

Story #497 (Not on tape)

Narrator: Unidentified man at makam
of Hızır at Arsuz

Location: [renamed Uluçınar]
Arsuz, village on Mediter-
ranean near southern end
of Bay of İskenderun, Hatay
Province; site of one of the
most important Hızır
shrines.

Date: June 1968

The Bridge That Hızır Built

When I was serving in the Turkish Brigade in Korea, a Turkish soldier from my village was confronted by four Chinese soldiers who ordered him to lay down his arms or they would kill him. The young man shouted, "Ya Hızır!" and Hızır appeared as one hundred soldiers to the eyes of the four Chinese. They were so frightened that the Turk was able to take all four of them prisoner. The Americans rewarded him for his bravery that day, and he sent home 40,000 liras to his village on behalf of Hızır. A large bridge was built there with this money.