

Story 1516 (1981 Tape 8)

Narrator: Ali Çiftçi, farmer;
in mid-60s by this
time

Location: Çıkırıkçı village,
Sarıkaya kaza,
Yozgat Province

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Prophet İdris¹

After there were 40,000 people on earth, Seth, the third son of Adam, was born.² Following him came the Blessed İdris, who was a tailor. One day İdris went outside and sat in the sunshine. The sun warmed his back and made him feel so comfortable that he said, "My Allah, increase the power of those angels that move the sun about. They are such good creatures!" (According to what I once read in a book, there were then 361 angels who were responsible for the movement of the sun.

When those angels realized that their work had been made easier, they asked, "O our God, for whose sake did you increase our power?"

"For the sake of the Prophet İdris."

"O our God, give us permission to go and visit that prophet." ■■■■■ ■■■■■

¹Mentioned in Chapter 19, 56/7 and in Chapter 21, 85 of the Koran. Sometimes identified with Enoch. Name may have come from Esdras, the Greek form of Ezra.

²According to the Biblical account, Seth was the third son of Adam. See Genesis 4:25. Just how there could have been 40,000 people generated by Adam and Eve and their first two sons, Cain and Abel, is not explained.

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Allah gave them permission, and they went to visit the prophet. Idris said to them, "If you are the angels who carry the sun, take me along with you so that I may observe your work."

The angels granted his request, but when they took him along with them, Allah ordered Azrail³ to take Idris's life. Upset by this, the angels said, "Our God, we took him away alive. What will everyone say if we take him back dead?"

"Don't interfere with my wisdom," replied Allah. "I shall revive him so that he will act as he had formerly." After Allah had restored life in the Blessed Idris, He said to Gabriel, "Take him to Hell and show him around this universe."

After Idris had seen Hell, he said to Gabriel, "Show me also what Heaven is like."

"No," said Gabriel, "because I am afraid that if I did that, you would refuse to come back out."

But Idris said, "No, no! I swear that I shall come out again." After they had wandered around in Heaven for some time and were on the way out, Idris slipped off one of his shoes and left it there. After they were outside the gate of Heaven, Idris said, "Oh! I left one of my shoes inside. Let me go and get it

³The angel of death

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"Go ahead and get it," said Gabriel. Idris reentered Heaven, but this time he refused to leave again. "Come on back out, Idris!" Gabriel called.

Idris answered, "I swore to come out again when I first entered Heaven, and I kept my word. But I did not take any such oath this time, and so I shall not come out again."

Then a message came from Allah, saying, "I had intended to keep him here anyway."