

# RED RIVER (Kızılırmak)

BY

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TRANSLATED  
BY  
**ZEYCAN MONTELEONE**

## **CAST**

MASTER HUSEYIN: Chief of the nomads. Around 70.

HATICE: Huseyin's daughter. Around 18.

ZEHRA: Huseyin's wife. Around 20.

SABAN: Housekeeper. Around 35-40

MASTER ALI: A rich master. Around 60.

MEHMET: Ali's son. Around 25.

SELIM: Shepherd. Around 25.

BLACK SHEEP: A sheep from the herd.

1<sup>ST</sup> OLD MAN: Member of the council

2<sup>ND</sup> OLD MAN: Member of the council.

3<sup>RD</sup> OLD MAN: Member of the council.

1<sup>ST</sup> MAN

2<sup>ND</sup> MAN

CHILD

HERD: *(Children, women and men, whose heads and backs are covered by sheepskin, are standing on their hands and feet, as if standing on their four feet. Some of the women are veiled.)*

TWO SHEPHERD'S DOGS: *(Two robust lads, whose heads and backs are covered by dogskin, are standing on their hands and feet, as if standing on their four feet.)*

NOMADS, INSPECTORS, ETC... *(Dressed same as the herd)*

TIME: 1870's

PLACE: Anatolia

SEASON: The end of spring, the beginning of summer.

-ACT I-

*(The herd is pasturing... Two shepherd's dogs are watching for the herd in both sides. Shepherd Selim is sitting someplace overlooking the herd and thinking. From far away, the splash of the Red River is heard. The weather is cloudy...)*

THE ONES ON THE STAGE:

BALLAD OF RED RIVER

From the skies, from the mountains  
We come down like thunder  
With little water we grow  
Then we reach Red River

With our history behind us  
We come down with emotions  
With songs and ballads we rise  
And we reach to the oceans

By finger we can not be counted  
By force we can not be grounded  
For the world of equality  
We overcome the curelty

By building dams on our way  
It is not easy to stop our flow  
Or changing the bed of the river  
Is not going to help we'll grow

Time to time we are beaten  
But we never lose our sight  
We hold hands and build the history  
We know our future is bright

We are mankind we are human  
Our hopes and dreams we care  
“Except the lips of our women”  
Everything, but everything we share

Despite the pain, despite the grief  
We don't give up, we stand strong  
Against trouble, against hardship  
We hold hands we can't go wrong

Torture, cruelty and blood  
Made us grow made us mature  
Now we are strong as steel  
We have a safe future

Believe us! Trust us!  
No one ever will be killed  
A world without war  
We promise we will build

*(Shepherd Selim takes his pipe and begins to play a mournful melody. A lightning flashes... From far away a thunder is heard. The herd becomes uneasy. As the dogs sense the restlessness of the herd they become all ears. Black Sheep is right in front of Selim, face to face... as if he is listening to the pipe.)*

SELIM: *(Puts his pipe aside. He is unaware of the change in the weather.) (To Black Sheep)* You are a black sheep! In the whole herd you are the only sheep with a different color. You have to help me... Tell me Black Sheep, tell me! Tell me the solution! How am I going to solve this problem?

BLACK SHEEP: Baa

BLACK SHEEP:

(BLACK SHEEP:)

BLACK SHEEP'S SONG

Black sheep is my name  
Being different is the hardest game  
Sometimes I am cursed and left alone  
From my herd I am thrown

Sometimes I am decryed  
For my color I am blamed  
Sometimes I am beaten till I groan  
From my herd I am thrown

I am against deceit  
With truth I defeat  
Honesty is what I own  
From my herd I am thrown

Justice is my only way  
I can't be colorless, I can't betray  
For even drop of light  
With darkness I fight

I can't be tricked I can't stray  
Cause truth is my only way  
As we unite we are grown  
From myherd I am thrown

By love my heart is invated  
I am with the ones who are degraded  
For the future shining bright  
With my herd I unite

*(Lightning flashes... As if the thunder is even closer now)*

SELIM: It will rain Black Sheep.

BLACK SHEEP: Baaa!

*(Selim tries to get the herd together. The dogs help Selim by snarling.)*

SELIM: *(To the herd)* The rain will pour down any minute... Be quick!

BLACK SHEEP: Baaaa...

*(Black Sheep rushes into the herd... he looks as if he is trying to help them to gather quicker. First the lightning flashes and right after that there is a strong thunder... Almost right on top of them... The herd is completely restless... Selim is trying to lead them forward while he is trying to keep them together.)*

SELIM: Stay together, stay together. Or else you can die! Stay together!

*(The dogs try to bring the ones which leave the herd. Black Sheep comes near Selim, hopeless... Selim takes his pipe out... begins to blow... Lightning, thunder and rain that has just begun... Hearing the sound of the pipe the herd calms down... It begins to get together slowly. As the rain gets stronger the sheep draw near each other even more... as though the emotional and touchy sound of the pipe brings them together. The herd shrunk together against the rain, lightning and thunder and grouped in one center. Black Sheep is walking in the herd, bleating. The herd is charmed, so to speak. Selim begins to walk, blowing his pipe. The herd follows Selim in a great order. The dogs and Black Sheep also follow Selim together with the obeying herd. The herd is walking against the lightning, thunder and rain...)*

### Inside the tent

*(Hatice is spinning wool... Zehra is pensive, yearning... breathing with passion, inflamed by the rain...)*

ZEHRA: You have been sitting around since the morning!

HATICE: What shall I do mother?

ZEHRA: Damn you! Didn't I tell you not to call me mother! How many years are there between us? At most one or two... I became a wife to your father not to you.

HATICE: I won't say it again mother!

ZEHRA: Girl, are you saying it on purpose?

HATICE: It was an accident! It slipped out of my mouth!

ZEHRA: Call me sister! Just sister!

HATICE: Okay sister...

ZEHRA: If I ever hear that you call me mother again... I swear God that I will have your father beat you! Did you understand? Don't you hear me girl? As soon as your father comes back from town I'll have him beat you tonight!...

*(The sound of the pipe... Hatice puts the wool aside... Zehra and Hatice see Selim Passing by followed by the herd. Zehra looks at Selim with passion... Hatice with love.... Hatice stands up...)*

ZEHRA: *(Notices Hatice getting up. Irritable)* Go back to your work!

*(Hatice sits back)*

HATICE: Sister!

ZEHRA: *(Her mind is on Selim)* What?

HATICE: *(Gives up)* Nothing...

ZEHRA: What do you mean nothing... what happened to the dirty clothes?

HATICE: I couldn't wash them yet.



ZEHRA: What are you waiting for?

HATICE: For the rain to stop...

*(Silence... Zehra thinks... she notices the milk bucket... Sits up... she looks at the milk bucket impatiently.... Suddenly she stands up.)*

### Sheepfold

*(The herd is settling in the sheepfold... The dogs are guarding the entrance. The rain continues outside... Once in a while there is lightning and thunder... Selim sets the wood in the primitive hearth on fire. He takes off his cape, maybe even his shirt and tries to dry himself... He is especially drying his hair. Zehra comes to the sheepfold carrying the milk bucket.... The dogs don't bark at her at all... just the opposite... they are very friendly with Zehra....because she is the young wife of Master Huseyin... Their future is in between her two lips. Zehra watches Selim with passion... But Selim is unaware of Zehra. Black Sheep looks at both Zehra and Selim meaningfully.)*

ZEHRA:

### PASSION

Clouds come in pieces, so bright  
Four of them square four of them white  
You destroyed and wounded my heart  
My pain is endless, I'm lost in the night

Oh Lord, my love is so big for him  
Beside me I want Selim

Clouds come topsy-turvy

They stabbed my heart and killed me  
This big lie is your truth maybe  
I hope you suffer for not loving me

Oh Lord, my love is so big for him  
In my arms I want Selim

Clouds come in piles  
They settle over mountains  
Please cloud get away from him  
Do not settle over Selim

Oh Lord my love is so big for him  
In my bosom I want Selim

*(Selim suddenly feels that he is being watched by someone...)*

SELİM Yes ma'am...?

ZEHRA I'm going to milk the sheep, Selim.

SELİM It's not the time now, ma'am...

ZEHRA You're making me angry...

SELİM Why?

ZEHRA Don't call me ma'am!

SELİM You are my master's wife.

ZEHRA Don't call me ma'am!

*(Selim inclines his head forward. All the sheep, dogs and Black Sheep are watching them with curiosity...)*

ZEHRA I'm going to milk the sheep. (Seeing that Selim does not react)  
Get me a sheep! Don't you hear what I say?  
This is my herd... You have to do everything I want Selim.

*(Selim is not indifferent to Zehra's desirous looks in her eyes...for a while he looks at Zehra secretly. Then he almost plunges into the herd...He grabs one of the sheep and brings it over...Zehra goes behind the sheep...Pulls the copper bucket near her...Once a while she gives Selim desirous glances.)*

ZEHRA It's struggling.

SELİM I'm holding it ma'am!

ZEHRA *(Shouts)* Don't call me ma'am!!!

SELİM *(Her shouting wounds his pride. Harshly)* What shall I call you then?

ZEHRA Say my name! Call me Zehra!

SELİM Do you think it is appropriate to call my master's wife with her name?

ZEHRA *(Her voice trembles)* Near others... call me ma'am again... But when we're alone... call me Zehra.

*(Zehra can't hold herself anymore. Knocking the copper bucket she stands up.*

*She stands facing Selim. She grabs him... shakes him.)*

ZEHRA *(She looks as if she ventures everything. Determined)* Don't you see me? Look at my face! My face! My face! Look at it! Are you afraid of me? Tell me, are you? *(between her teeth, as if hissing)* Don't you want me? Don't you desire me? *(She strips off her shirt and exposes her breasts)* You are afraid of me? I wonder if what they say about you is true Selim?

SELİM *(His voice trembles)* What are they saying about me?

