

Story 1814 (1970 Tape 16)

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The Youngest Son and His Treacherous Older Brothers

There were three brothers who lived in a village. After their father died, they became poorer and poorer. They all wished to work in order to earn some money, but only the youngest was able to find a job.

After the youngest brother had worked for some time and earned a small amount of money, his older brothers became very jealous of his success. They decided to blind their younger brother. One day while they were all taking a walk together, the older brothers took a knife and cut out their younger brother's eyes. They then left him alone and helpless along the side of the road.

In order to protect himself, the youngest brother climbed into a tree. After a while a dervish came along and saw him in that tree. The dervish asked him, "Son, what happened to your eyes?"

"Oh, do not ask me such a question! My two older brothers blinded me by cutting out both my eyes with a

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knife."

The dervish said, "A little farther down this there is a grove of trees. The green leaves of those trees have a curative effect. If you put your eyes back in place and then rub them with one of those leaves, will regain your sight. After your eyes have been cured by the will of Allah, go to the opposite side of that grove, and there you will see a large, flat stone. Dig beneath that stone, for there is treasure buried there." Having spoken in that way, the dervish vanished

After some time the youngest son found the grove of trees and used some of the green leaves to heal his eyes. He then went to the opposite side of the grove and found the flat stone beneath which the treasure was buried. The dervish had said to him, "You will take this hoard of gold, and it will make you very rich, but you are never to tell your brothers where you got that gold or how you got it."

The youngest brother dug beneath different sides of that flat stone until he found an earthenware jar of gold. With this gold he bought shops and other property.

His wealth became so widely known that it was not

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long before his older brothers heard about it. They went to him, and they saw at once that his eyesight had been restored. They saw also that his present way of living was much more comfortable than their own, and this made them very jealous of his success again. They began to bother him again. "How did you ever manage to become such a wealthy man?" they asked. "Where did you ever get enough money to buy shops and other buildings?"

The youngest son refused to say anything about the source of his wealth, but he felt pity for his brothers. He gave them some money and helped them again.