

## **Mendilimin Ucuna Sakız Bađladım** **Folk song from Izmir/Urla**

Mendilimin ucuna sakız bađladım sakız  
Mendilimin ucuna sakız bađladım sakız

Dođru söyle sevdiđim sever misin başka kız,  
ninno yarım ayrılık mı var (yallah) (ah)  
Güzel yarım ayrılık mı var (dargınlık)

İn dereye çık düze Őimdi kızlar yüz yüze  
İn dereye çık düze Őimdi kızlar yüz yüze

Yüze bakanlar alır bakmayan bekar kalır,  
ninno yarım ayrılık mı var  
Güzel yarım ayrılık mı var (dargınlık)

İn dereye dereye toplayalım taşları  
İn dereye dereye toplayalım taşları

Senin yarla benim yar mahle arkadaşları,  
ninno yarım ayrılık mı var  
Güzel yarım ayrılık mı var (dargınlık)

---

Original second verse lyrics

İn dereye çık düze Őimdi kızlar beŐ yüze  
BeŐ yüzü sayan alır saymayan bekar kalır

New second verse lyrics courtesy Alihan İnanlı and the Toronto  
Turkish Cultural Society.

-----

I tied a piece of mastic in the corner of my handkerchief

Tell me truly, do you love another girl  
My sweetheart are we separating,  
My best beloved are you upset about something

Go down the river and out on the fields  
All the girls are face to face  
If you can catch their eye, you can have one but if not you'll  
stay single

Go into the river and let's gather stones/pebbles  
Your sweetheart and my sweetheart are from the same  
neighbourhood.

Original second verse  
Go down to the river and out to the fields, girls now are worth  
500 (a price)  
If you can count out 500 you can take one, if not you'll stay  
single

Interpretation update:  
Sakız can also mean chewing gum. And while I am not sure I  
agree (yet) a Turkish friend suggested that putting chewed gum  
in the handkerchief - something of one's self - was a way to  
get closer to the sweetheart. Perhaps akin to a lock of hair.  
Either way, the sense is that there is some power to tying  
something into the hanki, that there is some sort of charm or  
talisman at work.

This work in progress presented by Brenna MacCrimmon for  
EEFC's virtual East Coast Camp August 2021.