ZEHRA     *(She incites him thoroughly)* They say, “Selim is not a man”.  
“Don’t be fooled by his frame...He can not be aroused by  
women”, everyone says...

SELİM     Lie! Whoever said it, he lied!...

ZEHRA     Then prove that it’s a lie!

SELİM     How?

ZEHRA     I want you... Let’s withdraw to that corner. Lay me flat there...  
*(She rubs against Selim’s body)* Get on top of me. Prove your  
virility.

SELİM     *(He pulls back)* You are my master Huseyin’s wife.

ZEHRA     What difference does that make?

SELİM     But he’s my master... He selected me as the shepherd...

ZEHRA     Stupid!

SELİM     How can I do something like that to Him?

ZEHRA     Your master is sixty-five years old!

SELİM     But...

ZEHRA     And I am twenty-five... As they say, find a mate that’s your  
equal... You don’t understand me! I have a burning desire for  
you Selim!

SELİM     *(interrupts)* You are my Master’s wife!

ZEHRA     *(gets angry... Picks the copper bucket and as she leaves)* Fool!  
Fool!

*(Selim remains silent for a while... He looks at the herd and the  
dogs. They are all looking at Selim with curious eyes...Selim  
approaches towards Black Sheep.)*

SELİM (To the others)... Everyone, mind your own business!

*(Together with Black Sheep, he moves a little further more from the others... They look as if they are having a heart to heart talk with each other)*

Oh my Black Sheep! What kind of a business is this my Black Sheep? She used to gaze at me from far in the beginning. Now she has become completely unconcerned... But I am deeply in love with Hatice... I am looking for ways to marry Hatice... whereas her stepmother, to make love with me... And this Zehra is such a beautiful woman... She is so irresistible my Black Sheep. Which man can say no to someone like her? You think I don't want her? You think I don't want to lay her down here? You think I don't want to enter her, oh ever so warm? And prove my virility too? (He stops...then concerned) Wrong thoughts, go away, go away from my mind! Forgive me my God! Ignore what I've just said... what a corruption this is! Isn't it a treachery towards where I earn my money? And soon, what if Zehra learns what goes on between Hatice and me? What would she say? Wouldn't she interfere?  
*(To Black Sheep)* Show me a way Black Sheep! When I ask for Hatice in marriage, what is Zehra's reaction going to be like? Tell me Black Sheep... tell me the solution?

BLACK SHEEP (As if saying, "nothing can be done") Baa!

(SELİM:)

DEADLOCK

To marry Hatice  
God knows how I struggle  
While I love one beauty  
How can I look at another?

Oh my God what shall I do?  
To get the devil out of me

How can I look at another?  
While I love one beauty?

My desires are arousing,  
Temptations in my blood rise  
As I dream about Hatice  
Zehra stands in front of my eyes

Zehra get away from me  
Betrayal is the name of this play  
Do you think I don't know that?  
The price is too heavy to pay

Please God help me out!  
Stop this desire burning in me  
Let only Hatice's warmth  
Only Hatice's warmth, suffice me!

*(Hatice enters silently... she is holding a bundle filled with the dirty laundry  
that she will wash... Hatice is crying...)*

SELİM      What happened Hatice?

HATİCE     I can't stand it any more...

SELİM      Is it Zehra?

HATİCE     Who else can it be?

SELİM      What did she do again?

HATİCE     She treats me bad for nothing! If I were guilty then I wouldn't  
be this sad... She constantly has me beaten by my father...

SELİM      Don't cry. Show a little bit more patience... We are going to  
find the solution, right my Black Sheep?

BLACK SHEEP    Baa!

SELİM      See, did you hear that? Even Black Sheep agrees.

HATICE     Kidnap me! Take me away from here!

SELİM      Where shall I take you Hatice? I can't take such a responsibility. I can't do anything else besides being a shepherd. I wouldn't want you to be utterly destitute. You know what it is to suffer but you can't know what it is to starve! If I can't provide a good life for you, your love for me will finish.

HATICE     It won't finish Selim... As long as I am near you... I am contented with anything.

SELİM      You are a daughter of a Master Hatice... Your lips may be saying this now but when the conditions change you will think different...

HATICE     You don't want me because I am a daughter of a Master?

SELİM      Yes. Your father is not going to give you to me.

HATICE     How do you know he won't?

SELİM      He just won't.

HATICE     He will... because he is my father... and he wouldn't want me to suffer... I'm sure he will give me to the first one who wants to marry me... Didn't you hear me? Since he doesn't want me to be tortured by my stepmother any more I am sure he will give me to you.

SELİM      Don't you see, he won't because of your stepmother...

HATICE     My stepmother will make sure that I am given in marriage just to get rid of me.

SELİM      If it wasn't for your stepmother maybe what you said could be true.

HATICE I just don't understand, Selim.

SELİM I said he wouldn't want, he just wouldn't!

HATICE Why?

SELİM (*he hesitates*) I don't know the reason but I know that he won't want. Don't ask me the reason why? Would he want Black Sheep? Tell me would he?

BLACK SHEEP Baa!

SELİM See! He says he wouldn't.

HATICE But, there's no reason for that?

SELİM No?

HATICE No! Besides he wants to get rid of me as soon as possible.

SELİM You may think so...

HATICE You mean he doesn't want to get rid of me?

SELİM He does... but not in this way.

HATICE Then? Maybe Black Sheep knows... Ask it.

SELİM Tell me the reason Black Sheep!

BLACK SHEEP Baa! Baa!

SELİM (*after thinking for a while*) he says, Hatice is a daughter of a Master and Selim is a poor shepherd... It's impossible for rich and poor to come together.

HATICE My father is not a rich man... At least for now... If he were rich what would he be doing near Master Ali? You know Black Sheep, my father went to town to delay his debt to Master Ali...



These are bunch of excuses Selim... I wonder if you don't want me anymore?

SELİM Hatice must be out of her mind my Black Sheep... How can she think of something like that? What does she think? Doesn't she know that I am inflamed with love for her? Doesn't she, huh?

*(Selim hugs Hatice... so does Hatice... Hatice:)*

### MY PASSION

You are a sea  
And I am a fish  
Would you withdraw your water  
And perish?

You are a forest  
And I am a hare  
If I am shot  
Would you hide me there?

You are a hunter  
And I am a doe  
If you hurt me  
Would you escape and go?

You are a river  
And I am a boat  
If you get wild  
Would you let me float?

You are my love  
If in loneliness  
And hardship  
Would you fight for me?

You are a lofty mountain  
If you carry me  
To your hilltop

Would you sleep with me?

*(The footsteps of an approaching horse is heard... Hatice runs towards the door of the sheepfold...She picks the dirty laundry sack in hurry...)*

SELİM Who's that Hatice?

HATİCE The damn Housekeeper... Let's speak the same, Selim. I came here to ask about my stepmother.

SELİM Okay.

*(As Hatice is about to go out, Saban enters)*

ŞABAN Hello.

SELİM Hello.

*(Hatice leaves)*

SELİM *(trying to sound natural)* I hope nothing's wrong Saban?

SABAN We're having some guests tonight. Pick two lambs...

SELİM Yes Saban... Who's coming over?

ŞABAN Master Ali and his son Mehmet. But Master Hüseyin wanted me to invite the whole nomads. But still be prepared! Maybe it would be better if you cut three lambs. You know my master if the food lacks he gets furious.

SELİM Yes sir.

*(The herd gets restless... The dogs wander among the herd, growling)*

SABAN What was she doing here?

SELİM She asked for her stepmother. When she was about to leave...

- SABAN As if I'm going to buy it. Don't do anything wrong Selim...
- SELİM I would never look at her with a bad intention...
- ŞABAN It doesn't mean that you are not going to look at her at all. It's quite hot in here. Although it's raining outside but its summer rain... When it suddenly stops and when the sun gets free of the clouds, the earth gets dry again in five minutes... it even cracks... you know the heat over here is unbearable Selim. As they say, heat calls for more heat... This much heat can lead a man astray. And Hatice is such a young girl... Can fire and powder stay together?
- SELİM I don't do wrong Master.... Keep your heart cool.  
*(he changes the subject)* I guess the debt is delayed...
- ŞABAN How do you know that?
- SELİM If not would Master Hüseyin give such a feast to the whole nomads Master Saban?
- SABAN It is delayed! *(as he is leaving)* Don't fool around. Hurry up!  
*(Saban leaves)*

(HERD: )

### THE SONG OF THE HERD

We are born but not satisfied  
We just live with our hands tied  
We speak but keep our thoughts inside  
It can't go on like this we know

With a stick they beat  
They starve us and they browbeat  
We are hindered to think and speak  
It can't go on like this we know

If we say no they get mad  
They slap and cuff so bad

They steal our share and they brag  
It can't go on like this we know

To overcome the obstacles  
To live in joy and happiness  
Uniting is the only way for peace  
It can't go on like this we know.

SELİM (To Black Sheep) We have to pick three lambs! What shall we do? Which ones shall we pick?

*(Black Sheep looks at him so sad...)*

SELİM *(understands Black Sheep is sad)* There's no way! That's the order *(decree)* of our master... Help me... Come on!

