

Story 780 (1970 Tape 15)

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Location: Bursa, Bursa Province

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The Personal Impact of Üftade¹ on Istanbul

His Reverence Üftade is recognized in both East and West as a great man capable of many things, including levitation and flying through the air.² The verdict of kadı Aziz Mahmud Hudayı (before he became a dervish follower of Üftade) in the case of the old cobbler³ is recorded in the court records of the time. But although the records of the Bursa court⁴ were kept at the medrese⁵ connected to the Green Mosque,⁶ we have not yet been able to trace the records of this case among the documents there, for there was no very systematic archiving in those days. It seems likely that it would still be possible to discover the appropriate documents there

¹Üftade was the dervish and saint who founded the Cevleti Order at Bursa.

²See ATON Tale 777 for such feats.

³See ATON Tale 778 for an account of the case of the old cobbler.

⁴This was the religious or şeriat court.

⁵A medrese is a school of theology, usually attached to a great mosque.

⁶The Green Mosque [Yeşil Cami] may be the best-known of Bursa's many well-known mosques.

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concerning this famous case.

There is another legend I should like to tell you. When Sultan Ahmet [Ahmet I] realized how powerful a man was his dervish [Aziz Mahmud, student of Üftade], he decided to come to Bursa to visit Üftade. His Reverence Üftade entertained Sultan Ahmet at his home in Bursa. Sultan Ahmet our fourteenth sultan, who ascended to the throne at the age of fourteen and reigned for fourteen years. He was the builder of the Sultan Ahmet Mosque [in Istanbul], and he often associated with and respected members of the dervish orders. It was that same Sultan Ahmet who had built the present Üftade complex in Bursa.

Üftade also enjoyed a considerable reputation both at the palace and throughout all Istanbul. On one of Üftade's visits to Istanbul the British Ambassador was greatly impressed with the way in which Üftade had persuaded the sultan to change his negative attitude toward certain proposals of some British diplomats in that city. It is for that reason that for almost 400 years now British tourists in Turkey here) come to Bursa to visit the tomb of this influential saint. Every Englishman who comes to Bursa inquires about the location of Üftade's tomb and visits it during his stay here. From this you can see how much His Reverence Üftade is admired by the Anglo-Saxon people.

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His Reverence Üftade used to say, "May those who know me never be drowned in the sea or burned in the fire, and may they know how to die before their deaths." In the year when a ferryboat between Kartal⁷ and Yalova⁸ lost its rudder and was being swept along by the current, the passengers were terrified. Then an old woman started shouting, "Let us take refuge beneath the wing of His Reverence Üftade! He is the protector of everyone at sea!" After saying this, she kept repeating the name of His Reverence Üftade, and soon the ship was brought under control. All of the passengers on that ferry were aware of this incident.

⁷Kartal is a port of Istanbul on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus. Its earlier name was Kartalıman.

⁸Yalova is a resort famous for its hot baths. It is on the Sea of Marmara. The ferry provides a shortcut across the northeast corner of the Sea of Marmara, eliminating the need to go all the way around the northeast corner of the sea by land conveyance.