JIRENSHE SHESHEN

Once, when JirensheSheshen was travelling, he came close to one aul. There he had to stop, because that aul stayed on the opposite bank of the river. He was staying there not really knowing what to do next, for he didn't know where the ford was, and just then the girl came from aul and approached the river to bring some water.

Jirenshe asked her loudly, "Where is the ford to cross this river?"

The girl replied, "There the ford is. It is far from here, however, it is the closest. The other ford — right there, is the closest, but it is very far."

Jirenshedidn't understand the meaning of her words, so he rode to the ford which was closer to him. He rode across the river, but when he reached the middle, his hoarse get stuck in river silt and fell. All Jirenshe's clothes got dirty and it took him great efforts to get back onto the bank. Then he rode to the farthest ford, which girl had called the closest, though it is far. Here he crossed the river easily and came in aul, to the yurt, where that girl lived.

After Jirenshe took his sit, he looked upon the girl and said, "Dear girl, I've made a long way here and I am really hungry. Bring me something to eat, most tasty meal you have."

The girl replied, "I have got two meals in my yurt. One is bitter, yet it is tasty. The other is beige, yet it is still bitter."

Jirenshe said, "Bring me then the meal which is bitter, but tasty."

The girl went out, took little cup of salt from the shanash and put it in the front of Jirenshe. He gave her surprised look and asked, "But sweetling, how can I eat the salt itself?"

The girl said nothing, just went out again, brought the cup of koje, but without any spices, including salt, and also put it in the front of Jirenshe.

Then Jirenshe understood everything. He felt shame, for he didn't wait until the hostess will bring him meal but asked himself to bring him the best food she had. However, from what this girl has done and said, Jirenshe understood that she was sound and sensible, and, as people say, after that Jirenshe took her for his wife.

The girl's name was Karashash the Beautiful. She was considered the smartest and the most beautiful girl in that land and even khan, who was the lord at that time, was planning to marry her himself. This is why, after Karashash became wife of Jirenshe, khan began to hate him fiercely.

Once, the khan was in the mood to have some goose for dinner, so his kitcheners fetched him big roasted goose. It happened that Jirenshe was sitting beside the khan that night, so the khan told him, "Give the piece of this goose to me, my wife, my sons and took one for yourself, but do it so, that everyone gets equal part. If some part will be bigger, or smaller than others at least for one grain, I will punish you hard."

Then Jirenshe took the knife, cut off the head of goose, gave it to khan and said, "My lord, you are the most important man in our land, so for you is the head. But the khan can not do without khanym, like any head can not do without the neck. Dear khanym, you are the neck for our khan, so for you is the neck of this goose," and having said so, he cut off gooses neck and put it before khanym.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

"These two boys," Jirenshe went on, "are your wings. So they get the wings of the goose".

And he handed gave each khan's son a wing.

"As for me, master, I am not the head, nor the tale, just a middle man. So, the whole middle part of that goose suits me well, and I will take it." After thatJirenshe put the rest of goose before himself.

Some time had passed, and khan took Jirenshe haunting with him. Suddenly, Khan saw the tumbleweed rolling and commanded Jirenshe, "Go ask this tumbleweed where does it plan to stay and when it wants to get travel again and stay after that. If you do not retell me what exactly its reply was, I will command my guards to kill you."

Jirenshe spurred his horse on, rode after the tumbleweed and pinned it with his spear. There he stood for some time and came back to his master.

"My lord," he said, "I asked the tumbleweed everything you told and here is its reply. It said 'I do not know who is bigger fool of you two — your khan, who sent you to ask me such things, or you, who came to me with those questions. It's the wind, who may answer when my travel starts, and the ravine who knows where it ends."