*(Selim looks at the herd... He is hunting the sheep with his eyes. Black Sheep is also looking at the herd... One of the sheep is trying to hide her little lamb. Selim realizes it. He paves the way for himself by pushing the other sheep to both sides with his hands and attempts to get the lamb near the mother... The mother resists and tries to stop Selim... They almost push and shove one another. Selim pulls the lamb away from its mother and the herd by force. The lamb also resists. As Selim drags the lamb the other sheep try to stop him. Two dogs suddenly jump over and open Selim's way by hindering the sheep.*

*Selim takes the lamb a little further away. First he ties its legs.... Then he covers his eyes with a black piece of cloth... Then Selim approaches towards the herd again. Two lambs, one black and other chubby, try to hide behind their mother. Both lambs are in fear. Selim sees the chubby one.... He tries to walk towards it... But alas! The other sheep hinder Selim. Again two dogs interfere... They pave the way.... Selim moves ahead and reaches the lamb, the chubby one. He grabs it and in spite of the lamb's desperate struggle Selim takes it in his arms and tries to bring it near the other one. But the lamb struggles even stronger, almost resisting... Selim loses his balance and*

*falls down. The herd laughs out loud... But that is a tragic kind of laughter.*

*The lamb, which succeeds in escaping from Selim runs all the way to the end of the herd... As the lamb escapes the sheep pave the way for it.*

*Selim attempts one more time... The laughter of the lambs suddenly cuts off and turns into a sad groan, kind of painful cry.*

*As Selim hunts for the chubby lamb with his eyes a complete silence covers the place.*

*Selim sees the puny lamb... He is about to walk towards it but he suddenly gives up and begins to look for the chubby one again. The more he can't find it the more he gets angry. Black Sheep notices that Selim gets angry. Although he was only observing everything before he can't hold himself anymore and comes near Selim...)*

BLACK SHEEP Baa! Baa!

SELİM They are making fun of me.

BLACK SHEEP Baa! Baa!

*(Selim sees the chubby lamb... he is calmer now and it looks as if his anger has faded... Selim reaches near the lamb with the help of the dogs... The lamb is now really trapped.*

*Selim grabs the lamb, which does not struggle at all, now with both hands, lifts it and brings it quietly near the other lamb struggling on the floor... He first ties up his legs and then his eyes. The lamb struggles for couple of times but then it gives up. He looks as if he is trying to watch them under the blindfold with his head up. Selim comes near the sheep again. Strange... it looks as if the boycott has ended. The sheep move away helplessly, emptying the place all the way to the skinny lamb and pave the way for Selim. As Selim walks he sees the rage in the eyes of the sheep... he bends and grabs the skinny lamb. Without experiencing any resistance he takes it near the others... unwillingly he ties its legs... then the eyes...*

*Selim turns back near the sheep. The rain has stopped outside...Suddenly the sunshine fills the place... So the sun has slipped out of the clouds...It's the summer rain... passed by so quickly. Selim is mournful, just like the herd. Black Sheep\*takes its eyes away from everyone as if it doesn't know who to blame... Selim takes the knives from the box and brings them behind the place where the lamb are tied down, hiding them from the sheep. The glitter of the knives makes the lambs restless again. The sheep begin to groan and curse disorderly but silently...*

*Black Sheep is standing still. Two dogs waylay the herd again as a precaution. Selim pick the first lamb that he choose without looking at the herd at all...The lamb bleats painfully as if it understood the befall. Selim and the lamb disappear... The moaning stops...Just the bleating of the lamb outside.)*

SELİM: (VO) In God's name!

*(Then a hoarse bleating... Silence... Selim comes again... takes the chubby lam... The lamb resists, struggles desperately and bleats painfully... Selim comes out with the lamb...)*

SELİM: (VO) In God's name!

*(When Selim returns he sees the skinny lamb crying with fear... as if its exhausted as if its heart beats on his scalp, it moves its head periodically... Selim comes out...)*

SELİM: (VO) In God's name!

*(Only some moaning sounds are heard from outside... This one was the easiest to kill for Selim... He comes inside again... walks... reaches near the herd. He especially cannot look into Black Sheep's eyes. SHEEP:)*

## LAMENT FOR THE LAMBS

Our lambs are gone, now days are blue  
This must be just a dream it can't be true  
    Bloody butcher has taken your life  
    My little one, I couldn't rescue you

    Black bird spins in the sky  
Doesn't leave its chick alone and cry  
    Come on my baby, let's go away  
    All the way to Red River, let us fly

The weather is snowy the sky is gray  
    I suffer everyday and I pray  
    My lamb is scared I hear him cry  
    I want to help him but he's far away

My lamb has gone my pain is so deep  
    I see him waving, I see him weep  
My little one is sleepy, my baby is tired  
    He is calling me to rock him to sleep

    Black Sheep, tell me who to blame  
My lamb is dead nothing is the same  
    You see me cry you see me suffer  
    My heart is bleeding it is in pain

Tell me who sets this plot, who sets this scheme?  
What's the name of the game, who plans this regime?  
    Can't we change our fate, is this our destiny?  
    Can't we stop cruelty if we act as a team?

SELİM: *(The sheep turn their backs to Selim as if they all agreed)*  
*(To Black Sheep)* Do you think I didn't feel sad at all? *(To the sheep)* Do you think that I didn't feel sad at all? That's the rule, what else could I do?

*(Silence... but tears roll down from Selim's eyes silently too)*

### Inside of Master Huseyin's

#### Tent

*(The sun is very strong... The weather is quite hot. First Zehra, then Şaban enter)*

ZEHRA: How can you talk about these things among everyone cousin?

ŞABAN: I didn't talk. I just said I had things to talk about...

ZEHRA: Talk...

ŞABAN: As I entered the sheepfold Hatice was coming out... I just wanted you to know that... Supposedly Hatice came to look for you... that's what she said.

ZEHRA: Why was she looking for me in there?

ŞABAN: I don't know... You have to ask that to Hatice.

ZEHRA: And we are supposed to be relatives... Didn't I get you hired here? \*

ŞABAN: You did.



ZEHRA: Didn't I get you hired here because you were clever, cousin? If your stomach is full today isn't it thanks to me? Did anyone else see her besides you?

ŞABAN: Just God and me!

ZEHRA: Do not tell anyone else!

ŞABAN: I won't.

ZEHRA: You will.

ŞABAN: I won't. They were sitting like two fools anyway... because they pulled themselves together so easily.

ZEHRA: Can fire and powder stay together?

ŞABAN: They can't. That's why I said it.

ZEHRA: She didn't leave any peace in me... Thin-skinned shit! Most importantly, she never liked me... she doesn't accept me... she always wants to see her dead mother... and no matter what, she compares me with her... Here, that causes uneasiness... I wish we could get her hitched...

ŞABAN: Let's give her to Selim and finish it off.

ZEHRA: (*fumes*) No! Not Selim!

ŞABAN: How come? To tell you the truth, they look good together...

ZEHRA: No they don't! (*Suddenly*) Didn't you see Mehmet?

ŞABAN: You mean Master Ali's son Mehmet?

ZEHRA: Yes... Why are they invited to us tonight?

ŞABAN: Since he delayed the debt... (*smiles*) You mean...?

ZEHRA: Mehmet is cut out for Hatice...

ŞABAN: Now I understand... You know you are something Zehra...  
Let's see if he'll even like Hatice?

ZEHRA: He will.

ŞABAN: How do you know that he will like her?

ZEHRA: He saw the girl before.. He liked her... I say they should see  
each other again.

ŞABAN: What about Hatice?

ZEHRA: She is going to say yes. What else can Hatice say to the person  
that her father says yes?

ŞABAN: You can't control your heart Zehra? Maybe she will not like  
him...

ZEHRA: She will marry him like a dog.

ŞABAN: Don't be angry but one of Mehmet's legs is limping...

ZEHRA: Is that all?... Hatice can't find anyone better than Mehmet...  
He's tall, tanned... besides his limping is not from birth... it is  
said that he fell from the horse... and never forget this, when a  
poor man limps it's a defect but when a rich man limps it's a  
virtue... because no one sees the rich one's deficiency.. even if  
they see no one can say a word... or talk... This thing is going  
to happen cousin...

*(Outside we hear the footsteps of the approaching horses.  
Zehra and Şaban look out from the door of the tent)*

ZEHRA: Go greet them!

*(Şaban leaves... A little later he comes with Master Hüseyin)*

ZEHRA: Welcome master.

HÜSEYİN: Thank you.

*(Master Hüseyin gets inside and sits. He is tired)*

HÜSEYİN: Did the preparations finish?

ZEHRA: Yes.

HÜSEYİN: Lambs?

ŞABAN: Selim cut three of them.

HÜSEYİN: good... if needed we can cut one more... He delayed our debt... we shouldn't make any flaw with the service. You go and control the preparations Şaban... And let Hatice come near me...

ŞABAN: Yes master... *(he exits)*

HÜSEYİN: Where's Hatice?

ZEHRA: How do I know?

HÜSEYİN: Did something happen again?

ZEHRA: No... nothing happened.

HÜSEYİN. Tell me...

ZEHRA: Why should I? Then you think I have a down on her?

HÜSEYİN: Where's she now?

ZEHRA: In the preparation...

HÜSEYİN: *(gets angry)* Look Zehra! You incite me again! All the time you make me give a thrashing to this child who is almost in the age of marriage.

ZEHRA: You mean she's not guilty a bit and I just make everything up, is that it?

HUSEYIN: No, that's not it!... *(he calms down)* But sometimes you have to pretend not to see... Someday she'll go away and leave us... She may get hurt with both of us and not call us mom and dad anymore.

ZEHRA: What about now? I tell her to call me sister but deliberately she calls me mother... or she opposes to me all the time.

HUSEYIN: I meant for example.... As a matter of fact you are almost on the same age... But I don't want her to leave us with bad memories... She surely will leave the nest now or soon.

ZEHRA: How do you know that?

HUSEYIN: Master Ali kept on praising Mehmet... He boasted about his son all day long.

ZEHRA: What if Hatice doesn't want him?

HUSEYIN: Why wouldn't she? Is there something that you know?

ZEHRA: Her heart... just might not want it...

HUSEYIN: Do you think Hatice can say no to something that I've approved? There's something you haven't come out with yet... Come on, tell me what happened today?

ZEHRA: You go and ask her... ask her "what happened when your mom sent you to wash the dirty laundry?" Don't hem and haw over it! Hell with it! I'm thirsty! Bring me water!

*(Zehra fills water from an earthenware water jug. She brings and serves it to her husband... waits for him to drink it... she takes the empty glass and puts it back)*

HUSEYIN: Thank you very much Zehra...\*

HATICE: (*enters*) Welcome father.

