

Story #578 (1961-62 Tapes 70 and 80)

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A Nightingale to Adorn a Mosque

In olden times there was a padişah who had a beautiful mosque build for his area, and it was the largest and most beautiful mosque in all the land. The wise men of the kingdom assembled and expressed their admiration for the building, and they said that if only a certain nightingale from such-and-such a land could be brought to sing in it, the mosque would be perfect.

*brothers -- three*  
*sons -- three*  
The padişah agreed that the nightingale should be brought to the mosque. He called his three sons to him and said, "I want you to go and find a certain nightingale in such-and-such a land and bring it back to this mosque."

The three sons mounted their horses and set out to find this bird. Along their way they soon came to a triple cross road in the road.

*Qias to certain nightingale*  
Each chose a road to take, and the youngest, choosing last, had only one road to choose, a road marked "The Road with No Return." Let us now leave the two older brothers and follow the youngest brother on his journey along the road of no return.

Before long, the youngest son met along the road a dervish with a long white beard. This dervish said to the young man, "I know where you are going. You are going in search of a certain nightingale."

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You will be able to find this nightingale, all right, but you must listen to my advice. You must ride for two more days, and then you see a large house without a door. You will shout for somebody to come, and when someone appears, you will ask that person to accept you in the house for the night as a guest. If you are accepted, go on in. If you are not accepted, then ride back, take this sword, and defend yourself with it." This old man was Hızır.<sup>1</sup>

The youngest son rode for two more days, reached the large house, and shouted for somebody to come. When a beautiful girl put her head out a window, he said, "Please, lady, I am hungry and thirsty. Will you give me food and a lodging for the night?"

The girl answered, "I should be glad to let you in, but I am the prisoner of a giant here. If he comes home and finds you here, he will eat you." giant -- cannibalistic

"Give me something to eat, and I shall take care of the giant."

"Very well," said the girl, and she let him in and then fed him.

Thunder -- sound of -- made by approaching giant A short while later, a seven-headed giant approached the house, making a sound like thunder as he walked. The young man drew the sword given to him by Hızır, charged at the seven-headed giant, and killed

Then he returned to the large house. The girl, in gratitude for being saved from the giant, asked the young man to remain with her in that house. The young man said, "I cannot stay, for I must search for nightingale."

<sup>1</sup> Although the most popular saint in Turkish tradition, Hızır is neither mentioned by name in the Koran nor fully accepted by the Moslem establishment. An ancient water deity and fertility god of the Middle East, Hızır is worshipped by a large rural cult in Turkey. In this tale Hızır is playing one of his roles, not that of a fertility god but that of an aid to the oppressed. He is often pictured as a last-minute rescuer from disaster.

## Story

Giant - eight-headed  
 "All right. Some distance ahead of you, however, there is an eight-headed giant with whom you will have to fight. I am afraid that you cannot survive against him."

"I shall be safe. You remain here, and I shall come for you on my return." The girl was a little older than the young man, but he thought that she might make a good match for one of his older brothers.

He left the girl, and after three or four days' time, he reached the land of the eight-headed giant. When he came to the home of the giant, he shouted for someone to come, and again a girl put her head out a window. He said, "Please, lady, I am hungry and thirsty. Will you give me food and a lodging for the night?"

The girl said, "I am sorry that I cannot give you bread or anything else that you could eat. The giant who keeps me imprisoned here brings <sup>meat -- raw -- eaten</sup> home nothing but raw meat. We eat that, but you could not do so until you got as used to it as I have."

Shortly after that the eight-headed giant arrived, and as soon as he saw the young man, the two of them began to fight. After a very long struggle, the young man finally managed to cut off all eight heads of the giant. Then he entered the house where the girl lived and said to her, "I want to take you as bride for my second oldest brother. As for myself, I must leave immediately for a land where there is a nightingale which I must capture."

