

Story #241 (Tape #7, Summer 1970)

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The Auspicious Dream

The Hoca had some students to whom he said, "When you have a dream, do not tell it to anyone before he says, 'May it be auspicious!'"

One of his students had a dream during that same night. When he arose in the morning, he said to his mother, "Mother, I had a dream last night."

"Let me hear it," his mother said.

But the young man would not tell the dream to his mother, and she beat him for that. She then told this to the boy's father, who also beat the boy. He then went to the Hoca and said, "Hoca, I had a dream."

it to me," the Hoca said.

"I cannot," said the boy.

The Hoca ordered that he be flogged with use of the falaka [beaten on the soles of the feet while one's legs are pinioned with a device called a falaka].

After being beaten by the Hoca, the young man decided to go away. Along the way he met a caravan. They asked, "Boy, where are you going?"

"I had a dream which I was asked to sell" ["to sell a tale" is the expression peasants use for "to tell a tale"].

"Tell it to me," said the caravan driver.

"I cannot.

"But if you do not, I shall sell you at the slave market

The padişah went to the slave market and bought the young man. "How did

you end in the slave market?" he asked

"Your majesty, I had a dream and they asked me to tell my dream, and that is how I landed here."

"Tell me your dream."

"No, your majesty, I cannot

"Hangman!" said the padişah, and gave orders that he be executed. But his daughter could not stand this. She had him thrown into the ^{prison} ~~dungeon~~ and had his shirt dipped in blood, which she showed the padişah.

The padişah received three swords, the best of which he was supposed to distinguish from the others. The letter, which came with the swords, said that the sender was at war with the Ottoman States. The padişah called all his advisers to confer on this, but they could not solve the problem.

The girl was delayed that day in taking bread to the young man. "Why were you so late?" he asked.

She explained to him the problem of the three swords.

"That is the easiest thing to solve. Just say Bismillah. Then hang the swords in a pool. Two will sink, and the other one will stay on the surface. Take this one and send back the two swords that sink."

Then three horses were sent to the padişah; he was to select and keep the best one and send the poor ones back. Again, there was a delay in the delivery of bread to the young man in the dungeon. "Sultana, why were you late?" he asked.

She explained the problem to him.

He said, "Dig a ditch forty paces long and forty paces wide. Keep the one which can jump this and send back the ones which cannot."

They did as he directed and thus selected the best horse.

The padişah had then been sent a number of horses which neighed wildly in

Body
game

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Puzzle

Puzzle

Istanbul. When the foreign padişah learned of this, he wrote again to the Turkish padişah demanding him to stop this neighing. "As a result of the neighing of these horses in Istanbul, all the women in our land have been frightened and have lost their babies. If the padişah does not stop the neighing of these horses, I shall make war on him."

The bread again arrived late. "Why were you late in bringing bread, my Sultana?"

She explained the reason why [obviously the tale is here telescoped]

"If your father will take me out of here, I shall tell him what to do. If not, I shall not."

The girl went to her father and said, "Whatever you tell me to do, I do, but you have never asked me how I solved those problems, or where I got this information to do so. The young man whom you ordered to be executed I had thrown into the dungeon instead, and now he teaches me these things." [She does not convey the young man's ultimatum.]

The padişah said, "All right. Take him from the dungeon."

The young man was taken out of the dungeon. He said to the padişah, "Give me a battalion of troops." They gave him a battalion of troops and with these he went to the foreign state and destroyed all the enemy's pigs.

When the padişah of that land was notified, he ordered, "Bring him to the palace." After he had been brought, the padişah asked, "Why did you kill so many of my people's pigs?"

"Not a single pregnant woman in Istanbul kept her baby because of the noise of these pigs," the young man said

"Very strange," said the padişah. "What is the connection between our pigs and the pregnant women in Istanbul?"

"Your majesty, what damage would the horses in Istanbul do to women here?"

The padişah said, "You are the adviser for both sides." After having the young man as a guest for three or five days, the foreign padişah gave him his daughter as his bride. They put him on a horse and let him go, sending ahead to the padişah of his country the news that he was coming.

When he returned, the padişah gave him his daughter and they were taken to the nuptial chamber. One brought a wash basin and a pitcher, and the other brought a towel. As he washed his hands, the young man began to laugh.

"Why are you laughing?"

"It is nothing," said the young man.

"If you tell me, all right; if not, we shall break off our marriage," both the wives said

"In my dream

"May it be auspicious," they both interrupted.

"The moon came from that side and the sun from this."

The padişah said to the brides, "One of you was the moon and the other was the day [sun]."