(*When Zehra sees Hatice she leaves the room*)

HUSEYIN: Thank you my girl... Why did Zehra get angry with you again?

HATICE: I don't know why father... She assaulted me again with no reason... "You called me mom!... You called me sister!... You looked at me hostilely! Blab, blab, blab... She has millions of reasons...

HUSEYIN: It can't go on like this Hatice... You don't even have a day without a scuffle... As a matter of fact you didn't like each other since the beginning... Especially you did not like Zehra at all.

HATICE: How could I, father? After a mother like my mom, how can I love someone else? I wish she took me along with her, to the grave.

HUSEYIN: Did I want your mother to die? Did we take away her soul? She came from the earth and went back to the earth.\*. What could I do? A man can't be widowed forever. Let's say you take care of me now... but what happens tomorrow? You are a marriageable girl... Once you fly away from the nest then I'm finished.

(HUSEYIN)

### I AM EXHAUSTED

What are those tears in my eyes?  
The rain, washes them away but my heart still cries  
Memories lay with grief in me, and something dies  
Then the sun sets in my soul so restless

My head, standing up so high is a sun  
My wife has passed away; she's gone  
I have no business in this life; I'm done  
My oil has finished I am flameless

My source has dried up; my water is drawn  
My stature is bent; my shoulders are down  
I used to climb mountains; cross rivers and run  
Now on the straight road I am breathless

Alas, my fire doesn't turn into ember any more  
I've reached seventy; I'm not young like before  
My autumn has finished; my winter is at the door  
When death arrives I am helpless

My luster's finished; my power's gone  
I have a young wife but I'm still alone  
I have no splendor; my life is blown  
When the storm breaks I'm powerless

Like leaves scattered in the air  
Like the earth yearning for rain in despair  
Like my wrinkling face and whitening hair  
My dreams are naked; they are aimless

HATICE: Father! Saying something to you is above me... It's not even up to me to say "you are absolutely right"... But, you see...

HUSEYIN: (He begins to get harsher) Then don't! Know your limits! Know that you're loved and don't cross the line... You have to get along with your stepmother. You have to be patient for a little while... And Zehra is not guilty every time either... She knows that you didn't want her since the beginning. It's natural that she takes revenge from you... If you didn't accept her how do you expect her to accept you? Don't always lay the blame on other people. Putting yourself in other people's shoes prevents both scuffle and bickering... Because then you would know why she had behaved to you in that way. And you wouldn't blame her so easily. Is it understood?

HATICE: I can't help it father... I miss my mom so much.... I always see her in my dreams.

HUSEYIN: (*feels touched but hides*) Is it understood I said?

HATICE: Yes father.

HUSEYIN: Did you wash the dirty laundry today?

HATICE: Yes Father.

HUSEYIN: Good. Tell me what happened?

HATICE: Nothing happened. Sister Zehra said, 'go and wash them'... I didn't even mind if it was raining or muddy, I went to wash them.

HUSEYIN: Good, good... Then?

HATICE: (*she senses*) I was just passing by the sheepfold... I saw brother Selim and went in near him... I fondled Black Sheep for a while... When I was just leaving the sheepfold the housekeeper\* saw me.

HUSEYIN: What else?

HATICE: (*she plays the complete naive*) I just fondled Black Sheep father... If you don't want me I won't fondle it again. I swear I didn't even fondle the lambs, father... I left right away and washed the dirty laundry.

(*Saban enters*)

HUSEYIN: Come on, go... go and help with the preparation.

(*Hatice leaves*)

HUSEYIN How is the preparation going?

SABAN It's being taken care.

HUSEYIN We shouldn't have any faults.

SABAN We won't, master.

HUSEYIN Call the billy goats to the wedding tonight. They will liven up the night...

SABAN Right away master...

HUSEYIN What did Selim do?

SABAN He killed the lambs.

HUSEYIN I'm not asking that... I heard that you have seen him and Hatice together.

SABAN (*surprised*) I did, Master.

HUSEYIN Hatice is my daughter Saban... Who is Shepherd Selim? Do you think he can approach my daughter having different ideas?

SABAN He can't master.

HUSEYIN: Then where did these rumors result from? And they harm me too... If a rumor starts going around with no reason that makes me mad Saban... So what did Hatice do? She has only fondled Black Sheep and that's all. From now on I want people to watch their mouth!

SABAN Do you have a doubt about me Master? I am your housekeeper.

HUSEYIN I have no doubts about you... If I ever did do you think I would talk about this stuff with you? I would just do what had to be done. (he points him to leave with his hand) let me take a nap for a while... Let me know when our guests are about to arrive. It's going to be a long night.

SABAN Yes Master...

(*Saban leaves. Huseyin lies down*)

Nomads



*(The sun is about to set. Fires are lit... The big caldron is boiling. The lambs are being roasted on spits. Selim is watching over the spits. Meal spread out on the floor lengthwise for the nomads. For the guests, the meal is set inside the large tent where they can see everybody. It looks like there is a feverish activity going on under the leadership of Zehra and Saban. But the nomads do not talk unless it is necessary and only work. The nomads are not from the herd but they are all sheep... Couple of kids steal and eat from the prepared salads and similar meals. The place looks like a fair grounds. But a silent one... Someone who is obviously a watchman is waiting for the arrival of the guests on a high spot...)*

Rams:

## MEN

On the lands, on the fields  
On the roads, in factories  
Under the ground with difficulties  
We produce we are the men

Our birth is celebrated cause we're a boy  
Unlike the women we are not a toy  
For the fathers we're pride and joy  
We are loved, we are the men

We are killed for honor  
In the jail we suffer  
We are ruined by our lover  
We are used, we are the men

Torture and cruelty, made us tougher  
With the ruthless we struggle  
In foerign land we suffer  
We withstand, we are the men

We throw dice, we gamble quite  
We wrestle in arenas and we do fight

In wars and slaughter without fright  
We die, we are the men

Ilgaz, Arif, İlhan, Anday,  
Fakir, Sait, Veli ,Yunus,  
Osman, Bekir, Vasif Hasan,  
We are Mustafa, We are Suphi!

We are Karacaoğlan, we are Nazım,  
We are Orhan, Yaşar, Pir Sultan,  
We are Ali, Aziz, Nasreddin,  
We are Börklüce and Bedreddin!

It can't go on like this we know  
Babies were slaughtered we saw  
Something should be done, this we owe  
We will handle it we are the men

If we unite and hold hand to hand  
Like Ferhat we knock mountains, we withstand  
We create miracles, now we're grand  
We are Mustafa, we are Kemal

Lambs:

## WOMEN

In vinyards, in fields  
In meadows and plains  
In markets in bazaars  
We produce we are the women!

By counters, in shops  
In factories, on roads  
In kitchens and homes

We work we are the women

In bars and night clubs  
For private and public nights  
On highways, streets and pubs  
We strip, we are the women

We give birth for babies  
All our lives we rock cribs  
We feed, we dress for years  
We are mothers we are the women

We are mothers, lovers and wives  
We are untouched virgins with no lives  
For the sake of chastity, guess who dies?  
We are killed we are the women

Shortly we are females  
Some with mini skirt some with veils  
We are pushed and not respected  
We are not loved; we are neglected.

We know how to end this pollution  
Listen to us we have a solution  
Uniting is the only way  
Men should know this right away!

SABAN: *(he comes near Zehra, he is a bit angry)* Do you know what Master Huseyin asked me about?

ZEHRA: What cousin?

SABAN: ...that Hatice went to the sheepfold...

ZEHRA: I didn't tell him.

SABAN: If you and I did not tell then who told? Hatice?

ZEHRA: I guess she did.

*(A child approaches)*

SABAN: You're so dishonest and so tricky you know that? If something like that ever happens again Master Huseyin will sure fire me.

ZEHRA: Nothing will happen to you, don't worry. As long as you are with me no one's sword will ever cut you! Never mind that stuff... now listen to me... we are gonna get Mehmet to see Hatice again and like her too. Mehmet must see Hatice tonight again! He must see her and be smitten with her! Then I'll do whatever you want.

*(Zehra and Saban go to different directions... The child looks for Hatice with his eyes. Now the sun has completely set and the place is liven up even more with the fires... Feverish preparation still continues.)*

WATCHMAN: They're coming! They're cooomiiiiing!

*(The nomads leave their work and begin to watch the arriving people. Saban gets into the Master's tent in panic. And in a while they come out together)*

HUSEYIN: *(To Saban)* Get couple of people with you and welcome the guests!

*(Saban gestures two people with his hand and rushes to the area that is out of audience's range of vision. Three people from the Village Council come near Master Huseyin... Master Huseyin is respectful towards them. In a while, Master Ali leading and his son Mehmet next to him appear followed by their armed bodyguards. Although Mehmet tries not to make it visible, he limps slightly. Saban is talking to Mehmet silently. Then with his eyes he points Hatice who is waiting standing, to Mehmet. Mehmet looks at Hatice with great compassion. He walks without taking his eyes away from her. Master Huseyin welcomes his guests standing with a smile on his face. Both parties seem so serious as if they are in some sort of ceremony.*

*Master Huseyin and Master Ali embrace each other couple of times.)*

HUSEYIN: Welcome.

ALI: Thank you.

HUSEYIN: You honored us with your presence Master Ali.

ALI: In fact you honored us with your invitation.

HUSEYIN: Welcome son.

MEHMET: *(Without taking his eyes from Hatice)* Thank you Uncle Huseyin.

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: Welcome...

2<sup>nd</sup> Old Man: You honored us.

3<sup>rd</sup> Old Man: You brought us such joy.

ALI: Thank you.

HUSEYIN: Please come.

*(They all walk towards the meal that Master Ali points with his hand... First Master Ali then his son Mehmet then the others sit down. Under the supervision of Saban all kinds of food and beverages are brought to the meal.)\**

ZEHRA: Welcome.