"That is good, but along your way, you will have to meet and fight the nine-headed female giant who is so powerful that no one can

giant -- female -- nine-headed -- with nine sons

nine sons -- of nine-headed giant mother

Sons -- nine

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Youngest son

same as above

oppose her. And what is worse, she has nine sons. My advice to you is to approach her secretly, grab her breast, and suck from it. you will be her son, and she will not do you any harm. She will protect you from her nine sons."

After riding for a week, the young man reached the house of the nine-headed giant. He saw from a distance that she was asleep, and so he approached her carefully, grabbed one of her breasts, and began to suck. The giant woke up and said, "You are now my son." She hid him in a split in the sole of her foot. *Giantess -- nine-headed -- hides him in split in sole of her foot*

Shortly after this, her nine sons, each slightly larger than all the others, arrived. Each of them had nine heads, like their mother. They said, "Mother, we smell human flesh."

"No, you are mistaken, my sons," she said.

"No, we sense this, and we shall search for it." They did search, but they could find nothing.

She then said to them, "Suppose a human being should come here and suck from my breast. What would you call him?"

"We would call him our brother."

The mother then let the young man come out of the split in her foot. "This little man is your brother, then," she said.

"Very well. We shall accept him as our brother," the sons said.

The giant mother then asked the young man, "Where are you going?"

"I am the son of a padişah, and I am going to find a certain nightingale and take it back to the mosque which our father built."

"Well, the land of the nightingale is very far from here,



Story #578 hero -- accompanied on quest by nine giants -- but only to limits of  
 Kingdom of giants  
 youngest son -- same as above  
 my giant sons can accompany you as far as the boundary of my territory.

From there on, you will have to go alone. The nightingale you seek is  
 in the palace of the Padişah of Fairies. It will be a very great  
 achievement if you manage to take that bird from there."

His giant brothers took the young man as far as the river which  
 marked the boundary of their territory. Before they left him, the oldest  
 of these giant sons gave advice to the young man. "On this side of the

river there is a white rock beneath which is a bridle. You will take  
 the bridle from under the rock, strike it on the surface of the river,  
 and wait for a river horse to rise to the surface. You will mount this  
 horse, which will carry you across to the opposite shore where you will  
 see a forest. You will break a stick from a tree in this forest and  
 then continue your journey. Along the way you will come to two gates,  
 one standing open and the other one closed. Hit the closed gate with  
 the stick, and it will open. Pass through the gate, and you will come  
 to a fountain through the spout of which runs muddy water. Take a

drink from this fountain, and express your admiration for its water  
 by saying, 'What fine water!' You will then pass through a bushy ar

it smells!' These things are all magic, and they will assist you in  
 your adventures. You will then reach the garden of the palace of the  
 Padişah of Fairies, where you will see many fairies. If they are asleep,  
 their eyes will be shining; if they are not shining, then the fairies  
 be awake. If they are awake, be careful not to go near them. The

Fairies -- eyes at shining when they sleep

Fairies -- eyes at lustreless -- when they are awake

Eyes -- of fairies -- shining when fairies asleep

Eyes -- of fairies -- lustreless when fairies are awake

idle -- magic -- struck  
 on surface of river --  
 summons magic  
 horse.

Gate -- closed -- to be  
 opened by hero

Water -- muddy -- of  
 fountain -- to be  
 proved by hero

bush -- arons  
 at to be passed  
 by hero

of thorn bush -- as magic wand -- taken

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Fairies -- one thousand -- guarding nightingale in golden cage  
 a thousand fairies protect it."

nightingale which you seek is in this garden in a golden cage, and  
 a thousand fairies protect it."

