

Story 2032 (1997 Tape 2)

Narrator: Tayfun Demirtürk, 27

Location: Yeşilova village,
Acıpayam kaza,
Denizli Province

Date: May 22, 1997

Cemil Emmi,¹ a Late Twentieth-Century Saint

After I had heard many stories about Cemil Emmi, I wanted to meet him. I had never seen a picture of him, and I had no idea what he looked like. One day when he was in a marketplace, however, I saw an old man wearing green sal-
var² made of thick cotton cloth. A brightness in his
face³ made his features stand out sharply. On his shoulder he was carrying a box. I looked into his bright piercing eyes, and something inside me said, "This must be Cemil Emmi." Then I heard people greeting him, and I knew for sure that this was the saint. I was in my last year of

¹Cemil Emmi was a saint who lived in Kayseri. ATON tales 2030 and 2031 are also about him. In Christianity sainthood is usually bestowed by a religious leader (such as a pope) or by a religious council. In Islam one becomes a saint (evliya) by the choice of common people who have observed one's behavior, one's benevolence, and one's power to do things beyond the ability of others. Miracles are often performed by Muslim saints.

²Baggy trousers with low crotches. Once the most popular type of pants for Turkish males, salvar are now less commonly worn--mostly by villagers or those of village origin.

³Many Muslims believe that holy people have gleaming faces.

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middle school at that time, and when I graduated, I intended to take the admission examination to enter military high school. I'd been wondering for some time whether or not I could pass that examination. I went to Cemil Emmi, kissed his hand, and held it up against my forehead.⁴

I was all ready to ask him my question about the military school admission examination, but before I could say a single word, he said to me, "It will turn out for the best for you, my son." It was as if he knew the question I wanted to ask but in fact did not ask.⁵ Then he gave me a ring. I was very pleased by this gift, for he had a practice of giving a ring or candy to those who believed his words and garlic to those who did not. I did not pass the entrance examination for admission to military school. I went to a regular high school instead, and after that to a university. I am now working on my Ph.D. degree. Even though I failed the entrance examination for military

⁴Kissing of the hands is a gesture of respect for an older person. Pressing the kissed hand against one's forehead increases the degree of respect shown the senior person.

⁵Mind reading is commonly attributed to saints. See another instance of Cemil Emmi's mind reading in ATON 2030. This penetration of the thoughts of another person is exhibited several times by Behlül Dane, a saint of more than 1,000 years earlier. See Behlül Dane tales in Division VII of ATON.

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school, that, in the end, turned out best for me, just as the saint had said it would.

I met Cemil Emmi again, and that second meeting was at a bus stop, where I was waiting for a bus. young teenagers were waiting for the same bus. Although we did not see him approaching, Cemil Emmi suddenly appeared alongside us. Cemil Emmi moved closer to one of the teenagers and spoke to him: "You should be increasingly responsible for the care of your mother and sister. After the recent loss of your father, your family needs your help. Go home and do your duty. Don't waste your time on useless or frivolous things." The young teenager seemed to understand clearly what the saint meant. His face grew red. He hung down his head and looked as if he felt guilty about something. After that, Cemil Emmi started to walk away. Although we tried to follow him, we could not do so, for after he had taken just a few steps, he suddenly disappeared right there in the street. All three of us standing there agreed on what we had seen happen. Other people had reported similar incidents involving Cemil Emmi.

I must now come to the end of this story. I

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Kayseri in 1980, and I did not make a return visit to the city until 1989. More than nine years had passed by the time I went back to Kayseri. When I asked some of my old friends there about Cemil Emmi, I was told that he had died. I was especially grateful then that I had met that saint twice and had talked with him face-to-face both times. Everyone in Kayseri acknowledged that Cemil Emmi was really a saint.

Story 2033 (1997 Tape 2)

Narrator: Ayla Demirtürk,
teacher, 28

Location: Yeşilova village
Acıpayam kaza,
Denizli Province

Date: June 9,

A Crazy Family

There was once a small family that consisted of a father, a mother, their son, and that son's wife. They all lived in the same house. The father, the mother, and their daughter-in-law were all crazy. Only the son was a normal person. That young man was very distressed about the condition of the other members of the family, but there seemed to be nothing that he could do to help them. Day after day the three lunatics grew more and more insane.

One day he observed that his mother and his wife had made a small paper ship and placed it in a puddle of rainwater in the garden. His mother and his wife were trying to stand in that ship, and as they were doing so, they first made the sound of a steamship--chuff, chuff, chuff--and then they screamed in laughter. The young man then went to see what his father was doing, and he found him sitting on a wooden horse and pretending that it was