HUSEYIN: You know my wife Master...

ALI: Thank you sister. Of course I know her Master.

ZEHRA: You welcome to Mehmet.

MEHMET: *(His eyes still on Hatice)* Thank you...

HUSEYIN: My daughter Hatice.

HATICE: Welcome.

ALI: *(studies her carefully)* I see Hatice came to the age of marriage already. I know you when you were such a little one my girl.

*(They all laugh)*

HUSEYIN: *(He raises his glass)* Welcome... you honored us all... I would like to say couple of words... Bless him... Master Ali is a great friend of ours.... When we are short of money he gave us the means to be able to make the payments and postponed the deadline... I will never forget this attitude of Master Ali who helped our nomads and us in our hard times. I hope one day we will have the chance of helping him... I wish him well! Enjoy your drinks!

*(Everyone raise their glasses and then they all drink)*

ALI: *(raises his glass)* You know what they say, “It’s only when a man is in difficulty a godsend comes”... It’s our duty... and we did it. Being a Master means giving. Plus instead of puffing yourself up your success, you should have an eye to the future. It is so humane.. It is not even worth mentioning Master Huseyin... Who knows maybe you can help me one day... For your health!

*(Everyone raise their glasses and then they all drink)*

HUSEYIN: Enjoy it!

ALI: Enjoy it!

TOGETHER: Enjoy it!

*(They begin to eat... But Mehmet’s eyes are still on Hatice...  
For a while everything is seen through Mehmet’s eyes...  
Everything around turns into photography... Mehmet can’t see*

*anyone but Hatice. Only Zehra notices this. It is obvious that she is happy. Hatice also feels the eyes on her... She looks up and sees Mehmet watching her like a bird of prey. She shudders. She takes her eyes away quickly. She is even disturbed of those looks. Master Ali catches his son looking at Hatice. Elbowing him, he points out the meal. The child slowly approaches near Hatice.... He whispers something to her ear. Hatice silently leaves the meal and goes near the child.)*

HATICE: What? Whatever you are gonna tell me be quick!

CHILD: Sister Hatice they are selling you!

HATICE: *(with worry)* To who?

CHILD: To Mehmet...

HATICE: How do you know that?

CHILD: I heard your stepmother and the housekeeper talking.

HATICE: When did you hear them?

CHILD: A while ago.

HATICE: Why didn't you tell me right away?

CHILD: I couldn't find you.

HATICE: Don't let anyone know about this okay?

CHILD: Of course not sister!

*(The child runs where nomads eat. Hatice looks for Selim with her eyes. She sees him. She tries to tell Selim with her eyes that there is something important. Then secretly she walks towards the very end of the foods laid on the floor. .. Selim comes.)*

SELIM: What happened, my partridge?

HATICE: Let's elope tonight.

SELIM: What happened again?

HATICE: They will fix me up with Mehmet.

SELIM: Where did this come from now?

HATICE: The kid heard Zehra and Saban talking about it. He told me a while ago. Kidnap me Selim... Or else we'll never get together, it will be a dream.

SELIM: First I should ask your father for you to marry. If he doesn't give you then we can think about other solutions.

HATICE: The more you delay it the more you turn it into impossibility, Selim.

SELIM: Tonight, I' gonna ask for you... And near the guests too... Just keep your heart cool. Go near them now. Don't let them understand you are missing.

*(Selim hugs Hatice. He kisses her. Hatice gets free of him and leaves. She silently sits back to her place... Selim comes back from a different way. He calls the child near him and tells him something silently. The child nods his head. Then he approaches towards the main table\* and gets near the 1<sup>st</sup> Old Man. He whispers something to his ear... He can't hear him therefore the child whispers again... then the child leaves. The 1<sup>st</sup> Old Man stands up. No one knows what goes around. Mehmet keeps on looking at Hatice. The 1<sup>st</sup> Old Man comes near Selim. They grow a bit distant.)*

SELIM: Forgive me for disturbing you uncle.

1<sup>st</sup> OLD MAN: What's there to forgive Selim. Tell me your problem....

SELIM: Tonight ask for Hatice from her father for me Uncle.

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: Tonight?



SELIM: Yes tonight... or else it's gonna be too late.

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: Why would it be too late? Talk to me openly Selim.

SELIM: If we don't hurry up they are going to give Hatice to Master Ali's son.

*(The 1<sup>st</sup> Old Man goes back to the table\* as quick as he can. He silently sits back to his place... He immediately tells about the situation to the other old man beside him... He has hard time to do it but he tells it anyway.... And the man beside him tells it to the other one... They tell each other it is appropriate with their eyes. Again silently they decide that the 1<sup>st</sup> Old Man should ask for the girl. Meanwhile Saban is getting ready to introduce the group that will play the TEKE ZORTLATMASI\*.)*

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: *(Loud)* Master Huseyin we have a request...

*(Before the 1<sup>st</sup> Old Man completes his word TEKE ZORTLATMASI begin.)*

-ACT II-

*(Teke Zortlatmasi continues. Selim and Hatice is waiting with excitement...  
Mehmet is not watching the dance but Hatice)\*

TEKE ZORTLATMASI

The field is stony, the field is beat  
Selim has big hands and big feet  
Do not tease him too much  
C'ause he is newly engaged

I told you not to come tonight  
Don't sleep over , or we will fight  
While there is a big door  
Using the chimney is not right

All the pots and pans on the shelves  
Cry and beat themselves  
My sweetie can feel my pain  
Cause she loves me and deeply cares

I told you not to come tonight  
Don't sleep over , or we will fight  
While there is a big door  
Useing the chimney is not right

She is my beauty, my flower  
Set me free so I can see my lover  
She"s so sad and upset with me  
I cry my heart over and over

I told you not to come tonight

Don't sleep over , or we will fight  
While there is a big door  
Don't come down the chimney tonight

The wood of the lonely hill  
Burns like my heart so deep and so ill  
Moms, name your babies after Hatice  
That's my wish and deepest will

I told you not to come tonight  
Don't sleep over , or we will fight  
While there is a big door  
Using the chimney is not right

*(The dance finishes. The dancers sit back to their places on the floor by the food)*

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: *(he raises his voice)* Master Huseyin!

HUSEYIN: What's it?

1<sup>st</sup> old Man: We have a request from you... Our guests are not strangers... And I believe this kind of a fortunate event is best talked near everyone. In this beautiful atmosphere and in front of our valuable guests, we would like to proclaim our fortunate request to you...

*(Silence)*

HUSEYIN: You made all of us so curious... So' tell me what is this fortunate request of yours?

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: Master Huseyin... How do you like Selim?

*(Silence)*

HUSEYIN: Our shepherd?

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: Yes...

HUSEYIN: He's a good boy... He's hard working... obedient... Plus he's so trustworthy in every way.

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: That's what we think too.

HUSEYIN: What are you trying to say?

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: His only drawback is his poverty... Tell me Master Huseyin... Does Selim have any other drawbacks besides his poverty?

HUSEYIN: He doesn't.

1<sup>ST</sup> Old Man: Master Huseyin... And we like your daughter Hatice very much. She is a beautiful, honest and a good hearted young girl... She doesn't have a drawback like poverty either... because she is the only daughter of our nomads' Master.

*(Zehra is thoroughly restless.)*

HUSEYIN: *(Sensing that Zehra is trying to interrupt, he stops her with his hand)* He is the member of our council with the highest seniority... *(to the 1<sup>st</sup> Old Man)* C'mon, spill the beans now...

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: The long and short of it is that... according to the command of God and the word of the Prophet we are asking you to give Hatice to Selim to marry.

HUSEYIN: Why is it you asking for Hatice and not Selim's father or family?

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: Selim neither has a father, mother nor a family... They all passed away. And therefore we undertook this duty.

ZEHRA: Who does shepherd Selim think he is, trying to marry Master Huseyin's daughter?

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: falling in love with someone and willing to marry her is not a sin but a merit in God's sight.

ZEHRA: He should find his own equal...

HUSEYIN: Keep your nose out of it Zehra!

ZEHRA: Where do you see a master's daughter is given to a shepherd to marry? If a young blood who is her equal ever asked to marry her, do you think we would doubt even a second? This kind of a disaster would ruin Master Huseyin's glory and honor!

HUSEYIN: (*gets completely angry*) Now, shut up woman! Don't meddle in a man's business! Did I say yes?

(*Zehra leaves in a fury. Silence*)

ALI: More or less I have witnessed the whole thing... If you let me I would like to tell my opinion about it too Master Huseyin...

HUSEYIN: It always pays to consult others... You would really be pleased... go ahead Master Ali...

ALI: Listen Master Huseyin... The members of the council, which you always ask advice and get opinion, are asking for your daughter. In my opinion making a hasty decision and saying no, is not the right thing to do... If you say no, you are gonna offend the council members for sure. On the other hand you are gonna be acting so cruel towards Selim.

HUSEYIN: (*gets angry but tries to hide it*) What's so cruel about it?

ALI: Shepherd is a young man. And making young people sad is not an appropriate behavior for a Master.

MEHMET: (*Silently*) Father! What did we come here for?

ALI: (*silently*) I know Mehmet... Keep quiet and listen!

HUSEYIN: You mean I should give my daughter to Selim?

ALI: *(loud enough so that only Huseyin can hear)* Did anyone tell you to do so Master Selim?

HUSEYIN: But you are not letting me say “no” either.

ALI: But You are an experienced man Master Huseyin.... It is possible both not to give the girl and not to upset them.

HUSEYIN: Don't make me curious Master!

ALI: Give Selim a condition.

HUSEYIN: What kind of a condition?

ALI: He is even known in our surroundings... Shepherd has become pretty famous... Shepherd is the ruler of his herd. The herd never disobeys Shepherd's orders. They say when he blows his pipe he can make the herd stand on their rear feet. Or what I herd was just hearsay?

