

Story 1586 (1987 Tape 3)

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A Flaw in the Prayer Service

Our Prophet, Mohammed, once said to one of his followers, "If you can lead the congregation through the prayer service without making a single mistake, I shall give you one of my robes."

The man said, "All right, I shall do that." He then took the role of leader at the next prayer service. He was conducting the prayer service very well, but as he was doing so, there was a question in the back of his mind. He was asking himself, "I wonder which of the robes he will give me--the old one or the new one?"

But when the prayer service was finished, our Prophet said to him, "No, you did not succeed in conducting the prayer service without defect.<sup>1</sup> While you were leading the prayer service, your mind was on something else."<sup>2</sup>

"Yes, that is true," said the man. "I was wondering which of your robes you would give me--the old or the new one."

<sup>1</sup>The Turkish word used here is kusursuz.

<sup>2</sup>Saints and other holy persons in Islam are often credited in folktales with the power of mind reading.