

Story 1007 (1974 Tape 51

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Location: Limonlu village,
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İçel Province

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Hızır¹ Grants a Wish

One day a man said, "If I should ever see Hızır, I should ask him to grant me a wish."

People said to this man, "Hızır often walks along roads. Get a pickaxe and start digging over the ditches along the side of a road. To everyone who comes along and says, 'Selâmünaleyküm,² respond, 'Veeykûmselâm,² Hızır!' In that way, you may find Hızır."

The man followed this advice. As he was digging away and greeting people who came along the road, the man thought to himself, "If I should ever meet Hızır, I would ask him to turn this pickaxe into gold."

One day a traveler came along that road and greeted the man, 'Selâmünaleyküm."

¹Hızır has played many roles in the religion and lore of the Middle East: Fertility god, water deity, last-minute rescuer from disaster, granter of wishes, Moslem saint, and agent of God.

²The traditional exchange between Moslems who are not well acquainted. The exchange means, "Peace be unto you/Peace be unto you too."

Story

"Aleykümselâm, Hızır!"

"Yes, I am Hızır. Turn around and wish whatever you want from me."

Turning around, the man tried to ask Hızır to turn his pickaxe into gold, but the word gold would not come out of his mouth. Instead, he said, "I wish that you turn this pickaxe into a tree."³ When the man looked around again, he discovered that Hızır had disappeared. The pickaxe in his hand had become a sapling. Throwing this aside, the man left that place and went off down the road.

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³The narrator later suggested that God had prevented him from uttering the word gold.