

**Narrator:** Aji Gul, age 24, female, Brun, Bumburet

**Recorded:** 20<sup>th</sup> August 2009

**Cassette Number:** 312

**Title:** Khaca babas (The wicked sister)

My name is Aji Gul. Yes, I am twenty four years old [lit. there are twenty and four years with me]. I am from Brun.

Once upon a time I heard there was a king. **He had two sons**, indeed, and **two daughters**. Now they were all living together happily. One day the father went to the forest. But people say that a monster ate him. When this happened, one of the sisters sent one of the brothers to look for him. "Go! Going there, search father", the elder sister said. However, the younger sister said, "something has eaten our father, **don't search!**" When she said that, the elder sister sent him, though. So, he went there. And the monster ate him, too. When the younger brother came, she sent the second brother, too. "Go, search father and come back!" she said. When the second brother went there, again the monster ate him, too. When the monster had eaten all of them (the father and the two brothers) the two sisters **were left** alone in the house.

Now the two sisters alone at the house...the elder sister said **to the younger one**, "Let's leave the house and we go away. So, abandoning the house, they left. Then, yes, going to one place they spent the night there when it was getting dark. Later, there came a king on horseback, wearing a crown. When he went there, he said to them, "You, why are you here? They said to him "our father was a king. But a monster indeed ate him. Therefore, **we have come here**". When they said that, the king asked them, "Will you become my wives?" he said. When he said that, they both said, "We will". When they said that, the king said, "Either of you will do something for me". One of the two girls, indeed, said, "Waking up in the morning, I will take you and dress you up. Then I will also decorate your plane trees". The younger sister, however, said, "**Indeed, I will bring (for you) one son as well as one daughter**, one half of which will be diamond while the other half will be gold," she said. So the king took the two sisters with him. When he took them away it so happened that the older sister getting up in the morning she cooked food for the king's soldiers as well as she decorated the king's plane trees. On the other hand, the younger sister became pregnant. Then the king, hanging a bell somewhere at the house, went away out of the country for his own work. Before leaving he had

hung the bell. "This very bell ring for me! If you ever rang it, **I would come here** from where I am at the very moment when my wife gives birth to the baby.

The younger sister...when the time came for her to have the baby, the elder **sister said to her, "What do we know?** Actually, we don't know where to go to. I don't know where you can give birth to your baby. Perhaps, going to the chimney hole (on the flat roof of the house), women give birth there and drop the baby onto the floor through that hole)." Saying that, she took the pregnant sister to the roof. From the roof (through the chimney hole) the pregnant sister gave birth to her baby. When it was born **it fell onto the ashes** of the fire place. Then the elder sister put a stone there (on the ashes) after taking the newborn baby away. Then, **she threw the baby into the cow shed.**

After the elder sister had thrown the baby (into the cow shed), the king, **going there**, asked, "my wife, what did she have?" "Your wife has delivered a stone, she didn't give birth to any baby!" said the elder sister. She talked to the king in this manner. After some time the younger sister became pregnant again. But her husband again went out of the country for work. "Ring this bell. When she ever was to give birth to her baby, I would come" he said to the elder sister.

Again, when the younger sister was to have her (second) baby, she went close to the elder sister once again. "Yes," she asked her sister, "Where should I go to give birth to my baby?" she asked her. And her sister answered, "We don't know, indeed, where you can give birth to your baby. Going to the chimney hole (on the flat roof of the house), we give birth (there)", she said. So, going to the chimney hole, the younger sister...a diamond forehead son was born and fell onto the the ashes of the fire place. Quickly, grabbing it, the elder sister threw it, indeed, **into the dog's pen** while she put a stone there (in the ashes). And when her sister went there, she said to her, "You have brought this instead, instead bringing a baby". And she said to herself, "**If only they would die!**" But when she went to the dog's pen, **the dog had suckled both babies and made them grow.** But the wicked sister took them from there and threw them into the horse's stable. And the horse brought them up.

Afterwards she **put them into a box** and threw them into the river. The river carried them away. Then a little old woman saw them and taking them out of the box she took care of them. Looking after them they grew up. Unfortunately, the little old woman **died.**

Then the elder sister said "Yes, then I've heard that they are alive." To her, the wicked aunt, the news came like this, "your...they, the children live at a place such as this". Yes, then when the children had grown up, this wicked aunt, going to that

place, said to the girl (one of the two children, her niece) **“Do you have a brother?”** she asked. “I do” said the girl. “Where did he go?” she asked. “He went hunting”, said the girl. “When he comes back in the afternoon, don’t eat with him” the aunt said to the girl. **“Don’t eat any food!”** “Why?” asked the girl. “He should bring the Yor horse for you. Sitting on that horse you can travel, if your brother brings the Yor horse, of course”. Her own wish was, “Her brother will die there” she thought.

Then in the afternoon the girl’s brother came back home. Normally she used to walk seven miles to welcome her brother. This time she didn’t. When her brother got home, “sister, why didn’t you make food for me?” he asked. **“Why should I make food for you?”** she said. When she said that, he asked again, “Why didn’t you cook?” “You are not bringing the Yor horse for me. Why should I make food for you?” she said. Then her brother cooked for both of them and gave food to her.

So, early in the morning her brother left. He went to a place where a little old woman was sitting. This little old woman asked him, “grandson, **where are you going?**” “My sister has sent me to bring a horse (for her). I will go back home only with the horse.” When he said that, the little old woman warned him saying “Going there to bring this horse..... No one has ever come **back** alive. Don’t go!” she said. “Your sister is making a trap for you” she said.

