

Story 766 (1970 Tape 13)

Narrator: Mehmet Özkan ¹
hoca

Location: Ova Akça village, kaza
merkezi of Bursa, Bursa
Province

Date: July 1970

A Dream and Time Within Time

There was ^{Mr} hoca who often referred to Allah's creation of time within time. Whenever he did this, he would strike the pulpit hard. One day after the hoca had talked about time within time and struck the pulpit loudly, a dandy arose and said, "Hoca, you frighten us when you strike the pulpit so hard, dan, dan.² What kind of time within time is that?"

"You will find out some day," said the hoca.

The hoca then went on with his preaching, but the who had asked the question felt drowsy and fell asleep. In his dream he found himself crossing a stream. When he entered the water, he was a man, but when he came out, he was a woman

When shepherds came to that stream to water their flocks, they saw there a beautiful girl of about eighteen or twenty

¹The hoca telling this anecdote, Mehmet Özkan, meant it to illustrate or reinforce what had been said in the previous tale (765) by Şerif Mehmet Ceylan. Dreams telescope lengthy time into a few seconds in the same way that a trance does for waking people who experience time within time--Zaman Zaman İçinde, in Turkish.

²Onomatopoeia for the sound of a hand pounding the pulpit.

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years of age. Each shepherd claimed her for his wife, saying, "I'll marry her!" and another, "I'll marry her!" and still another, "I'll marry her!" After they had argued for a while, they agreed upon the one of them who should marry the girl. The other shepherds then withdrew, and the shepherd who won her began to make love to the woman. Right at that point, the hoca, who had again mentioned time within time, slapped the pulpit smartly.

At that noise the man in the dream awoke and said, "So let it be, O Faithful!"

To the astonishment of the congregation, the hoca said to the man, "Ha, ha! You scoundrel, you are confirming my statement after copulating with the shepherd, aren't you?"