HUSEYIN: No, that's what they say...

ALI: My suggestion is... feeding the heard with salt till tomorrow morning... Let them just eat salt... having no water. Then let's bring the herd which did have no water and which was fed only with salt, all night and all morning, near that little stream that flows into Red River. And let Selim wait on the other side of the river... and blow his pipe... If even one sheep crosses the river without drinking any water then such a stouthearted young blood should take Hatice with all our blessings. But if even one sheep drinks that water then it is a destiny... Then neither Selim will get upset with you nor will the Committee be offended. What do you say Master Huseyin?

HUSEYIN: *(Thinks for a while)* Giving him such a condition is a good idea.

ALI: See, by this way you won't be giving your daughter to him either... and without hurting anybody.

HUSEYIN: But you know what they say Master Ali, “the difficult is done at once; the impossible takes a little longer.”

ALI: (*very silently*) Look Master Huseyin,.. we came here not to eat and drink and have a good time but ask for Hatice for my son Mehmet.... If you ask me why we don't hurry up, then I would say it's because we couldn't recon with something like that could ever happen.\* Behaving rudely is not an appropriate act for us... and our wisdom will always let us solve the problems without making anyone upset... Moreover if we solve this problem in such a rationalistic way our fame will run just like the Red River.

HUSEYIN: What if he succeeds?

ALI: If he succeeds then giving the girl to him would be the appropriate thing for us to do.. But keep your heart cool... Only when pigs begin to fly Shepherd can succeed... or when the Red River runs backwards... you get me?

(*Silence... Mehmet wants to say something to his father but Master Ali stops him...*)

HUSEYIN: (*To Saban*) Call Selim!

(*Saban leaves*)

MEHMET: (*suspicious*) Who is gonna inspect feeding the sheep with salt?

ALI: Neither the ones who take Selim's side nor the ones who take Master Huseyin's should inspect it. (*To the Committee members*) Who are you going to find that does not take our side? Do you approve this?

(*The old people look at each other... they agree with their eyes*)

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: Yes we approve it. But also someone from us should be there to inspect.

ALI: Then choose who ever you think is suitable for that.

*(The other old men settle upon the 1<sup>st</sup> old man)*

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: Since I am chosen, finding an inspector task is over...

ALI: Master Huseyin... if you agree too, at the end of the dinner, let my men be in charge and feed the herd with salt...

HUSEYIN: I agree...

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: Do not forget about me Masters. I wouldn't want any rumors to begin.

ALI: Of course not. If you can't last out end want to sleep we can take turns to inspect, you know.

1<sup>st</sup> Old Man: Sleeping is forbidden for old people. Because we all know that once we are buried we will be sleeping forever.

*(Selim comes. Mehmet looks at Selim as if he is going to kill him. They are both standing. They stare each other.)*

Mehmet:

#### MEHMET'S SONG

What is the use of wealth  
When I am so insufficient  
She will never choose me  
If I am lame'n inefficient

Oh my leg, my leg  
Why does it limp so bad  
It makes me feel insecure  
It makes me feel so sad

Father, you caused this misery  
Cause you were slow, you were late  
You are the one to accuse  
You played with my fate



I have to marry her, she belongs to me  
I need to do something and find a trick  
Even if the herd crosses the river  
She should be mine I should be quick

Don't see yourself so down  
He is poor but you are rich  
You are her match don't forget  
She won't care that you hitch

Marriage is the only way  
It is the answer of my life  
Once I marry her, things will change  
We will be the husband and wife

Yes I do hich, yes I do limp  
But if I don't walk they don't see  
Plus I have money I am rich  
Once we marry she'll agree

Selim: *(Without taking his eyes from Selim)* You wanted to see me  
master...

Huseyin: I like you young man.... I trust you... Because you are the  
shepherd of my herd. If I did not like you and trust you would I  
ever chosen you for such a job? *(Waits. Supposedly he thinks)*  
So you had them ask for my daughter in marriage... Is it  
possible not to show any tolerance to a handsome strong young  
man who is willing to marry my daughter and especially if he is  
my shepherd? I would love to give my daughter to you... So  
what, aren't I gonna entrust my daughter to a young man whom  
I entrust my whole herd?

SELIM: *(He attempts to kiss his hands)* Thank you Master.

HUSEYIN: *(He pulls his hand away and stops him from kissing them)*  
However I have a condition. If you execute my condition, then  
of course you get the girl.... If you can't... then you accept it as  
your destiny and forget all about it!

SELIM: What is your condition?

HUSEYIN: Beginning from now the herd is going to be fed by salt. But they will not be given any water. Tomorrow by noon, when the sun is right on top of our heads you are going to get to the other side of the water... Yu are gonna play your pipe and call the herd near you... But not even one sheep should drink water while crossing the other side of the river! If you say you can't do it then you better give up now! Giving up is the first rule of bravery. But biting off more than you can chew is called presumptuousness! Before you put yourself into that position you can make your decision now! So, what do you say?

SELIM: (*He is in utter confusion*) I am going to try Master.

(Mehmet is about to jump and attack on Selim but his father grabs him from his shirt and makes him sit down without letting anyone see.)

HUSEYIN: You can give up before it's too late. Don't make a decision right away. Think about it some more at least! Don't forget, being disgraced is what wounds a brave man most!

(*Silence*)

SELIM: If you don't accept the risk of being disgraced you can't become a king, Master... I am going to give it a try.

1st Old Man: It's needless to influence him. Obviously he has made his decision.

HUSEYIN: All right then... (*still hopeful that he can give up*) Do you have anything else to say?

SELIM: Master, when are the sheep going to be fed by salt?

HUSEYIN: When we are done eating... meaning, in a short while... Master Ali's men are going to feed them with salt.

1st Old Man: And I will stay as an inspector... Don't worry, I won't sleep!

SELIM: Master...

HUSEYIN: *(Still hopeful)* Tell me...

SELIM: May I go near the herd?

HUSEYIN: *(trying to hide his anger, he mumbles)* What the fuck he is gonna do near the herd now! *(To Selim)* Go, go... You can stay till they bring the salt!

SELIM: Thank you Master... *(he exits)*

*(Silence... Zehra stops him in front of the tent)*

ZEHRA: So they are not allowed to drink, are they? So they are going to be fed only by salt, huh! Under these conditions do you think you can make the herd cross the river?

SELIM: I'm going to, with God's help.

ZEHRA: Then you are gonna get the girl, is that so?

SELIM: That's what I hope...

ZEHRA: *(with resentment)* Idiot! Even if you make them cross the river do you think he's gonna give his daughter to you? Where on earth do you see a Master's daughter becomes a wife to a shepherd?

*(Selim is about to say something but he gives up... He walks away... The woman looks after the shepherd with rancor)*

Sheepfold

*(The herd as been waiting silently... as if they are mourning... One of the sheep dogs is waiting right at the entrance.... Black Sheep is somewhere different... He is deeply sad too... The shepherd enters... He feels the general displeasure... every sheep he approaches turns his back to him. The shepherd tries by going near many sheep and sees the same reaction. Especially the sheep whose lambs were slaughtered look at him with a greater fury. As a last attempt the shepherd approaches to Black Sheep)*

SELIM: My Black Sheep. Do I, my Black Sheep, offend my herd? And you.... are you offended by me too?

BLACK SHEEP: Baaaa!

SELIM: Didn't you explain them that slaughtering the lambs was something beyond my control! I'm tired of explaining the same things again and again my Black Sheep... Do they think that I am not sad? Do you know why I came to the sheepfold? In a little while they're going to bring sacs of salt here... you'll all be fed by that salt. Until tomorrow by noon you are going to eat only salt. You are going to eat salt without drinking even a drop of water. When I play my pipe you will all cross to the other side of the river... but without drinking even a drop of water... You will cross to the other side of the river too my Black Sheep, you will too. And only then the Master will give his daughter to me... If even one of you drink even a little bit of the flowing water the girl is not going to be given to me... Did I make myself clear my Black Sheep? (Silence) The Master put such a condition to give his daughter to me... Tell them my Black Sheep, tell them! Let them know that and let them help me!

*(The sheep look at each other... Especially the sheep with lambs get real angry. They look as if they say "finally you need us"... Looking down on him, they begin to watch the shepherd with rancor... There are even some sheep nodding their heads meaningfully and gazing at him with derisive eyes as if they are saying "tomorrow you'll get your lesson!" ... Black Sheep looks like he is more understanding towards him... But obviously in*

*his heart he is carrying the pain of not being able to make a stand against the general attitude of the herd....)*

BLACK SHEEP:

### QUESTION

To such a brave man like you  
Being a slaughter does not suit  
The ones who cut their own family  
You know, cannot be tolerated

Shepherd Selim you are from us  
Then why do you betray and trade us  
If you turn your back to your family  
You will get your deserts so don't fuss

How can you shed blood where you rule  
How can you take lives and act so cool  
When you turn your back to your family  
How can you beg for mercy don't be a fool

You were a butcher and took lives away  
You tortured mothers, made their skies grey  
Why are you so surprised now  
You know you dug your own grave

SELİM - (*Crestfallen.*) I'm not telling you I'm not guilty at all! Maybe it's best to quit being a shepherd... But what I'm saying is this. As long as you stay as a sheep, me or someone else is going to butcher your lambs.. This is the order, the order! Your lambs are going to be butchered no matter whom it is that comes! This is what I'm trying to explain them! (*The sheep no longer shake their heads to SHEPHERD... But they are still cold as ice... They*

*look at and signal each other as though saying, "He is trying to trick us"...) If you're going to resist, resist your dark fate, not me! (He thinks for a while. To BLACK SHEEP) The forest is divine... The forest is beautiful... All forests are beautiful... But the forest won't howl without the wind... This should be your wind my BLACK SHEEP... You should blow so they can howl! But don't ever forget this! They won't let the one who tries to blow alone live! (SHEPHERD heads out. Just as he is leaving, ZEHRA comes; she blocks SHEPHERD's way.)*

ZEHRA - Give this up!

