

Story 1313 (1988 Tape 8)

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of Trabzon Province

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The Mysterious Behavior of Allah

One summer morning Mürsel of Trabzon woke up to sound of thunder. Outside it was raining so hard that one might think that the time had come for the end of the world. Mürsel suddenly remembered his field, which he had recently plowed and planted. In spite of the rain that was falling and the thunder that was sounding, Mürsel dressed and ran out to take a look at his field. He was shocked to discover much of the surface of his field had been washed away and his crop had been totally ruined.

The storm continued, but now the lightning seemed to be even brighter than it had been before. Mürsel complained bitterly about the treatment he had received. He said, "O Allah, sometimes it is very hard to understand the things you do! First you ruined my field, and now you are flashing your lights on it to see the damage you have done!"¹

¹In some variants of this tale there is clear-cut motivation for Allah's behavior. The farmer had gone into partnership with Allah in a farming venture and had then cheated Allah out of his agreed-upon share of the crop. In those variants it is the entire harvested crop that is washed away.