Khan had to admit that Jirenshe was right that time, but he still was angry with him. Khan made plots and schemes to catch Jirenshe and have the reason kill him, for he wanted to get Karashash for himself, but Jirenshe always found the way how to get the khan round. And the more luck and prudence Jirenshe showed while avoiding khan traps, the more khan got to hate him. Jirenshe was a clever man and understood what was going on, and what happened between him and khan made him really upset. Karashash the Beautiful also noticed her husband was in bad mood so she asked him once, "Why are you always being so sad?"

Then Jirenshe told her everything.

Karashash said, "Not shall you mourn, my dear friend. Together we will surely find out something. You shall better invite khan and bays to visit you in two days."

Though Jirenshe was believed to be the best orator in the world, he was really very poor. There was even one legend regarding his poverty. Once, after spending the day in beautiful khan's palace and sitting on soft featherbed, he returned to his tiny dark hut, took sit on some rough skin and told his wife:

"It is so good to be back in my beautiful house, my broad palace, my white yurt!"

This is why Jirenshe was surprised with what his wife has suggested, and asked her, "

You want to invite khan and his people into our home?But is there a room in our house for them all? And what dishes shall me serve such noble guests?"

To that Karashash replied, "Do not worry; I shall take care of everything."

In two days, Jirenshe invited khan and his people to his little house. Being on their way, Khan and his guardians were thinking of what meals had Jirenshe prepared for them. When guests arrived, they entered Jirenshe's little hut and took their seats, and those, for whom the room was not enough, arranged themselves

LIVEWORKSHEETS

outside, on felts and blankets. Karashash the Beautiful got up then, brought the cup of milk and sour cream and put it in front of khan.

Khan took some sour cream with the very end of his pinky-toe and tasted it. It seemed to him that he had never eaten more delicious meal in whole his life. Then he scooped the sour cream again, and then again and, suddenly, he felt fool with it. The rest of sour cream he handed to his people. All, who were present in Jirenshe's hut, wanted to taste that unusual meal, that khan himself had liked so much.

When khan was leaving, he called Karashash and asked her, "Oh, gorgeous Karashash, what was that meal you served us? We had never tasted anything more delicious than that. Teach us how to cook it, so that our kitcheners could please us with it every day.

For this Karashash answered, "Dear lord, you know we are the poor people. When my husband decided to invite you and your noble men to visit our home, I started to think, what meals we shall be serving you. Finally, it came to my mind, than the most nutritious thing in the world is human milk, since the children can eat only breast milk until they are five or six, and it is enough for them. So I took the milk of my own and made the sour cream of it."

Khan said nothing, only cried "Oh!" and went out.

It is widely known now, and was known years and years before, that if a man fed upon woman's milk, this woman become his second mother and marrying her was forbidden.

Few days after khan called Jirenshe, asked his pardon for everything he had done and presented him with her of cattle to make up for all offences he suffered.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Find the definition

Words:

Ford _____

Bitter _____

Lord _____

Fiercely _____

Fetched _____

Guards _____

Nutritious _____

Forbidden _____

Definitions:

Stream allowing one to walk

Person assigned to protect a person

Efficient as food; nourishing

Not permitted or allowe

Go for and then bring back for someone

A man of noble rank or high office

Not sweet

In a frightening, violent, or powerful way

True or false

- Jirenshe Sheshen was travelling, he came close to one aul. T/F
- The girl replied, "There the ford is. It is far from here, however, it is the not closest. T/F
- All Jirenshe's clothes got clean. T/F
- The girl's name was Karakoz the Beautiful. T/F
- Few days after khan called Jirenshe, asked his pardon for everything he had done and presented him with her of cattle to make up for all offences he suffered. T/F

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Fill in the gaps

- Then he rode to the _____, which girl had called the closest, though it is far.
- _____ took some sour cream with the very end of his pinky-toe and tasted it.
- The _____ replied, “I have got two meals in my yurt”.
- The girl’s name was _____ the Beautiful.
- For this Karashash answered, “Dear ____, you know we are the poor people.

Khan Farthest Girl Lord Karashash

LIVEWORKSHEETS