

Story 17: Story of Adlo

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Representing: *Kurdish Community*

The Story:

Once upon a time there was a village. There was no water in this village, so they carried water from a cave. One night when there was a full moon and it looked bright, a woman named Adlo woke up from her sleep. She thought it was time for the morning call to prayer, so she went to the cave to fetch water. It turned out that the jinns were having a festival in the cave at that time. They were laughing and playing and dancing. But Adlo could not see this, so she went into the cave as she always did. When she walked, she stepped on the jinn babies.

Seeing this, the jinns immediately grabbed Adlo and disemboweled her, then laid her on the ground and started dancing around her. As they danced, they sang this song: *“Adlo thinks it's morning, but our rooster keeps crowing.”*

The elders of the jinns appeared and got angry with them: *“Why are you doing this to this poor woman? Stop”*. They said, *“This woman crushed our baby, so we are punishing her.”* The elders said, *“You are jinns. How could the woman see you? She stepped on the child by mistake. She only came to get water. Quickly sew up her belly and put it back the way it was.”* Thereupon the jinns left her on the ground like that.

Meanwhile, Adlo's husband woke up, it was time for the morning prayer. When he looked around and could not see his wife, he realized that she had gone to carry water. So he took his rifle and headed for the cave. As he got closer, he saw some people playing games at the entrance of the cave. He realized that the disemboweled person lying on the ground was his wife. He secretly took the child of one of the jinn and threatened them: *“If you don't sew up my wife's belly and return her to me safe and sound, I will kill your child.”* The jinns begged him and said, *“Give us our child now and we will cure your wife.”* But the man refused. He said, *“Treat her first and give her to me, then I will give you the child.”* They accepted the deal, stitched up her stomach and carried her home. The jinn promised never to come near them again. When time passed, Adlo woke up and asked her husband if he saw what happened to her. Her husband said *“yes, yes, I saw them too”*. But two days later Adlo passed away.

Story Moral: *This is a scary story told to children to warn them of the dangers of going into caves that they didn't know about by themselves, particularly during the night.*