--- containing nightingale  
 Cage -- of gold -- same as above

The young man found the white rock on the river bank and took from beneath it the bridle which he found there. When he struck this on the surface of the river, a river horse arose and came to him. He mounted this river horse and was carried to the opposite bank. There he saw a huge forest, which he entered, and there he broke a branch from one of the trees. He then came to a place where there stood a lion and a horse. Before the lion there was a heap of grass, and before

Grass -- before lion --  
 placed before  
 horse -- by hero  
Meat -- before horse --  
 placed before lion  
 -- by hero

the horse there was a quantity of meat. He stopped and switched this food so that the meat was in front of the lion and the grass was in front of the horse. Then he continued on his way. Soon he came to the two gates, one of which stood open and the other was closed. When he struck the closed gate with the stick, it swung open. Passing through this gate, he soon came to a fountain through the spout of which ran muddy water. He took a drink from this fountain and said, "What fine water!" Next he came to a bushy area. He broke a branch from a thorn bush and smelled it, saying, "How beautiful it smells!" Finally he reached the garden of the palace of the Padişah of Fairies.

All of the fairies were asleep with their eyes shining brightly. He found the golden cage and started running from the garden with it. But the fairies, who heard the nightingale begin to sing, awakened and shouted to the lion, "Catch that man!"

The lion answered, "I had been eating grass for seven years until this man gave me meat to eat. I shall not catch him!"

Lion -- refuses to catch hero who has placed meat before him

Thorn bush -- refuses to catch hero who has proved its worth  
Gate -- refuses to catch hero who has opened it after it had been closed for seven years 26

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The fairies then called to the thorn bush, "Catch that man!"

The thorn bush answered, "You called me prickly bush and did not like me, but this young man admired my scent. I will not catch him!"

Then the fairies shouted to the gate, "Gate, catch that man!"

The gate answered, "I remained closed for seven years, but this young man opened me. I will not catch him!"

The young man came running to the river, where the river horse still waited for him and carried him to the opposite shore. When he finally got back to the house of the nine-headed giants, he made a new discovery there. It was a beautiful girl whom he had not seen there before. The nine-headed mother suggested that they be married. He took this girl with him and returned to the land of the eight-headed giant. There he took the girl from the dead giant's house and went on to the house of the seven-headed giant. He also took the girl awaiting him in that dead giant's house. Then he started home with the three girls.

Before he reached the <sup>triple crossroad</sup> triple forking of the road, he met Hızır again. Hızır told him that his brothers had not yet returned. Leaving the three girls and the nightingale with Hızır, the young man now went in search of his brothers. He finally found them, discovering also that they had spent all of their money and were in miserable condition. He bought horses for them, and all three rode toward the place where they had separated. After they had reached that place and then started toward home, however, the two older brothers became very jealous of their younger brother. To each other they said, "He found the nightingale, and he also got the most beautiful of the three girls. Furthermore, he is our father's favorite son, and he will probably make him

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Older brothers -- (same as below)  
~~Older~~ Brothers -- older -- jealous toward youngest brother -- cast him  
into well

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jealous older brothers

Along the way they came to a well in which they left the young man. They lowered him on a rope to get water, but when he had reached the bottom, they let the rope drop into the well. His girl, who saw this, cried out and protested, but his older brothers threatened her that she must remain silent.

Taking the nightingale and the three girls with them, the two older brothers returned to the palace of their father, and in a great ceremony the nightingale was placed in the mosque. But the nightingale would not sing at all. They waited and waited, but the bird refused to sing. Some fifteen days passed like this, and many scholars tried to discover why the nightingale would not sing.

Nightingale -- stolen from Padişah of Fairies -- refuses to sing

In the meantime, the Padişah of Fairies had grown very angry at having lost the nightingale. She<sup>2</sup> came and built a palace right opposite the palace of the padişah who had made the mosque. She sent the following message to that padişah: "I want the person who killed the giants and took our nightingale. Otherwise, I shall destroy your entire land!"

The eldest son of the padişah went to her and said, "I am the man who killed the giants and took the nightingale."

"What did you see along the way?" she asked him.

"Well, I found your palace and stole the nightingale."

"No, you were not the man," said the Padişah of Fairies. "Go back and tell the person who really took the nightingale to come."

<sup>2</sup> Although most padişahs in folktales are male, there are exceptions. This is especially true for rulers of fairies and other supernatural creatures.



