

Story 1014 (1984 Tape 1) Narrator: Hasan Tekiş, 35,  
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Location: Seydiler village, kaza  
merkezi of Afyon,  
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Mohammed's Three Serious Wounds<sup>1</sup>

As you know, Mohammed survived three serious wounds. The first occurred when he was still just a child. One day as he was playing in the street, he was carried off by a bird. The bird swooped down among all the children there, picked up Mohammed, and carried him to another street. The other children began running around shouting, "A bird has captured Mohammed! A bird has captured Mohammed!" His grandfather and some neighbors ran in the direction that the bird had flown. They finally found him beneath a date palm tree. He was leaning against the palm tree, and by then his chest had been bandaged.

His second wound was received on Mount Hira at the time when the Koran was first sent to him.<sup>2</sup> The angels

<sup>1</sup> Much of this account is imaginative--some of it quite fanciful. The first two wounds described could not, realistically, have happened. Mohammed received other injuries and wounds that are not mentioned here.

<sup>2</sup> Mohammed did not receive the Koran on Mount Hira in the way that Moses was supposedly given the Law by God on the mountain. The Koran was supposedly revealed to Mohammed throughout most of his adult life. The episode on Mount Hira, a short distance from Mecca, was apparently the first revelation which he received.

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who brought it said to Mohammed, "In the name of God read<sup>3</sup> this!"

"I cannot read," he replied.

"Read it," said the angels a second time.

"I cannot read," he replied again

"Read it," they said a third time, and before Mohammed could respond, the Archangel Gabriel wrapped his arms around him and squeezed him so hard that he was badly injured. Immediately afterwards, however, Mohammed began to read

His third severe wound Mohammed received before he fled to the Mihraj<sup>4</sup> from the Aksal Mescit (the little mosque just south of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem).

Mohammed had reached the highest level among all believers and all prophets. When he went to the Mihraj to see God, he began to remove his shoes before entering. God ordered, "O my beloved, come in without taking off your clogs."

"My Lord, you had once told Moses to take off his clogs before entering, and that was the reason I was taking

<sup>3</sup>The first revelation begins with this line. The word read must here be understood not as communication via a written or printed page. It apparently means recite or articulate or put into words what you are now receiving.

<sup>4</sup>Identity not clear.

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mine off."

"O my beloved, Moses was the one who wanted to see but I am the one who wishes to see you. Enter, therefore, even with the dirt upon your feet." Mohammed was greatly beloved in the sight of God.

In the city of Taib,<sup>5</sup> when they were wounded with rocks and sticks, the Archangel Gabriel said, "O Mohammed, I am at your command. Just give me the order and I shall destroy this city!"

Mohammed said, "My brothers, I did not come into this world to tyrannize people but to forgive them. These people may yet do good things for Islam, even though they are now ignorant." He showed in this way what a good person he was. Actually, person is not the proper word to apply to him, for after he had been embraced by Gabriel, he became an exalted prophet. With God's will he would convert many to his faith, and these believers would all become servants of God.

<sup>5</sup>Identity not clear.