

Story 1013 (1984 Tape 1) Narrator: Hasan Tekis, 35,
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Location: Seydiler village, kaza
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Afyon Province

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The Creation of Man¹

At the time of Creation God ordered the angels to bring soil from everywhere on earth. The angels collected samples of soil from all over the world, placed it in a jar, and presented it to God. God then ordered them to pour water on the soil and turn it into mud. After they had done this, God ordered them to shape the mud into the form of a human being, but He Himself molded the head

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36 The angels asked, "O, Lord, are you going to create
(Adam) and thereby bring malice into the world?"

"My angels, you do not know what I know. To both the human beings I create I shall give lust, but they will both worship me and learn to cope with their sexual desire."

¹Folk accounts of the creation of man usually do not adhere closely to the Scriptural versions found in either the Bible or the Koran. There would be no stimulus for the making and telling of such folk accounts if they did simply repeat Scriptural texts.

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The angels said, "O Lord, we could do that too." But when God gave sexual desires to two of the angels, Hard and Marut², they could not handle this and thus became its slaves.

God said, "You see! You could not do what this human being will be able to do! Therefore, I shall continue with the creation of Adam

After God finished forming Adam, He gave life to each part of him, starting with his feet. As He came to his throat, Adam sneezed and, beginning to breathe, said, "Thank God!" (If a person says, "Thank God!" when he sneezes, he will have prayed and acted like Adam. But if the person next to the sneezer does not say /⁻"Yar hakummulah"₇,³ then that person will have sinned. That second person should say it within himself and not out loud.

And so this was the way in which Adam came to life. He was placed in an earthly paradise, and shortly after he arrived there he was given a mate, for God created Mother Eve from a drop of sweat running down one of his left rib

²Hard and Marut have not yet been identified satisfactorily.

³This term is unclear.

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bones. The two of them spent their time wandering together around their paradise. It was ordered that they could and drink whatever they wished but that they should never go near a certain tree, and a wheat tree⁴ was pointed out to them.

When Adam had been created, all of the angels except Satan prostrated themselves before him. Satan said, "Inasmuch as I am made of fire and this creature is made of soil, I could consume him in flames. I am, therefore, superior, and I shall not prostrate myself before him." When God threatened to throw him out of heaven for this, Satan responded, "O Lord, if you remove me from heaven, I shall remain an enemy to this earthly couple until Doomsday!"

Beginning almost at once, Satan filled Adam and Eve with a temptation to eat the product of the wheat tree. Adam and Eve surrendered to their desire to eat from that tree, but afterwards they both had bowel movements. When they had desecrated their paradise in this way, they were both thrown out of paradise by God, and they were thrown to widely separated places. For seven years they wandered

⁴There is no doubt that the narrator does say here wheat tree. Just what that is or why it is substituted for the traditional apple tree is not explained.

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about, crying and praying, and at last they came together again at a location called Müzdelife, a place in Arabia near Mecca, between Arafat and the valley of Mina.⁵ They were brought together there because God had heard their prayers and answered them in this way

At that time God ordered Adam to plow the earth, to plant crops, and to eat what he grew. Since he had eaten the food provided by plants in his former paradise, Adam was now commanded to grow such plants and eat what they provided. Looking around himself, Adam saw what a lovely part of the world he was now in, and he answered the Lord's direction, "No, I shall not do that." Having refused God's command, Adam lay down and did nothing.

Then God sent from the sky to the surface of the earth a band of angels who were each equipped with a farming tool of some kind. These angels began to work plowing the earth and breaking the soil in preparation for planting. One of them prodded Adam where he lay and said, "Get up! I have to plow that spot!"

When Adam arose, he saw that everywhere in the area the earth was being plowed up and that the place was crowded

⁵ Mecca and Arafat can be found on maps of any large atlas. Müzdelife and Mina valley are not shown in such atlases. Assuming that they are actual places, one would have to search for them on more detailed maps of the Arabian Peninsula.

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with workers. Going to the angel who had prodded him, Adam asked, "How dare you plow here? This is my land, not yours!"

"Wait," said the angel. "Let us share it." They then set up a stone marker in the center of that area,⁶ indicating the territory that belonged to each. But it was not long before they began quarreling about this boundary, each claiming that he had been cheated and deserved a larger portion of the land. The angel wrestled Adam to the ground, but Adam kept working his feet until he had pushed the marker far enough to give him most of the land. Having achieved what they had been sent to do, the angels departed from the surface of the earth and returned to the sky. Adam now undertook to plow the whole area by himself.

✓
✓ Eve began to bear children now, and whenever her time came, she gave birth not just to one child but to twins, a boy and a girl. Eighty times she bore a set of twins. As these children grew up, her daughters married the sons from earlier births. On the eighty-first time she gave birth, she was delivered of only one child, a boy whom they named Seth. When Adam observed this, he prayed, "O

⁶Literally, the term used by the narrator is oath stone.

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Lord, Eve is growing old. Give me another wife so that my descendants will continue to grow in number." God accepted his prayer and sent him a houri, and thus when Adam returned home from his day's work, he found this heavenly maiden waiting for

Eve was also awaiting him when he got home, and she said, "Adam, your prayer has been answered, but if you had prayed instead for the return of my youth, I might have been rejuvenated."

Adam then prayed again, "O Lord, I am asking you to restore the youth of Eve." This prayer was also answered, and as a result Eve grew youthful again. Now, however, there was a problem about what to do with the houri. He could not very well send her back to heaven. Once more the Lord assisted him. God made Seth grow up extremely fast. By the time he was a year old, he was as mature as a seven-year-old boy, and he continued to grow up at this rate. After another year, he was able to marry the houri.

/Ahmet Uysal: I have heard that houris are incapable of sex.

Narrator: Usually this is the case. Sometimes, however, when they are sent to the earth, God gives them the power of procreation temporarily.

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Ahmet Uysal: How do you envision heaven?

Narrator: The Koran explains this to a certain extent.

There are gardens there with rivers flowing through them, and one can find there everything one wishes. But beyond that it is impossible for us with our worldly thinking to picture what heaven is really like. It is beyond our ability. Only those who can foresee the future can envision heaven.

Ahmet Uysal: What kind of people are those who can foresee the future? Are they old people, or doesn't age make any difference? --But let us continue with our story. 7

After Seth and the houri were married, the houri became our second mother. Eve was our first mother, and the houri became our second mother. Our first father was Adam,

Seth was not our second father, for he was part of Adam's immediate family. It was Noah who was to become second father