

ŞAHMARAN



Anamur-TURKEY

Once upon a time, long long ago, there was a mythical creature named Shahmaran believed to live in Mediterranean town of Tarsus. Beautiful Shahmaran with the torso of a woman and a tail of serpent was living in a cave under the seventh layer of Earth.

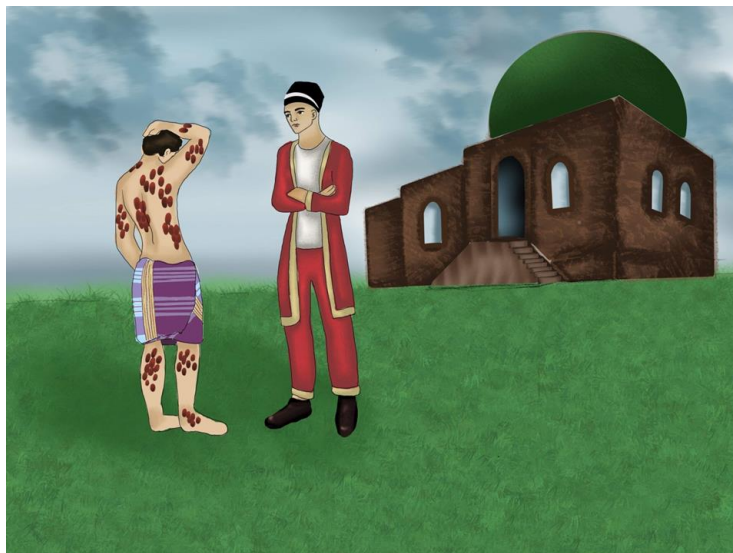
One day a young man named Tahmasp fell into a well and accidentally passed to an underground cave. When he opened his eyes, he found himself surrounded by many snakes.





Feeling terrified, he closed his eyes and prayed this to be a dream. When he opened his eyes again, he saw a beautiful woman, in the form of half woman and half snake. She was Shahmaran, the Queen of Snakes, who knew many secrets of eternal life and deep wisdom.

Days passed and passed and they fell in love. Shahmaran told Tahmasp stories about the history, health and wisdom. However, one day the young man wished to return to his parents as he missed them very much. Shahmaran let him go on one condition. 'He would not tell anyone where she is living.' She also advised him not to bathe in the hammam- The Turkish Bath- because his skin would turn into snakeskin, covered with scales. He accepted it and returned to his parents.



Tahmasp kept his secret for many years until one day the sultan of his country became very sick. His vizier told the Sultan that only cure was eating the flesh of Shahmaran. The vizier was a very wicked and

ambitious man who didn't really care about the Sultan but wanted to learn the secrets of the world and long life by eating Shahmaran's flesh. Therefore, he sent soldiers around the country and ordered everyone to bath in hammam. In the end, Tahmasp was caught as his skin was covered with snake scales which was a sign that he had seen her.



Tahmasp had to tell Shahmaran's place so Shahmaran was caught and brought to Sultan's palace. Shahmaran made a secret plan for passing her wisdom and secrets to her lover . She told to Sultan that whoever ate from her tail would acquire all her secrets and wisdom, the one who ate from her body would be healed and whoever ate from her head would die immediately. As soon as he heard the Shahmaran, the vizier cut her into three pieces with his sword. The greedy vizier ate from the tail, Tahmasp feeling guilty and ashamed ate a piece from her head so he could die and the sultan ate from the body. As a result, the greedy vizier died instantly, the sultan recovered and Tahmasp acquired all the secrets and wisdom of Shahmaran .