

Story 730 (1976 Tape 10)

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Location: Yakacık village,  
Söğüt kaza,  
Bilecik Province

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The Girl and the Bear

Once there was and once there was not a girl who lived with her father and mother. Her father made a living for them by cutting <sup>woodcutting</sup> wood in a forest on the side of a mountain. One day when he returned from his work, he discovered that his wife was greatly annoyed by the behavior of their daughter. His wife complained to him: "She does not listen to anything that I tell her. Once you have gone to cut wood, she won't do a single thing I ask her to do!"

Her husband then said, "I shall take her to the forest with me tomorrow morning."

The next day the woodcutter took his daughter with to the side of the mountain. He left her in a clearing and then went about his work of chopping wood. She thought that she kept hearing the sound of his axe: Tak, tak! She occasionally said, "Tak, tak my dear father." But what she heard were two gourds which her father had hung in a When the wind blew, these two gourds knocked together and made a tak-tak sound.

When the father finished cutting firewood, he tied it

Handwritten 9 *child*  
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together, put it on his back, and went home, leaving daughter in the forest. She did not realize at first that he had gone home. As it began to grow dark, she said, "My father is still cutting wood," for she heard the gourds going tak tak. Finally she went to the place from which the sound was coming and found that it was being made by the gourds. She said, "Tak, tak--tam, tam, my dear father What kind of father are you to leave me here?"

*Human name  
to animal*  
The girl tried to find her way home, but she lost her way completely. As she was sitting on the ground crying, a bear came along, picked her up, and took her to his cave to become his mate. After living there with the bear for many months, the girl gave birth to a child. In some ways child resembled the girl, and in other ways it resembled the bear. A year later she gave birth to a second child. In some ways this second child also resembled the girl, in some ways the bear.

One day the bear went to the opposite side of the mountain. While he was gone, a hunter rode past the cave on his horse and saw the girl there. He persuaded her to return with him to his village. She had often wished to leave the bear but had been unable to do so. Now she went with the hunter, riding on the horse with him. She went to his village, and after a short while there she was married to this

hunter.

But as soon as she had left the cave, the bear children started crying. They cried every day for their mother, and the bear could not find any way to comfort them. One back in those days, the bear went to the hunter's village and found the hunter's house. He stood in the garden of that house and began to shout, "My wife is here! Let come with me! My wife is here Let her come with me!" But the people of the village, hearing this, drove the bear away, shouting at him and beating him with sticks. Back in cave, the bear children were still crying.

But the hunter's wife could not help thinking about her bear children. "What are my children doing? What are they eating? I should return to see if my children are well." These were the thoughts she had over and over. One day she baked some bread and some cookies and, accompanied by her husband, took them to the cave for her children. The bear was watching from a distance, and the girl's hunter husband waited for her outside the cave.

The girl went inside the cave to her children and said, "You eat this now. Later I shall come again and bring you some more food." She then left the cave and rode with her husband

When the bear returned, he asked the children, "Where

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is your mother? Where did she go?" But the children could not tell him, and he was unable to find her.