

Story 782 (1970 Tape 15)

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The Lasting Reputation of Üftade¹

Although almost four centuries have elapsed since the time of His Reverence Üftade, there are still thousands who believe in such miraculous feats of the saints. Many who have lost their hope, their strength, and their ability expect to benefit from his spiritual powers. Recently I questioned an engineer² who had come to Bursa to visit his tomb and other sacred places.

I said to him, "After visiting Üftade's tomb, you went to the "House of Suffering" too.³ Why did you do that?"

"Those who love Üftade visit him at his tomb and other places. We are attached to him with a love beyond love. We have such great respect for him that we are Üftades of Üftade.⁴ We have come to visit him here at this place

¹ Dervish and saint who founded the Cevleti Order at Bursa. Üftade means given to love of God.

² Informant gives name of engineer as Ekrem Ayverdi (sp.?).

³ Building in which dervish candidates repeat the 1001 names of Allah 1001 times. See reference to the "House of Suffering" in ATON Tale 777.

⁴ That is to say, "We are lovers of lovers of divine love."

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which is the base of his soul."

We see many famous men, including many great intellectuals, come to visit the tomb of Üftade because religion is a basis for maturity in human beings, the last refuge of people who have lost their physical strength. Mysticism is the concern of those who know where they came from and where they are going. I shall now read to you a few stanzas from the divan⁵ of His Reverence.

(Here follows a rather long passage in verse. Not translated.)

In order to reach God and be near him, he was a saint who spent a large part of his life repeating His names and praising Him. Saints are holy people who can reach God. Among the works of His Reverence Üftade are many hymns, some of which are widely known. These hymns are today chanted during Mevlit⁶ services and after the teravi⁷

teravi -k

⁵Collected poems

⁶Mevlit (Mevlüt) by Süleyman Çelebi of Bursa (written 1409) is a cantata on the birth and life of Mohammed. It is used as a requiem on the death of a person or on an anniversary of that death.

⁷Teravi--an especially long mosque service during Ramazan. It may be added to or replace the usual night service known as Yatsı.

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service during Ramazan.⁸

⁸Ramazan is the holy month of fasting for Muslims. Between sunrise and sunset every day during that month no morsel of food or drop of water or other liquid may pass the lips of a devout Muslim. All eating is done at night only.