SELİM - What are you saying Ma'm?

ZEHRA - Hell with your Ma'm! Hell with your Ma'm!

*(She grabs SHEPERD'S arm with one hand... Extends a wooden box she had been hiding behind her, with the other hand...) Open it! Open it! (She opens the wooden box with her other hand when she sees him standing motionless.. Jewels, gems, gold, all shining) Take them! All of them are yours! What is going to happen when you take her? Will a shitty girl do as a wife for you? Am I not more beautiful than her?*

SELİM - I'd be damned ma'm!

ZEHRA - *(She throws the box on the ground, everything scatters on the ground... She now is like mad. She grabs SHEPERD'S throat... As she is strangling him) I will strangle you! I will strangle you! I will strangle you! (BLACK SHEEP must have felt sorry for SHEPERD he tries to get in between... SHEPERD holds her hands and frees his throat from ZEHRA'S hands...)*

SELİM - *(Quietly) People will look down on us ma'm! (Trying to prevent ZEHrA from struggling) Won't you think of your husband's pride, woman? (He suddenly tries force on ZEHRA.. While almost knocking her down to the ground) Leave now! I said leave, leave! Pick up the stuff on the ground and leave!(ZEHRA starts to cry this time... She grabs onto SHEPHERD'S feet...)*

SELİM - *(Pushes her with his feet... As though he is choking) Or else I will kill you! Pick up your gold and leave!*

ZEHRA - *(She is now like a docile cat... As she is crying quietly, she puts the jewelry in the box... Sniffing) You say you love the girl... Then you know what love is... Don't you see how I love you? I love*

you... I want you... Snatch me away from here... All I have will be yours. I have a lot of gold... Don't sacrifice me! Don't burn me!... Without you, this soul won't stay in this body... You will be tormented!... Don't be so cruel to me!... *(She has picked up her stuff off of the ground. She reaches for SHEPERD'S feet again... She raises her voice)* Take me away! Take me away!

*(SHEPERD gets away from ZEHRA almost kicking her with his feet... He looks at the herd and BLACK SHEEP one last time and leaves the sheepfold... ZEHRA is on the floor crying.*

ZEHRA: )

### CONFUSED

I am burned, I am hopeless  
With my lover I am helpless  
I gave my heart but I am refused  
I am drifting and so confused

I my garden my rose bloomed already  
My nightingale wants to sing, it's ready  
My breasts hurt, they are bruised  
I am drifting and so confused

Oh Lord tell me what shall I do  
I think I bit more than I could chew  
My crazy heart cries, it feels it's used  
I am drifting and so confused

Someone else will take my place  
Damn my luck, he'll look at her face  
My soul is mourning, it's bemused  
I am drifting and so confused

*(Master's guards come in carrying salt sacks on their backs... They put the sacks down. They drag them and place them somewhere higher... ZEHRA goes outside hiding the box in her hand. The ones who brought the sacks are looking at the herd... A little later SABAN and other workers come in with torches in their hands. MASTER ALI, MASTER HUSEYIN and MEHMET are behind the torches... Lots of*

*people have crowded around the sheepfold, looking in with curious eyes... The inspectors open the sacks... They scatter a piece of salt they take out of one of the sacks in front of the herd. The sheep start to eat the salt put in front of them)*

MASTER ALI - *(To his men... In a loud voice)* No sleeping tonight!  
You are not going to leave the sheepfold! Understood?

1st INSPECTOR - Understood my master.

2nd INSPECTOR - Understood.

TOGETHER - Understood.

HÜSEYİN - *(To ALI)* Why don't you stay over my master ..

MASTER ALI - Let's go Master Huseyin... We should leave.

HÜSEYİN - I still say you should stay my master...

MASTER ALI - This job, is something we hadn't planned my master...  
We have other work in the morning... We have a promise... But  
I still wonder... Is shepherd going to be able to manage the herd  
with no water?

ŞABAN - Is it possible my master?

MASTER ALI - Don't ever start it before we are here my master....

HÜSEYİN - Would we ever do such a thing?

MASTER ALI - We will be here before noon, if God permits!

*(First MASTER ALI, then MEHMET, then MASTER HUSEYİN and the others leave the sheepfold. The only ones left inside are the inspectors. And the kids who have been watching the incident... The moon on one side, the torches on the other, are lighting up the Sheepfold... And salt is being scattered in*



*front of the sheep continuously. The spectator will see the sheepfold at all times... And the feeding of salt will continue as other incidents go on in other places.)*

In Front Of Master Huseyin's Tent.

*(HÜSEYİN is sitting on a chair.... SABAN is standing... A shepherd dog beside them... HUSEYIN lights up a cigarette he has been rolling. Smokes)*

HÜSEYİN - What kind of thing is this Saban?

ŞABAN - What my Master?

HÜSEYİN - This requirement thing?

ŞABAN - This is the truth my Master... When it is known that Master Ali is going to ask Hatice for his son, it would be looked down on if he did something different...

HÜSEYİN - Why didn't they act early if they wanted to ask for the girl? We would've given her if they had asked, and it would all be well... Would we be able to find any better than Mehmet?

ŞABAN - I think the old ones messed it all up... If they hadn't rushed and asked for the girl, things wouldn't have gone this way.

HÜSEYİN - So they herd Hatice was going to be asked for Mehmet... So Saban do you think Shepherd can manage this herd?

ŞABAN - Is that possible my Master?

HÜSEYİN - But he rules the herd!

ŞABAN - The nomads sets up the truth, the way they want to see the person... It's a lie if you ask me...

- HÜSEYİN - We were the ones who chose and brought Shepherd there... But look! He resisted although I told him to give up... He said he would try... No matter what happens after this, Selim won't stay as the shepherd... Let's get over this thing, and the next day shepherd's work will end... From now on, think of a new shepherd for us... But let's first think of tomorrow... What if makes the herd cross the river?
- ŞABAN - The salt.... my Master... The salt messes up the game, the faithfulness... Then thirst makes creatures do anything that seems impossible... Makes them do anything that cannot be done...
- HÜSEYİN - Stop talking big now! Tell me, what will we do if he manages them?
- ŞABAN - There is no such possibility my Master!
- HÜSEYİN - Let's say it's a one in a million chance. Tell me that! What will we do then?
- ŞABAN - You will give up my Master!
- HÜSEYİN - Wouldn't that be shameful
- ŞABAN - The real shame is a mighty Master giving his daughter away to a shepherd, my master! Rest for a while. You are tired my master...
- HÜSEYİN - *(While he is going inside)* I hope there won't be a need to give up... Good night.
- ŞABAN - You too my Master... *(ŞABAN leaves.) (HÜSEYİN comes inside. ZEHRİ is taking her clothes off. HÜSEYİN is taking his clothes off too)*
- HÜSEYİN - Girl?

ZEHRA - *(Points ahead with his finger)* In your bed... It's been quite a while.

HÜSEYİN - What if he manages the herd?

ZEHRA - Brother's son said the best option... You'll give up!

*(ZEHRA gets into bed... She turns her back... HUSEYİN gets into bed too, thoughtful... HATICE's section lights up too... HATICE is really in bed. But dressed up. Listening outside.... HUSEYİN starts to snore. ZEHRA obviously is disgusted from HUSEYİN... She is far from HUSEYİN... HATICE slowly gets out of bed. She puts a pillow in her bed. She covers the pillow with the blanket and slowly slips outside. She sits on a corner for a while... HATICE: )*

### MELANCHOLIA

I couldn't open the black chest I tried  
I couldn't pick my trousseau I cried  
My life is wasted my youth is gone  
I couldn't become the shepperd's bride

Oh my Lord that was the biggest fault  
I wish the herd didn't eat the salt  
They were told to eat and they obeyed  
My heart cried so much and prayed

They divided my hair into three  
Then they braided without asking me  
Before I reach my goal with my love  
They broke my wings not to set me free

If the sheep drink the water  
It will be the real slaughter  
With golden shovels let girls dig my grave  
I am not afraid I am brave

*(HATICE is sitting, sad...  
ZEHRA suddenly gets suspicious... She gets up and looks at  
HATICE'S bed. When she sees that the object in the bed is not  
breathing, she opens the covers... She runs to HUSEYIN)*

ZEHRA - Get up! Get up! (*Shakes him*) I said get up! Get up!

HÜSEYİN - What is it? What happened?

ZEHRA - Hatice ran away!

*( HÜSEYİN in front, ZEHRA behind him, runs to HATICE's  
bed.)*

HÜSEYİN - (*He sees the pillow in the bed*) You bitch you! He runs back to  
their section... ZEHRA behind him. He dresses up quickly. He  
runs outside. ZEHRA behind him... He lowers his voice and  
calls.) Şabaaan! Şabaaan!

ŞABAN - (*He comes out with shorts and a shirt*) What is it my Master  
Huseyin? What's wrong?

HÜSEYİN - (*In a low voice*) Hatice is gone!. She put a pillow in her bed!  
I think she ran away! Damn, she is going to embarrass me! Do  
you think she ran away?

ŞABAN - (*He has thought about it.* ) Master you go in your tent....

HÜSEYİN - I asked you a question!

ŞABAN - I don't know master... Maybe she has ran away... We'll know  
for sure now...

ZEHRA - Figure it out however you want, but quick brother's son!  
Hurry brother's son, hurry!

*(ŞABAN gets into the tent. He comes right back out. A shotgun  
in his hand...)*

ŞABAN - My master you go back to your tent... *(He runs to the place SELİM is staying)* Selim! Seliim!

SELİM - *(He comes out. Already dressed.)* Is that you Saban?

ŞABAN - It's me... Where is Hatice?

SELİM - How am I supposed to know?

ŞABAN - She put a pillow in her bed. Do you know anything, be honest?