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He returned to his father's palace, and the second son came. "I am the man," he said.

"Tell me what you did along the way," said the Padişah of Fairies.

"I went, I stole, and I returned," he said.

"No, you are not the man," said the Padişah of Fairies. "Send me the man who really did these things." The second brother had not done these things, but the youngest brother, who had stolen the nightingale, was not to be found.

It happened that a caravan passing along the road came to the well where the young man had been left. When the <sup>driven -- of camels</sup> camel drivers lowered a bucket into the well for water, the young man grabbed it and was thus pulled up to the surface. He went with that caravan to the next village, where he found a job as a servant.

The Padişah of Fairies announced that everyone in the kingdom between the ages of seven and seventy would be required to march past her palace, and when the man who had stolen the nightingale passed, the nightingale would commence to sing. In this way, the man who had stolen the nightingale would be discovered. <sup>Make Nightingale -- mute -- finally sing when man who stole it passes by</sup>

Everyone between the ages of seven and seventy walked past the palace of the Padişah of Fairies, but the nightingale did not sing. <sup>Town criers</sup> There was a second announcement made by criers asking for the names of any people who had not walked past the palace. Then the man who had employed the youngest son reported to the padişah, saying, "Your majesty, there is a young man who is part of my household who did not walk before the palace."

"Tell him to come at once, then, and walk past the front of the palace."

Seven to seventy --  
inclusive ages of  
those required to  
march past palace

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When the youngest son walked past the palace and the mosque, the nightingale began to sing. The young man was caught and identified as the person, the one who had brought the nightingale. The Padisah of Fairies was also certain that it was the young man who had stolen the bird. She asked him, "How did you accomplish this, young man?"

"When my brothers and I set out, I took the road marked 'The Road with No Return.' I killed a seven-headed giant and took from his house a girl whom he had imprisoned there. Then I killed an eight-headed giant and also took a girl which he had held captive. When I arrived at the home of a nine-headed female giant, I sucked her breast and thus became her son. Her nine nine-headed giant sons then accepted me as their brother and helped me to enter your land. I took from beneath a white rock on the bank of a river a bridle. When I struck the surface of the river with this bridle, a river horse rose and carried me across the river. I entered a forest where I broke a branch from a tree and carried it with me. Along the way I came to a lion with grass before him and a horse with meat before him, but I switched the food so that the meat was before the lion and the grass was before the horse. When I came to two gates, I found one open and the other closed. I struck the closed gate with the stick, and it opened. Beyond the gate I found a fountain from whose spout ran muddy water. Drinking from this fountain, I said, 'What fine water!' When I reached a bushy area, I broke a branch from a thorn bush, smelled it, and said, 'What a beautiful scent!' Then I came to the garden of your palace, where I saw many fairies asleep with their eyes

shining.

"Then I grabbed the golden cage of the nightingale and started to run from the garden. But when the nightingale began awakened the fairies.

man!' The man answered, 'I had been eating grass for seven years

; man gave me meat to eat. I will not catch him.' The fairies then called to the thorn bush, 'Catch that man!' But the thorn bush said

'You called me prickly bush and did not like me, but this man admired

the fairies called to the gate,

man!' The gate answered, 'I had remained closed for seven years, but this young man came along : I will not

shed the river, the river horse was carry me to the other side. At the home of the nine-headed giants there was a girl whom I had not seen before. My giant mother suggested that I marry this girl. I got from the house of the eight-headed giant girl I had left there for my second oldest brother, and from the

brother.

When I met my brother.

and returned with the nightingale and the three , Camel drivers in a caravan pulled me from the well, and :

Today

you have told the truth,"

nightingale is now yours. I shall also be yours, if you will accept me as your wife. I once made a vow that I should offer myself in marriage

the young man was proven

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older brothers -- treacherous -- executed  
brother -- older -- treacherous -- executed

The oldest and second oldest brother were put to death. The youngest son was made padişah. He married both the youngest girl he had brought back and the Padişah of Fairies.