

Story #654 (1976, Tape #17)

Narrator: Hüseyin Bilgin

Location: Kaza of Inegöl
Province of Bursa

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Lokman¹ Explains an Unusual Cure

We had a neighbor who has since died, Salih Efendi. He would tell us these old tales.

During the time of Lokman Alehî Selâm there was a sick man. This sick person went to see Dr. Lokman for a second examination and was told that he could not possibly recover. The patient became despondent, and since he was to die soon anyway, he decided to go and gaze upon the valleys and rivers. There he saw a big snake coming towards him. He got in front of it, and the snake vomited. Since the man had no hope of living, he thought he would eat that and die immediately. But after swallowing it, he started getting better.

After some time had elapsed, he once again went to see Lokman Alehî Selâm said to him, "Unless you had found venom of a snake which had lain in vinegar for a hundred years, you could not possibly have recovered."

The patient then told him what had happened to him. "I went into the wilderness among the rivers and valleys, and there I met a snake. This snake vomited, and in my desperation, I ate some of what it had

¹Lokman was a legendary physician and wise man if the ancient Middle East.

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vomited. Instead of dying, I started to recover."

[Uysal: "Well, then this was a great coincidence. Was that snake a century old, and had he lain in vinegar for a hundred years?"

Narrator: "Yes, sir, that is what had happened. There were huge vats in the old days. The snake had lain for a century there, and then he had gotten out and vomited."

Uysal: "So, this is something that could happen in one chance out of a thousand. The moral of this story is that any incurable illness has a chance of recovery, even if that chance is only one in a thousand. And it is wrong to give up hope altogether? Thank you very much."]