, "Oh, Son, one does not marry what one found on the mountains. Maybe she is a mountain creature."

"Oh, no," he said. "Take her for me." And they did--wedding and all, they were married.

After a year, she gave birth to a boy, and they were all happy. They had feasts and celebrations. And after three or four days, at midnight, the trouble bird came to the window and tapped. He took the baby, and smeared blood on her mouth, and said, "Princess, princess, this is what trouble is, and I have

They said, "All right."

From that day on, every morning she swept and cleaned the floors, and carried the water, and did everything, and she worked hard. After three or four days, at midnight the trouble bird came. And whatever dresses were there, finished or to be finished, he cut them into pieces. cut them into pieces big as ears, and scattered them all around. Then he shook the princess by her collar. "Princess, princess! This is what trouble is, and I shall show you even more."

The girl opened her eyes and saw all the dresses become pilav on the floor. She cried and cried. And the shop was locked, so that she could not run away. In the morning the master opened the door and saw the dresses spread out like pilav on a tray--the bayram was coming, and there were many dresses for the ladies, and they were all cut into pieces big as ears. He beat her and beat her, and then he put her out. And the girl did not tell that it was not she who cut them.

She walked around and around, hungry and thirsty. At last she went to a little shop. "I am a stranger," she said, "And I am alone and hungry. Would you take me in to work in your shop?" (It was a shop where they sold plates and glasses.) And she began to work. Well, she cleaned and swept, and carried the water, and dusted, and did everything she was told. Good! And the master liked her.

After three or four days, at midnight, the trouble bird came back again, and whatever there was in the shop, like beads and plates and glasses, he put on the floor and crushed them all. Then he shook the girl by her collar and he said, "Princess, princess! This is trouble, and I shall show you yet more."

The girl opened her eyes and saw that everything was crushed and ground down. She beat her head, and she could not run away because the door was locked.

yet to teach you more." The trouble bird took the baby and flew away, ^{Oh my} Prrr.
The girl opened her eyes and went crazy, seeing the baby gone.

The man woke up and saw the girl's mouth all bloody, and he said, "Oh, she ^{✓ Baby eaten by mother}
has eaten the baby! After all, my parents were right. This is a mountain
creature, and surely eats the babies. How shall I tell my parents?" And in
the morning, he said, "I shall tell you something. My wife has blood on her
mouth, and there is no baby."

"Did we not tell you she is a mountain creature?" they said. "Surely she
eats babies. Let her go."

"Oh, no," he said. "If it happens again . . . I shall wait, and I will not
let her eat. I shall wait until morning."

"All right," they said.

After a year or so, she gave birth to another boy. The father waited until
morning, waited and waited, but he became very sleepy, and when he had dropped
off to sleep, the trouble bird came again. He took the baby, and smeared blood
on her mouth, and said, "Princess, princess, this is what trouble is, and I
have yet to teach you more." The trouble bird took the baby and flew away, Prrr.
The girl opened her eyes and saw the baby gone, but she ne_~ver said the trouble
bird had taken it. You see, the people of olden times believed that it was a
sin to talk too much.

Finally, in the morning the boy went to his parents, and he said, "Oh,
Mother! Father! I shall tell you something. My wife has blood on her mouth,
and there is no baby."

"Did we not tell you she is a mountain creature?" they said. "Surely she
eats babies. And every child you have will perish like that. Let her go."

"Oh, Mother! Father! Please let me try it again. And if it happens
again, I shall take her back to the mountains with my own hand," he said.

And they said, "All right."

A few years later, she gave birth to a baby girl. This time the husband took a pin and put it under his chin so that it would prick him if he fell asleep, and he waited until the morning. But finally, after all, he was human, and when he fell asleep the pin dropped from his hand.

And then the trouble bird came to the window and tapped. He took the baby, and smeared the mother's mouth with blood, and said, "Princess, princess, this is what trouble is, and I have yet to teach you more." The trouble bird took the baby and flew away, Prrr. And when they opened their eyes in the morning, the baby was gone.

