

Story #608 (1966, Tape #2)

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in Hatay Province

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What Could You Expect of a World Created in Six Days?

One day some people asked a Bektaşî¹ why there were so many imperfections in this world. "Why isn't the surface of the world flat? It is broken by hills and valleys. Why isn't it flat?" And others asked, "Why are the inhabitants of the world always warring with each other and committing so many injustices to each other? Why is this so?"

The Bektaşî responded, "What better could you expect of a world that was created in six days?"

¹The Bektaşî is a member of the Bektaşî order of Dervishes, one of the most powerful of religious orders in Turkey before the founding of the Republic. It was not always in accord with orthodox Islam on religious matters; it was often involved in political issues. It had its own brand of mysticism. Its members often broke basic Moslem laws, drank alcohol freely, and were (at least in the folktale tradition) openly profane and sacrilegious.