

Story #149 (Milli Kütüphane Tape)

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Location: Sivas

Date: Collected in the 1950's
by a student of P.N. Boratav;
translated in April 1962
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The Stone of Patience

Once upon a time there was a dwarf. They asked him what his mother's name was. "It's Emine." I came down and looked at his roof.

One side is straw and hay; the other side is smoke and dust. The ironmonger beats the iron with skill, and painters paint in many colors. On one side they fight with cannons and guns. What is it? What is it? This is a lie; that is a lie. A snake swallowed an elephant. One is riding a donkey across the river with a camel on one's lap. This is a lie, too.

Once upon a time there was a girl, and she was her father's and mother's only child. There used to be a bird who came to her window every day and sang, "Oh, you poor girl. Oh, you poor girl. You will marry a dead man." *Coyne*

They used to feed this bird and give water to this bird, and then the girl would sit down and embroider and live happily, but the bird would come the next day and sing, "Oh, you poor girl. Oh, you poor girl. You will marry a dead man." And when the bird sang like that, they felt very badly about it.

One day the mother and the girl wanted to get some fresh air, and they went for a walk together. It was in springtime, and they walked, and they finally came to a big, big house surrounded by

There was a big door to the house, and the door was not closed and it was not open. It kept on swinging back and forth, and hitting its each time it swung. They did not know who lived there, and the mother said, "Go and see if there is anyone behind the door opening and closing it."

The girl went to see if there was anyone behind the door, and --ROK, closed the door. The girl was locked up inside, and the mother was outside. For hours and hours they cried, but the girl could not get out of the place, and finally her mother went home.

When her mother had gone away, the girl felt hungry and exhausted. She said, "This will not do. I must go around and see what is here." She went in and opened one door, and inside that door the room was all piled full of jewelry and gold pieces and diamonds and pearls and all sorts of sparkling stones. She went and opened the second door, and that place was full of precious carpets and rugs, up to the ceiling. When she opened the third door, she found the room filled with food, with all eatable things. She ate and drank, and after she was satisfied and was not hungry any more, she went to the next door and opened it. In that room she found a very handsome young man lying on a bed. He was not dead, if you say "dead"; he was not alive, if you say "He is alive." He was lying there as if he were stuck to the bed. She stood by his bed, and spent days and days and days there. But it did not do, waiting by the head of the bed. She went and ate, and she came back again. She went to the window and looked out for a while, and she came back again. She did not know what to do with herself. She became almost crazy.

One day she saw some gypsies pass by, and with the gypsies there was a girl of her own age. She called out to them, and said, "Why do you not let that girl stay with me to be my companion here? I shall give you

a belt full of gold if you do so." The gypsies bent the iron bars just enough to let the gypsy girl get into the house, and the gypsy girl came in to stay with her. The gypsies took their gold and went away

The two girls ate and drank and lived together, and waited at the head of the bed of this man who was neither dead nor alive. One day the girl said to the gypsy, "Oh, I am so sleepy! I do so want to go to sleep for I have been sleepless for almost forty days, watching at his bed. Will you not sit down here and let me put my head on your knees and sleep a little? While I sleep, you can keep watch over him." And the gypsy girl sat down, and the first girl put her head on the gypsy's knees and she was so sleepy that she just dropped off to sleep.

It seems this man was bewitched, and he had to sleep a certain period of time. By the time the girl went to sleep, the hour had come for the man to wake up and he did wake up. When he woke up and saw two girls, one sleeping and the other sitting, he asked, "Which one of you is the servant and which one is the lady?"

The gypsy said she was the lady and the sleeping one was the servant. "All right," said the man. "Put her down and stand up."

The other girl had been so tired that she was in a deep sleep. While she slept, the man got the gypsy girl dressed up very finely and prettily, and he married her

When the first girl woke up and found the young man was already awake, and married to the gypsy girl, she felt very unhappy about it but she never said anything about it. She was treated like a servant "Wash the dishes and make the fire. Cook the meals and do the laundry." She was doing all this, all day long. She was very, very patient. She was a very patient girl, and she never said anything.

It seems this man was a very wealthy merchant, and he was to go to Istanbul to buy goods to sell. He asked his wife

she would like, because she was going to have a baby. She ordered many things for the child and many things for herself. When he came to the first girl--who was now the servant--he asked her what she wanted, and she said, "If you can, please bring me a razor and a stone of patience." *his wife's father*

"What is that--a stone of patience?" asked the man.

