

Story 1075 1980 Tape 1)

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of Elazığ Province

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Prophet İdris¹ in Heaven

Prophet İdris wanted to enter heaven in order to see what it was like. The angels at the gate refused to let in at first. They said, "Once you get inside, you will want to leave."

İdris answered, "I promise that if you let me in to look around, I shall leave again." After he had made this promise, the angels allowed him to enter. He looked around for some time and liked very much what he saw. He departed, as he said he would, but before doing so, he left his scissors in heaven.

Shortly after he departed he returned again and said to the guards at the gate, "I forgot my scissors and left them inside." They permitted him to get the scissors

Once he was inside for a second time, however, he refused to leave. He said, "I left after entering heaven for the first time because I promised to do so. This second time I entered I made no such promise, and so I refuse

¹There is no evidence that İdris was ever literally a prophet. In the Turkish oral tradition almost every Biblical figure and every early religious figure who is in any way recognized by Islam is called a prophet.

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to leave." And he stayed there.

Tailors all believe this story.²

²Idris was a very early religious figure. He is mentioned twice very briefly in the Koran: XIX, 57 and XXI, 85. His identity is controversial. Guesses about his identity range from Alexander's cook to the Biblical Enoch. Almost all post-Koranic scholars consider him to be Enoch. He is not mentioned in the Bible at all.

He was such an early figure that he was credited with many "firsts." "He was the first . . . to sew garments and wear them; previously people had been content with skins. He is therefore the patron saint of tailors. . . ." --Encyclopaedia of Islam, III, 449.