

Story 1515 (1981 Tape 8)

Narrator: Ali Çiftçi, in mid-60s by the time he told this tale

Location: Çıkırıkçı village, Sarıkaya kaza, Yozgat Province

Date: 1981

Cain and Abel

When they were thrown out of heaven, Adam and Eve landed in different parts of the world. When they were reunited, they settled down. In time they had two sons, Abel and Cain¹

was born first, and later Cain was born. At the time that each was born, a twin girl was also born. The girl who was born with Abel was İlhıma,² and the girl who was born with Cain was Güveyda.³ İlhıma was quite pretty, but Güveyda was rather ugly.

After the four children had grown up, Adam said to his sons, "Allah ordered that my first son /Abel/ should marry the girl born with my second son /Cain/, and the girl born with my second son should marry my first son." This was the arrangement that Allah had made in order to cause the population to grow.

Abel objected, saying, "No! I want to marry the girl

¹The Turkish name for Abel given here is Habıl, and the name for Cain is Kabil.

²This name is not given in the Encyclopaedia of Islam, the Turkish Encyclopedia, the index to The Glorious Koran, or Montgomery's Commentaries on the Koran.

³Same as Note 2 above.

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that was born with me!

"No, you cannot do that, for Allah ordered otherwise."

Abel was a farmer, and Cain was a shepherd. In those days people used to offer sacrifices to Allah, and if a fire came out of the sky and carried off their sacrifices, people knew that they had been accepted by Allah. One year Abel took some grain to the altar as a sacrifice, and Cain took a slaughtered lamb. When the grain was taken away by the fire, but the lamb was left on the altar, Cain became angry at Abel and killed him

Kabil did not know what to do with his dead brother's body, and so he carried it on his back everywhere he for forty years. He did not know that he should bury Abel. One day as he was sitting, very tired, with his brother still on his back, Kabil saw two crows come along and start fighting with each other. The crow which won the fight pulled off his rival's head. Then he scratched a hole in the ground with his claw, dragged his enemy's body into the hole, and covered it with dirt. Kabil thought, "Oh, this must be a message meant for me!" That was the first time that a human being thought about graves. He dug a grave and placed his brother's body in it.

As Cain was burying Abel, a voice in the air spoke to

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him saying, "May Allah give you an appearance of darkness!"

Cain then spent the rest of his life in India.

/Ahmet Uysal: "Is that why the people of India are so dark-skinned?"

Narrator: "Yes."/