SELİM - I swear I don't know Saban Saban... *(He panics)* Let's look for her...

ŞABAN - *(He sticks his head inside. To SELİM again)* My Master Huseyin is up too. Don't let him see you or else he will kill you!

SELİM - What did I do?

*(Silence. SABAN is coming near HUSEYİN... HATICE sees that her father and mother are standing near their tent. She gets close, sits down and rests her back on the tent... She coughs so that her father can hear her.)*

ZEHRA - Listen

ŞABAN - Did you hear that?

HÜSEYİN - I did! It's Hatice's cough

ZEHRA - There she is!  
*(All three of them run to HATICE who is sitting down.)*

ZEHRA - What are you doing here girl?

HATİCE - Nothing. I couldn't go to sleep.

HÜSEYİN - I'll kill you, you son of a bitch! Why did you put a pillow under your covers? Are you trying to embarrass me? Zehra was

right... she was right... *(He holds his daughter by her hair and starts to beat her up... SABAN can't do much about it but still stops HUSEYIN...)*

HATİCE - What did I do dad?

ŞABAN - She made an ignorant mistake my master... Forgive her!

HATİCE -*(Crying)* I couldn't sleep, I came and sat down dad!

HÜSEYİN - She is still talking... You're going to get yourself killed this midnight... Shut up! Damn it shut up! Get in the tent you son of a bitch!

*(HATİCE in front HÜSEYİN and ZEHRA behind, they get into the tent... SELIM is relieved... SELIM walks towards the sheepfold...As SABAN walks to his tent... HATİCE takes her clothes off and gets into her bed under HUSEYİN'S glares... HUSEYİN starts sleeping the moment he puts his head on the pillow... ZEHRA looks at HUSEYİN disgustedly. She is unable to sleep)*

### The Sheepfold

*( The first man is continuously giving salt to the sheep... One of the salt sacks is empty. The inspectors are almost asleep. They are supposedly doing their job by struggling with their selves not to sleep... When 1st Man is tired, the 2nd Man takes over... It's almost dawn...)*

1st MAN - You almost are going to finish the second sack... You don't think and eat as we give it to you! Do you have something against your shepherd? Tell me! Do you have something against him?  
*(SELIM comes in. He watches quietly and with worry.)*

2nd MAN - *(Half asleep. To 1st MAN)* What is that, are you talking to the herd?

1st MAN - I'm giving them salt, they're eating it. I'm saying, so you have anything against your shepherd?

2nd MAN - Sheep are like ignorant people! They're both the same thing! They eat the salt because they're stupid, not because they have anything against him!

SELİM - Hello!

1st MAN - Hello Selim ..

2nd MAN - Didn't you go to sleep?

SELİM - How can I sleep friends? How can a man who is going to be tested sleep?

1st MAN - Look at them... look how they're eating? Do they have something against you?

SELİM - I cut three of their lambs today... *(He offers a cigarette that he has rolled)* Won't you?

2.nd MAN - *(He takes it. He lights up his cigarette using the torch.)* Thanks!

1st MAN - Look my friend Selim... Go get some sleep... It's almost dawn. You should be strong to blow your flageolet... And also, if they see you here the big mouths will start a gossip... *(SELİM especially looks at BLACK SHEEP.... BLACK SHEEP acts as if he doesn't care... And the hers indifferent...)*

SELİM - *(Sad.)* You are right... Take it easy...

*(SELİM walks hopelessly... The morning sun starts to reflect on SELİM's face, he stops... SELİM: )*

## REGRET!

I said "don't listen to them, don't submit,  
We are all from the same root

So, let's unite, we can't split"  
Then I cut the lambs, their lives I mute

Oh Lord, what did I do?  
How could I be so ruthless, so cruel?  
After sacrificing innocent lives  
How could I act so brutal and cool?

I killed the blameless lambs  
And betrayed my descent  
How shall I live with this sin  
When mothers cry with torment?

I know we are all from the same root  
I know our future is bright  
I know if we want to reach oceans  
We should get together, and unite!

*(SELIM sits down... He starts to dose off hopeless and tired...  
While the men continue feeding salt)*

Little River

*(The nomads await...  
The herd awaits...  
The dogs await...  
HUSEYIN, ZEHRA, HATICE and SABAN await...  
SELIM awaits... SELIM exhausted and sad...  
The HERD and SELIM stare at each other...  
They all are on one side of the river that leaks down to  
Kizilirmak... The nomads:*

REALIZATION !



For the shepherd not to be able to marry her  
They fed you with salt all night long  
This was their wish, this was their command  
But we knew what they've really planned

These guys are being very sneaky  
This whole thing is very freaky  
Shepherd is not eating the salt  
They are shameless, they are tricky

Herd, this is your test, this is your trial  
You eat that salt in that big pile  
You should hang on and cross the river  
What you do is really worthwhile

*( Silence. The tension increases...)*

BLACK SHEEP:

HOWL MY FOREST !

Selim's sorrow is heartfelt  
His regret is real  
I can see it in his eyes  
In my heart I can feel

We have to support each other  
Be strong and cross the river  
We have to do our job  
And bring these lovers together

We are committed we are bound  
We have endless hope and desire  
There is no way we drink that water  
No way we give up and retire

Of course the forest will howl  
Where the wind blows like thunder  
Let us scream, let us roar

Let the whole world wonder

*(MASTER ALI and his son MEHMET arrive...  
Uncertain "Welcome"s...  
SELIM and MEHMET stare at each other.  
MEHMET glares at SELIM.  
SELIM hopeless...  
HUSEYIN motions SELIM to get across with his hand...  
SELIM hopeless... Looks at HATICE...  
BLACK SHEEP and the herd catch this look...  
SELIM gets across... Sits somewhere high...  
Takes out his flageolet... He starts to blow...  
The herd and BLACK SHEEP listen to the sound of the  
flageolet...  
BLACK SHEEP walks through the herd  
As though he is warning them...  
The herd walks to the river...  
One by one, they cross the river without drinking the  
water...  
The sheep that crosses the river comes and sits next to  
SELIM.  
Every crossing sheep either makes someone happy or  
sad.  
The last one to cross is BLACK SHEEP...  
BLACK SHEEP comes and stops near SELIM...  
The herd and BLACK SHEEP continue listening to the  
music that comes out of the flageolet enjoying...  
MASTER ALI and HUSEYIN shocked... MEHMET  
angry...  
ZEHRA panicky... HATICE happy...  
SELIM puts down the flageolet, gets up)*

1st ELDERLY - This is done Selim... You did what Master Huseyin obligated you to do... Hatice is yours now.

SELİM - My master... Let the herd drink water...

HÜSEYİN - Let them drink...  
(*SELİM motions to BLACK SHEEP. The herd runs to the water...*)

MEHMET - Dad! It didn't work dad!

MASTER ALI - This isn't the right time to talk about these.

MEHMET - He owes you the world!

MASTER ALI - Shush!

MEHMET - You knew I wanted this girl!

HÜSEYİN - Wouldn't I have given her to you if you rushed?

MATER ALI - We didn't think things would turn out this way....

ŞABAN - Give up my master!

ZEHRA - Give up! Give up!

HÜSEYİN - I thought what I would do if things turned out this way, all night... I said it once... I can't give up... I couldn't even if I wanted to... (*Honestly*) The only way to stop this is the death of one of the two.!

MEHMET - Hatice's death wouldn't work for me!

*(MEHMET takes his gun and shoots SELİM. SELİM lays down and saves him self... Panic... A sheep, then another sheep, and more sheep gets shot... The last sheep in the herd gets shot too... MEHMET keeps on shooting... The other sheep kneel down to their dead bodies. Then they come next to SELİM with*

*certainty and stand up on their two feet... They have turned into humans... MEHMET isn't shooting anymore... MASTER ALI slaps his son and takes the gun out of his hand... First HATICE then the nomads cross and take their place near love... The women fix their head-scarves so their hair show. On the other side of the water MASTER ALI, HUSEYIN, MEHMET, SABAN, their men who are the TWO DOGS and ZEHRA are left...)*  
*(The ones on the other side of the water : )*

## WEDDING !

Beat your drum drummer  
Let the whole world hear it  
We are a howling forest  
Beat your drum, blow our wind

Come on cheer up Black Sheep  
Today is your day, be spry  
Blow your pipe my Shepherd  
This is your wedding, don't cry

Beat your drum drummer,  
Let it blast, let it thunder  
Light the fire in our hearts  
Let the whole world wonder

Wake up, it's not time to sleep  
Wake up, and dance with us  
Living is the best song to sing  
Let everyone sing it with us

Beat your drum drummer  
Let the whole world hear it  
We are a howling forest  
Beat your drum, blow our wind

Beat your drum drummer,  
Let it blast, let it thunder  
Light the fire in our hearts

Let the whole world wonder

*(The KIZILIRMAK SONG is sang again...  
In a louder tone, more joyfully... The ones on the stage: )*

## BALLAD OF RED RIVER II

From the skies, from the mountains  
We come down like thunder  
With little water we grow  
Then we reach Red River

With our history behind us  
We come down with emotions  
With songs and ballads we rise  
And we reach to the oceans

By finger we can not be counted  
By force we can not be grounded  
For the world of equality  
We overcome the curelty

By building dams on our way  
It is not easy to stop our flow  
Or changing the bed of the river  
Is not going to help we'll grow

Time to time we are beaten  
But we never lose our sight  
We hold hands and build the history  
We know our future is bright

We are mankind we are human

Our hopes and dreams we care  
“Except the lips of our women”  
Everything, but everything we share

Despite the pain, despite the grief  
We don't give up, we stand strong  
Against trouble, against hardship  
We hold hands we can't go wrong

Torture, cruelty and blood  
Made us grow made us mature  
Now we are strong as steel  
We have a safe future

Believe us! Trust us!  
No one ever will be killed  
A world without war  
We promise we will build

END

23 December 2000, Istanbul.

