



European Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport 2014 – 2020  
Type of the Project: Strategic Partnership in School Education, Key Action 2  
Agreement Number of the project: 2018-1-RO01-KA201-049310  
The title of the project: "Embracing European Values through Tales"

## TURKEY – TRADITIONAL TALE

### *TAHIR AND ZÜHRE*

In the old time there was a rich, powerful and reputable Sultan. This king had everything. But the sultan did not have a child to carry on his throne. The sultan went to the doctors, dedicate vows and never had children. When he could not benefit from them, he lost his hopes. The vizier was suffering from the same problem. The sultan agreed to seek a remedy that the vizier had proposed to him. They walked down the road with the vizier. They met an old Santon under a tree :

**Santon:**What's the matter my Sultan? How can I help you ?

**Sultan:** Me and my Vizier have a big problem. Neither me nor my Vizier can have child so, we are so sorry.

**Santon:** (thinks) My Sultan (turns the vizier) My Vizier I will help you but you should do exactly what I say to you.

**Sultan- Vizier:** Promise.

**Santon:** ( gets an apple and cuts it ) Take the half of the apple my Sultan and my Vizier take the other half. My Sultan you will have a baby girl and my Vizier, you will have a baby boy. Name them Tahir and Zühre. When they grow up pair off them. NEVER SEPERATE THEM!

They return to the kingdom.

Nine months and ten days later the sultan had a daughter and the vizier had a boy. They cried so hard but they would stop crying when they came together. They put two in the same room in the palace and grew together.

They took lessons from the most prominent teachers. They did everything in harmony. They had a nice childhood. But at the age of ten Zühre started to feed some feelings to Tahir and she kissed Tahir while he was sleeping. When they became teenagers They fell in love. Zühre became a beautiful girl and Tahir became a handsome boy.

When every thing went so well, Zühre's mother wanted to marry her daughter not with a Vizier's son but with a Sultan. Mean while a slave whose name was Karadiken was an evil man. He was in love with Zühre so he felt jealous very much. Although the sultan wanted his daughter to marry Tahir, but they deter the Sultan from this idea by taking a magical sherbet which he got from his wife. The sultan cooled to Tahir and dismissed him from the palace and banished him to the Mardin Castle.

In this castle Tahir had kinds of tortures. Seven years passed here. One day she sent a letter to Tahir by the help of a soldier . So he prayed to God and asked him to save himself from the dungeon. God accepted the pray and opened door of the dungeon. A black horse appeared in front of Tahir and took him to Zühre's frontyard. She took Tahir to her mansion for forty days. They had fun. But Karadiken saw those two again together and told the sultan again. The sultan released his troops. But Tahir killed them all, therefore the Sultan cheated and told him ‘

**Sultan:** If you surrender I will do your wedding.

But the sultan trapped him in a chest and threw him in the river of Shat. The friends of Zühre who are daughters of who reigns near the river Shat. Girls saved Tahir. At this time, Zühre was given to a sultan and wedding preparations were made.

Tahir, disguised as a poet and arrived at her wedding. Nobody could deal with him there and finally she saw Tahir. On their wedding day they decided to escape. That day Tahir waited with two horses on the road. But Karadiken saw the man reported to the

sultan. Tahir was caught again. The sultan asked him to sing a song without name of Zühre. But he couldn't. So, The sultan killed Tahir. Zühre heard the death of Tahir. She cried in pain. She was deeply sorry and she felt anger to her father. And soon, she died because of her sorrow. Sultan realized his mistakes and felt very deep regret and he cried. While he was crying Santon appeared :

**Santon :** Why are u crying my Sultan?

**Sultan:** I made a big mistake. I didn't keep my promise and broke my vow. I separated them and They died because of me.

**Santon :**Yes, my Sultan, You made a terrible mistake and You will live that pain forever.

Karadiken did all those evil things but he couldn't bear this pain and the loss of Zühre and he fell to the ground and died.

They were buried side by side. At the end of the head, the slave called Karadiken were buried. A pink rose above the grave of Zühre grew up and a red rose over Tahir's grave. In the grave of Karadiken, a black thorn bush ends. This black thorn bush prevents thes roses from reaching. Every lover who visits here cuts the black thorn bush, but it comes back up again.