

Story 1857 (1984 Tape 6)

Narrator: Ali Çiftçi, farmer; he must have been in late 60s or early 70s by this time

Location: Çıkırıkçı village, Sarıkaya kaza, Yozgat Province

Date: March 1984

The Power of a Special Prayer

There was a woman whose daughter had died. This woman kept hoping that she would have a dream in which she would see her recently departed daughter. But she was unable to have such a dream. She finally went to the Blessed Basralı Hasan¹ and said, “O Blessed Basralı Hasan, I should very much like to see my recently dead daughter in one of my dreams, but so far I have been unable to do this. Please teach me a prayer which would help me to be able to see her.

Basralı Hasan taught her such a prayer. One night before going to bed, the woman recited that prayer. That night the woman did see her daughter, but she was disturbed to see also that her daughter was in

¹Basralı means from Basra. Basra is a city in southern Iraq on the waterway known as the Shatul-Arap. He was born in Medina in the year 642, but he moved to Basra quite early in his adult life. Although a very learned and pious man, he was not generally recognized as a saint; the First Encyclopaedia of Islam does not credit him with sainthood. However, in Islam sainthood is not something designated by any official person or organization. Sainthood is established by popular opinion, and the folk may deem saintly any religious person whom they admire. Hasan died at Basra in 728.

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hell. When the woman woke up next morning, she went immediately to Basralı Hasan and told him about her dream. She said, “O Blessed Basralı Hasan, in a dream last night I saw my daughter, but she was in hell, burning and screaming in great pain.”

The next night Basralı Hasan also saw that woman’s daughter in a dream, but it appeared to him that she was in heaven. Confused by this, he said to the girl, “Your mother told me that she had seen you in a dream and that you were in hell, burning and screaming in pain. It looks to me as if you are in heaven.

The girl answered, “Yes, was in hell, and my mother saw me there. I was there along with 5,000 other people, but we were all rescued from hell by something that happened. A man walked past the cemetery where I had been buried, and as he was doing so, he was reciting the salavatı şerife prayer.² Because of that man’s saying that prayer near my grave, Allah forgave me and the 5,000 people who were with me at the same place in hell. He had us all moved to heaven.”

²Salavat is a form of salat, an Arabic word for prayer; şerif can refer to three or four different things, one of which is Mohammed and his descendants. The salavatı şerife is a prayer that asks Allah to bless the Prophet and his heirs.