

Story 1268 (1972 Tape 10)

Narrator: Hüseyin Kantemir, 53

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Hızır Teaches That Everyone Reveals His Origins

There was once a padişah who wished to see Hızır, but his own efforts to find that saint had failed. He therefore had town criers make this announcement among his people: "Whoever can locate Hızır for me will be rewarded with great wealth."

No one volunteered immediately to find Hızır for the padişah. Then a very poor man began thinking about the padişah's announcement. "Why shouldn't I volunteer to find Hızır? Even if I fail to find him, I shall be well fed and well paid during the forty days that I shall request to search for Hızır. And if I should fail to find him in that time, I shall be executed, but I shall not really mind that, for I shall then be saved from any further suffering of the kind I have long endured."

When this man reported to the padişah and said that he could find Hızır for him, the ruler ordered his men to give this poor man a good quantity of gold. The poor man took this

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money to the marketplace and used it to buy a number of things, including a large amount of food. When he took all of these things home to his family, his wife was greatly surprised to see them. She asked him, "Oh, Husband, how did you get enough money to buy so many things? Did you steal it? Did you rob the padişah's treasury?"

"Calm down, my wife; calm down!" said the poor man "I did none of the things you have suggested. The padişah wanted someone to locate Hızır for him, and I said that I could do that. As a result, we can now be assured of being rich for forty days, and then, if I have not somehow found Hızır, I shall be beheaded. But that will be all right.

Time passed, and as it did so, the poor man and his family lived well, but during the forty days, he had not even a glimpse of Hızır. When all of the time allowed had expired, the padişah ordered his viziers, "Go and get that man who said that he could find Hızır!"

Going to the poor man's house, the viziers said, "Oh, friend, the padişah wants to see you. Come along with us." As they were going to the palace, a small boy began following them. The poor man thought that the boy might be the padişah's son, and the viziers supposed that the boy was the poor

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man's son. As a result, no one questioned the boy or inquired who he was, and so the boy followed them right on into the palace.

There the ruler asked the poor man, "Did you find Hızır?"

"No, my padişah, I could not find him."

Very angry at this, the padişah ordered his viziers into a meeting of his advisory council. There the padişah spoke first to the grand vizier: "O, my vizier, what kind of punishment should we give to a man who has played such a trick on his padişah?"

The grand vizier answered, "We should behead him. Then we should slice up the flesh of his body and hang it on hooks."

Upon hearing this remark, the little boy said, "Bah!" to show his disapproval.

When the padişah asked the second vizier for his opinion, that man said, "You should kill him. Then you should place his body in a large mortar and pound it to bits."

Again the little boy expressed his opinion of the judgment by saying, "Bah!"

The padişah then asked the third vizier for his opinion about how the poor man should be punished. The third vizier

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said, "O, my padişah, when a young person makes such a mistake, a great ruler like you should forgive him. Punishing such a desperate man is not suitable behavior for one of your great status."

This time the little boy responded by saying, "Good! Good!"

When the padişah heard this, he spoke to the boy for the first time. "Each time one of my viziers made a statement, you made some comment about it. You said, 'Bah!' after my grand vizier spoke, and you said the same thing after my second vizier spoke. But now you have said, 'Good! Good!' to what my third vizier said. What do you mean by these remarks?"

"Your first vizier said that this poor man should be beheaded and then have his flesh sliced up and hung on hooks. That vizier is the son of a butcher and that is why he said what he did. Your second vizier said that the poor man should be killed and then pounded to bits in a mortar. That vizier is the son of a coffeehouse owner, and that is why he responded as he did. Your youngest vizier is the son of a genteel person, and that is the reason he recommended that you forgive the poor man. If you want a good and trustworthy vizier, he

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is the man for the job. If you are looking for Hızır, I am the one you are seeking." Having said that, Hızır suddenly vanished from the view of all those present.