This time he said nothing to his parents. He put his wife on a horse and took her where he had found her, and he left her there. And he himself went almost crazy with grief.

While the girl was crying under the tree, the trouble bird came and caught her by the collar and took her to a palace. There she found all her three children. And the bird said, "Do you see, my princess?"

And she said, "What do I care? You have wrecked my life and destroyed my family."

The padişah's son was in sorrow. He had a servant who was a tiriaki [an addict to something] whose main job was to tell him stories until the morning, and he spent days and days with the padişah's son. One day the substance he was addicted to was gone. He said, "Please, would you allow me to go to the market to get some more tiriak?"

"Yes," said the padişah's son, "But go and come back quickly."

While the tiriaki was on his way to the market, he passed by the palace where the girl was. The trouble bird saw him, and said, "Your husband's tiriaki is coming. Shall I play a trick on him?"

The girl said, "I do not care whatever you do."

So the trouble bird threw a rose down, and the tiriaki picked it up and smelled it, and he went mad with the smell of it. He began to stamp his feet and dance around, saying, "If your rose smells so beautiful, how beautiful you must smell! If your rose smells so beautiful, how beautiful you must smell!"

The padişah's son waited and waited for the tiriaki, and he did not come back. He had another servant, and he said to this servant, "Go and see where my tiriaki is."

The servant sent, and saw that the tiriaki was stamping and dancing around, saying, "If your rose smells so beautiful, how beautiful you must smell! If your rose smells so beautiful, how beautiful you must smell!"

The girl and the trouble bird looked at the second servant from above, and they wanted to play a trick on him, too. They said, "Take off your trousers and come up quickly.

The servant could not get his trousers off; they would not come off and they would not come off. He tried, and yanked, and pulled at them, and still they would not come off. And all the while, the tiriaki was stamping and dancing around, saying, "If your rose smells so beautiful, how beautiful you must smell! If your rose smells so beautiful, how beautiful you must smell!" And this was a very funny sight.

After a while, the tiriaki said, "If they ever throw down another rose, do not smell it!" and the other servant said, "If they ever say, "Take your trousers off and come up quickly, do not try to take your trousers off!" And they continued in this fashion.

Finally the padişah's son said, "What is wrong with them that it takes them the whole day? I will go and see what has happened." He got to the palace where the girl was, and then he saw the tiriaki stamping and dancing around,

saying, "If your rose smells so beautiful, how beautiful you must smell! If your rose smells so beautiful, how beautiful you must smell!" And he saw his other servant pulling and yanking at his trousers, and they would not come off and they would not come off. He said to the two, "Have you gone mad? What is wrong with you?"

Right then the trouble bird said, "Look here. Your husband is there."

And the girl said, "What do I care?" She was all gloomy because her life was ruined and her children were growing up without a father.

The trouble bird put one of the children by the door, another in the middle of the stairs, and the other at the top of the stairs. He opened the door and said to the padişah's son, "Come in."

The padişah's son saw the first child, and his blood was drawn toward the child. Then he saw the second one, and his blood boiled for that one. Then he saw the little girl at the top. Now this trouble bird was something like a magician. He took the ^{shape} of a woman, and she took the padişah's son in and offered him a pear with a fork.

The padişah's son said, "What is this? How can I eat a pear with a fork?"

"Is that so?" asked the magician. "Then how can the daughter of man eat her own child?"

"Oh," said the padişah's son. "Are these children mine?"

"Yes," said the magician. And there was the padişah's son's wife, of course a little aged with grief. "Here is your wife," said the magician. "And here is your first son, and there is your second son, and there is your daughter."

And they were all very happy, and they laughed and cried with pleasure.

The padişah's son ordered the ^{carriage}. He put all four of them in the carriage and took them home, and said, "Look, Mother! Look, Father! I have brought my wife and my children. I have brought my family home."