

Story 1224 (1990 Tape 11)

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The Magic Gifts of the Padişah's Three Sons

There was once a padişah who had three sons. As each of these boys was born, their father gave the child a magic gift. To the oldest son he gave a flying carpet. To the middle son he gave a magic mirror in which one could see not only everything that was happening in his own country but also what was occurring in other countries too. To the youngest son he gave an apple orchard, but the fruit that grew there was different from other fruit. The apples had a medicinal quality, and they could be used to cure almost any disease.

When the three boys grew up and understood the nature of the gifts their father had given them at birth, the oldest and middle son were quite satisfied. But the youngest son was discouraged, for he could see little benefit from having the apple orchard.

One day when the middle son was gazing in the magic mirror, he observed something in a neighboring country. He saw that the daughter of the padişah of that nearby country was very ill. He immediately informed his elder brother of this situation and said, "Let us go to that land together and see if we can find some way to cure the princess." When they also told the youngest

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son about this, that young man went into his orchard and picked an apple, wondering if that fruit would really cure any illness. Then all three brothers stepped upon the magic carpet of the oldest and flew to the court of the foreign padişah.

When they informed the foreign padişah about their reason for coming to his land, he immediately took them to the room of his ailing daughter. There the youngest son gave the girl the magic apple, and after she had eaten it, she was completely cured of her illness.

Now, however, another problem arose. The father of the girl said that since the three visiting princes had saved her life, she should marry one of them. After thinking about this for a while, the girl decided to marry the youngest prince. When the two older brothers asked for an explanation of her choice, she spoke to them in this way. "I know that one of you owns the magic mirror in which you discovered my grave illness. And I know that the other owns a magic carpet on which all three of you were flown here very quickly. But detecting my illness and traveling here would have accomplished nothing if the youngest of you had not provided the necessary medicine. I would have died if I had not received the curative apple which he brought. That is why I chose him."

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That was the way in which the son of the padişah of one country was married to the daughter of the padişah of a neighboring country.¹

¹This very common tale usually has more dramatic force than it does here, for the three claimants to the hand of the girl usually argue their respective cases with ardent conviction. Sometimes there is audience participation at the end of the tale, the listeners debating the claims of the claimants.