"Why, what do you care?" said the girl. But she insisted that he should bring these things to her, and she added, "If you do not bring these things to me, may storms block your way."

He bought what he had to buy for the baby and for his wife, but he forgot to buy the stone of patience and the razor. On his way back, there started a big storm, and they could not go on any farther. [They

just enclosed in their taxi," the storyteller said. Then the young man said, "Oh, now I remember. I was told to buy two more things and I forgot to buy them. That is why the storm has blocked my way. You wait here," he said, "and I shall go buy the patience stone and the razor."

He went back to buy the razor and the stone of patience, but the man who sold him these two pieces said, "You must be careful not to leave alone the person who is going to get these things. Do not let him be by himself

The young man came back, and the road was open. It was sunny and rosy. And when he got home, he gave what he had bought for the child and for his wife and also for the servant. She took the stone and the razor and put them in her room

One day the gypsy girl said, "Get the towels and clothes ready. We are going to the hamam." So they got everything ready and they went to

the bath. But when they reached there, the servant said, "Oh, I forgot to bring along my pestelal.* I left my pestelal at home. Please let me go and get it in a hurry."

The gypsy girl said, "All right, but go in a hurry and come back soon."

The servant ran home, and the young man was at home. She ran to her room and locked the door from inside. The young man did not want to leave her alone because the shopkeeper had told him not to leave the person alone with the razor and the stone of patience. He came to her door to listen to her, and also looked through the keyhole.

The girl took the stone of patience in one hand and the razor in the other, and she began to talk. "Oh, stone of patience, I used to be my mother's and father's only child. There used to be a little bird who came to my window every day and sang, 'Oh, you poor girl. Oh, you poor girl. You will marry a dead man.' One day my mother and I went for a walk, and we came to a big house. The door of it kept on swinging and knocking itself against its frame. And Mother wanted to know why the door kept on swinging like that. I went in to see if there was anyone behind the door. But GLOK it closed shut, and I was left inside and Mother was outside. I could not come out, and I cried and she cried for a long time. Then she went, and I went into the house. I found jewelry in one room, and rugs and carpets in the second room, and lots of food in the third room, and in the fourth room there was a handsome young man sleeping. I kept watch over him night and day. Oh, stone of

* A special cloth or wrapping made to put around your body when you go naked into a bathhouse--it is placed with the center at the middle of one's back; then the two ends are brought forward around the body, and each end is tucked into the top of the wrapping near the underarm on the opposite side--a kind of sarong.

patience, what would you do if you were in my place?" And all the time she had the stone in one hand, and the razor in the other. (And also there was a bottle of poison for her to kill herself.)

And then she went on talking again. "As I was watching from the window, I saw some gypsies pass by, and I asked for a girl of my age to come and be my companion. I gave money, and I took her for a companion. I was very tired, and as I went to sleep on her knees, he woke up and he got married to the gypsy girl. When I woke up, I found them married. Oh, stone of patience, what would you do if you were in my place?" As soon as she said that, the stone of patience broke into two with a big CRICK-CRAK. When the stone broke into two, saying that he could not bear it, the girl said, "All right. Neither can I bear it." And picked up the bottle of poison. As she was ready to drink it (or And she laid aside the broken stone. As she was about to use the razor to take her own life) the young man broke the door open and dashed into her room. "Why, why did you not tell me about all this?" he said.

The girl said, "What did you expect me to say? Did you ever ask me questions? You made a servant out of me. And you all have got me wall-flat."

"Oh, is that so?" said the man. "All right," he said, and he decided to get married to that girl. The other one, who was still at the hamam, became angrier and angrier. Finally she rushed home. When she came home, she found her husband was married to the lady she had made a servant of. She said, "Oh, it is all right to get married, but why did you keep me waiting at the hamam?"

The man was very angry, and said, "You come here. You were the gypsy. You knew that you were the servant and she was the lady.

did you not tell me so?"

"Why should I?" said the gypsy. "God's hand was on me. That is why you took me. Why should I tell you?"

"All right," said the man, "I am asking you. Do you want a horse or do you want a sharp saber?"

"What should I do with a sharp saber?" said the gypsy. "Let it start on your sweetheart's neck. I want a horse so that I can ride and go to my parents."

"Then I shall send you to your parents," said the young man. And he gave her some money and put her on a horse and sent her back to her parents.

And he and the other girl had a long, long wedding, and they lived happily ever after.