Nevertheless, he went. He went there. Wishing to help him, the little old woman said “You can go. Go to that place where **there are two valleys**. In one of them **the water is running muddy**. This valley you must choose. From there exactly you can go. The horse then will appear. In the other one the water is running clean. Don’t go by the clean water stream. When the horse ever comes, the water will spring out under the hoofs of its feet”, the little old woman said. “Then, quickly jumping on the horse, grab it tightly!” **“At a seven mile distance** I will throw you down”, **the horse will think**. If he ever throws you down, it will then eat you” said the little old woman.

Afterwards the girl’s brother left. Having gone to the forest he did as follows: first the horse appeared. When the horse **went** there, **it drank water**. The brother grabbed it tight. Having climbed it, he brought it home to his sister. When she saw it she laughed with satisfaction. “For me..... He has brought the horse for me!” she exclaimed.

Later the aunt must have been in such a condition that this **wicked** aunt, her witch aunt...when the news reached her like this, “your nephew, yes, has brought the horse”, that rushing there (to the children’s house) she said to her niece: **“Has your brother brought the horse?”** she asked. “He has brought it” said the girl.

“Sitting on the Yor horse I have travelled a lot”. “Now”, say to him, “the Han horse bring for me”, said the wicked aunt. “When he goes there, he will surely die then”, she thought again.

Then the sister **sent him back** to the forest. Having sent him, her brave brother acted in such a clever way that he brought her the Han horse. He brought it there for her. Meanwhile, the aunt going there again she asked her, “Has he brought you the two horses then?” “He has”, the girl answered. “Now, he should bring the Bulbul bird for you. If the Bulbul bird doesn’t sing at your verandah what is your pleasure?” (i.e. there is no pleasure for you).

So, her brother went to the forest once again to search for that bird. Yes, he went to the forest. There were **ghosts** there. Then, those ghosts were talking about eating him. But he found a willow tree hollow and got in there, into the hollow of the willow tree. In there in the willow tree hollow he stayed there alive. At night a **snake talked to him**. “Yes, early in the morning get up and go away from here. Getting up, go away because here **there is** the Zoshi (spring festival) of the ghosts. They will eat you. When the smell of **human beings** spreads out, **the ghosts will come and eat you**”, said the snake **to him**. From there, from the willow tree hollow, getting out, he went away, he ran far away.

He went to such a place where at the sunny side of the valley the people were dancing and **playing the drums** and the flute; whereas at the shadowy side of the valley they **were crying**. Indeed, they were weeping. Going right there, he asked the people, “Why are you crying?” he asked. “One girl a day indeed, over there (at the dark side of the valley) a dragon is eating. Every day the dragon comes here” said someone from the crowd. Hearing that, the boy went there, to the dark place and **got into a house**. There **they had tied a girl for the dragon**. “It will eat her” they said. They had cooked **seven** heavy baskets of tasili (crepes) and seven heavy baskets of meat, and left them there for the dragon. Then the boy **went to sleep** onto that girl’s lap. When he did so, the girl said to him, “When the dragon comes, it will eat you, too”. “It cannot eat me. When is he going to come?” he asked. “When the iron bridge shakes, and hail falls, and it rains and snows, when these disasters happen, then it will come” said the girl. Then the boy went to sleep. Yes, he went to sleep. While he was sleeping the dragon came and gnawing on the iron bridge, it came out right there (where the girl and the boy were). It was snowing and snowing. In such a stormy weather the dragon rushed and arrived there. **When it got there**, the boy **killed it by hitting it hard indeed**. He killed the dragon at last. After he had killed the dragon, **they gave him the girl as a wife**. They gave her to that boy. Then,

playing the drums, they danced. Yes, they danced by the drum beat. They celebrated the event for seven days. And that man, the girl's father gave gifts (i.e. young goats, a cow, pots and dishes) for his daughter. Then the boy said "After taking the Bulbul bird to my sister, I will come back. Then I will take my wife with me". And saying that, he left.

When he went there (to the forest) he **stood** motionless. The Bulbul bird was there and turning him into a stone with its singing, it flew away. Meanwhile, his sister was thinking and thinking about her brother who had not come back yet. "**My brother must have died**", she said, and left the house in order to search for him. When she went over there the people said to her, "**Your brother has turned into a stone**. Yes, if you go there, you should stay motionless waiting for that bird. If that bird ever starts whistling and sits on your shoulders, hit it! After hitting it, if it says "**Why are you hitting me?**" you must say to it, "Quick! **Make my brother well** (alive) again. If you don't do so, go away! Then it will make **your brother well**", the people said to her. Later, **when the bird went** there and sat on her shoulder, hitting it hard she threw it away. "**Why are you throwing me away?** I have come indeed close to you", said the bird. "That exactly brother of mine, make him alive!" When she said that, that bird blowing at her brother, revived him. Then, the boy going back there (to his wife's place) and taking her with him, he went to his own house, where his sister was. **So they were both back to their own house**. Meanwhile, the news went to the king (the boy's and the girl's father). "Your son and your daughter **are alive there**".

Actually the Bulbul bird had told the tale of the two children to the people. Telling this tale, it finished it in this way: The king **tying** his elder wife (the children's wicked aunt) onto a horse, he killed her. And he lived happily with his younger wife (the mother of his children). This is the end of the tale.