

Story 1836 (1984 Tape 6)

Narrator: Ali Çiftçi, farmer;
late 60s or early 70s

Location: Çıkırıkçı village,
Sarıkaya kaza,
Yozgat Province

Date: March 1984

A Heavenly Prayer¹

This prayer that I just told you was brought to the Prophet Mohammed by the angel Gabriel. When Gabriel delivered it, he said to Mohammed, “Allah did not send this prayer to any of the prophets who preceded you. This prayer is especially for you. It is written on each of the eight doors of heaven.”

Anyone who recites this prayer even once during his life will pass over the Bridge of Sırat² easily. All eight doors of heaven are open to such a person, and he may enter heaven by whichever of them he chooses.

[Ahmet Uysal— “Heaven has eight doors, does it?”

¹This tale was taped by Ahmet Uysal. Apparently Ali Çiftçi had told the prayer to Ahmet Uysal, but the prayer itself is not given either in this tale or in ATON 1837, both of which are about the efficacy of this prayer.

²A bridge on the route to heaven. It must be crossed on Judgment Day. It is said to be thinner than a hair and sharper than a razor and spans a great gulch of hellfire. Those attempting to cross the bridge are encumbered by their sins. Good people as they cross are steadied on one side by the hands of those they have helped and on the other side by the backs of the sheep they have slaughtered to feed the poor.

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Narrator— “Yes, eight.”]

Furthermore, this prayer has great power. If you recite it to a mountain, that mountain will start moving. If you recite it to the flowing water of a river, that water will become motionless.

[Ahmet Uysal— “This must be a very important prayer.”

Narrator— “Yes, it is.”]