

Chiziris

Turkish folktale

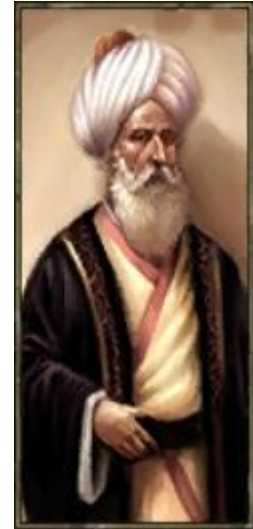


Chryssa,
Maria,
Arbina.



Once upon a time there was a king. He sent his servants to the people to say:

“Whoever finds and brings to me Chiziris will have whatever he wants. But if he mocks heavy punishment is waiting for him.”



But who could find Chiziris?

Chiziris descended to the world only once a year at the feast Chintrelez and he was presented only to good people. Whoever saw in front of him Chiziris could ask him what he wanted and he executed his command immediately.

One man who was very poor decided to find Chiziris because he was desperate. He said to his wife, will die from hunger. I will go to the king and tell him that I can find Chiziris. I will ask him 40 days time and money for that. After 40 days the king will hang me but you and our children will have been saved from starvation.

The woman who loved him much tried to change his mind. But her husband had taken his decision.



The man went to the king and said to him. I want 40 days to find Chiziris and you will give me money for my family.



The king gave orders to his people. And our good man took the time and the money and ran to buy supplies for 40 days for his house.



In 40 days the king called him back to his palace and he asked him if he had found Chiziris. The man answered “no”.

Then the king became very angry and decided to punish him. He decided to ask his Viziers for how to punish him. So he asked the first Vizier, how to punish the poor man. The Vizier answered: “Cut him into 40 pieces!”.

Just at that moment they saw in front of them a little boy saying: “Everyone has his own profession!”

The king did not understand what the boy meant and asked his second Vizier how to punish the poor man. “Fill his skin with straw!”, he replied.

“Everyone has his own profession!”, repeated the child who was standing further.

The king asked the third Vizier:

“What do you say?”

And the Vizier replied: “This man lied to you my King because he and his family were hungry. If you have little compassion you will forgive him.”

“Everyone has his own profession!”, repeated the child.

The king then asked the child:

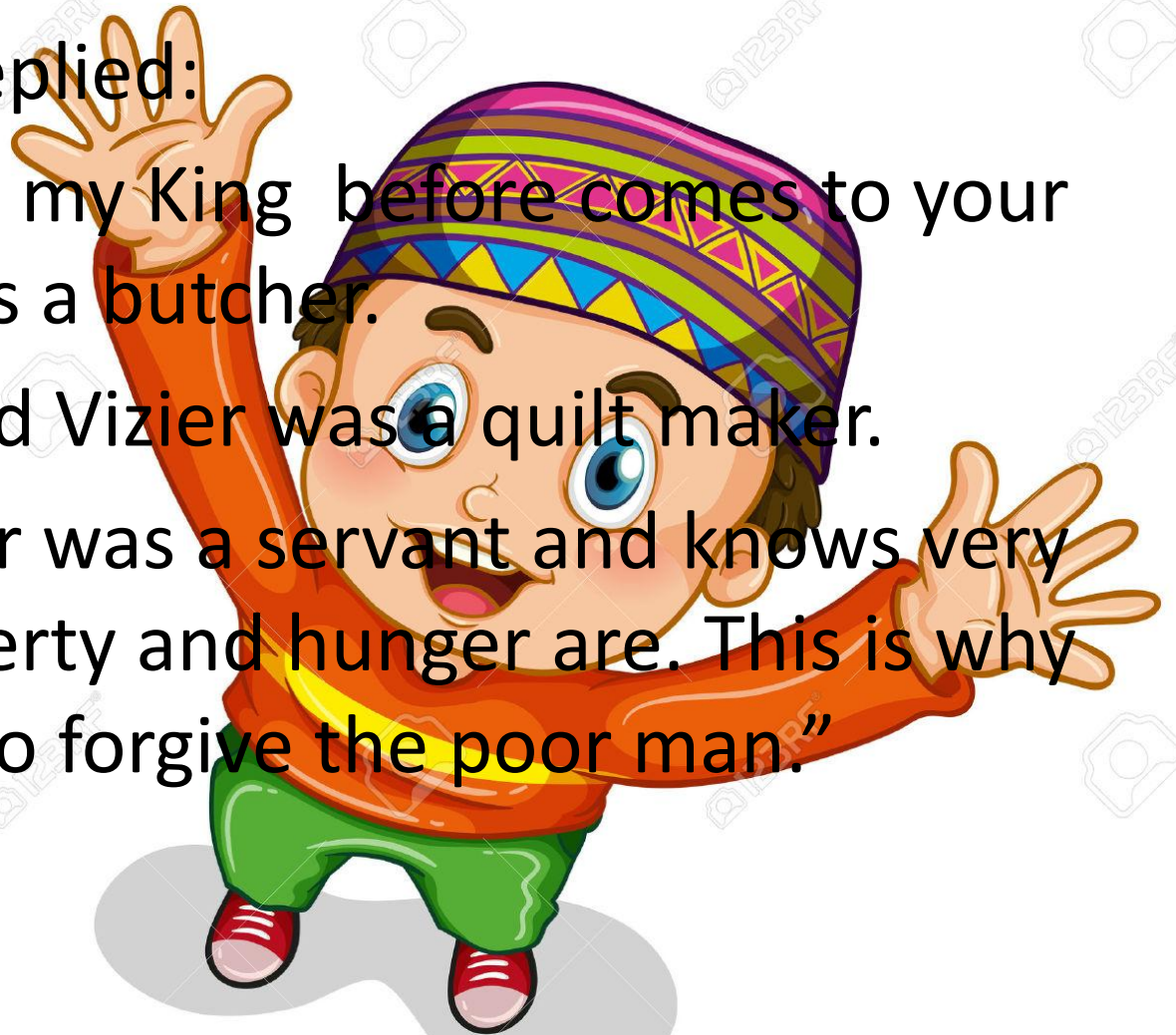
“Who are you and what does it mean: Everyone has his own profession! What do you want to say;”

Then the child replied:

“Your first Vizier my King before comes to your palace, he was a butcher.

And the second Vizier was a quilt maker.

The third Vizier was a servant and knows very well what poverty and hunger are. This is why he asked you to forgive the poor man.”



“If you want to know about me, I'm Chiziris and present myself only to good people.

Here of course, I did not come for you and your two Viziers but for your third Vizier. So let this poor man go free. As he had actually promised, he brought me in front of you.”

And Chiziris, sure that the king will not punish the poor man and the third Vizier, turned his back and left the palace!