

Story #496 (not on tape)

Narrator: Ahmet Karasulu, 29, civil engineer

Location: Informant is resident of Samsun but tale was collected in Ankara

Date: March 1969

Hızır Saves the Bus Passengers

A bus load of people were going from Ankara to Samsun [on the Black Sea coast]. I was a passenger on that bus. Near Havza, where we were passing through a heavy forest, an old man came down a footpath to the road and waved his hand at the bus. The driver stopped the bus and asked the old man what he wanted. The old man looked poor, and he was dressed very shabbily. He said that he had a sick child at home, in critical condition, and he wanted to take him to a doctor at Havza. The driver agreed to wait, and the old man said that he would return within ten minutes, for his house was not far from the road.

The ten minutes passed, (Efendi,) but there was no sign of the old man and the sick child. We waited for another ten minutes, but still no one came. Then several passengers said the old man would not come and urged the bus driver to move on. But the bus did not move, and the driver sat motionless. It was then discovered that he had had a heart attack and was sitting there dead at the wheel. In

this way the lives of thirty-five people were saved by Hızır, who had detained the bus for twenty important minutes.<sup>1</sup>

at the start of  
<sup>1</sup>Although the name Hızır is not used in this account, the informant narrated the tale as his personal experience with the last-minute, benevolent interference in the lives of men by Hızır. Hızır usually appears in the form of an old man, but he usually also has a white beard and looks like a dervish.