

Story 831 1974 Tape 18)

Narrator: Unidentified very old man

Location: Olgunlar village,
Rafayık or Refahiye
kaza, Erzincan
Province

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Abdülkadir Geylânî¹ and the Value of Truth

Saint Abdülkadir Geylânî lived on a farm when he was a boy. One day he took the oxen to the field to plow. As he urged the oxen along the field, one of them turned and spoke to him, saying, "Abdülkadir, God did not create us for *running*!" *running* *mad*

Upon hearing this, Abdülkadir turned the oxen around and went back home. He told his mother what had happened: "Mother, one of our oxen spoke to me and said, 'God did not create us for running!'"

His mother said, "Here are forty golden liras for you. Spend this money or get an education with it. Don't ever lie! There is nothing worth more than the truth." Saying this, she sewed the forty golden liras into his clothing.

One day as he was traveling along with a caravan of people, forty thieves halted the caravan. They were robbing

¹ Abdülkadir Geylânî was a famous saint who lived at Baghdad from 1077 to 1166.

Story 831

everybody in the group. When they came to Abdülkadir Geylâni, a couple of the thieves asked him, "What do you have?"

"I have forty golden liras," he said.

Just then the leader of the thieves asked his men, "there anyone else here to rob?"

The two men who had questioned Abdülkadir said, "Yes, there is this young man who claims that he has forty golden liras

"Bring him here," said the leader. They brought Abdülkadir forward, and when they searched him, they found the forty golden liras in his clothes. The leader was surprised at this and said, "Everyone else has been lying in order to try to save one lira or two. But here you have forty liras and you tell the truth about them. Why is that?"

"It is because my mother taught me that there is nothing in this world that is worth more than the truth."