

Story 796 (1970 Tape 21)

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Some Exploits of His Reverence ~~Ibrahim Haki~~<sup>1</sup>

He [Ibrahim Haki] used to talk at social gatherings and say things pertinent to the beliefs and behavior of everyone. And when he had finished, the listeners all thought that what he had said applied to their own personal shortcomings. Each would say, "That is one of my faults that he is speaking of. He was saying that for my benefit.

One of his greatest achievements was that in a time when there were no scientific institutions, he measured the speed of waves, the depth of the seas, and the movements of the constellations. He calculated all of these. Modern scientific measurements are neither more nor less than measurements he was able to make. This was one of the greatest miracles performed by His Reverence.

Here is another remarkable thing that he did. He went to visit the father of Şeyh Fakirullah<sup>2</sup> after his death, and

<sup>1</sup> Ibrahim Haki (1703-1780) was the best-known saint of the Erzurum area.

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he had a tomb built for him [the Şeyh]. This tomb had just one window. (It is not very far from here.) One day a year--it was on Nevruz Day<sup>3</sup>--a day when both night and day were twelve hours long--the sunrise can be seen from that window. At sunrise the rays of the sun coming in that window strike Fakirullah Efendi's<sup>4</sup> head. The rays that enter the window at noon strike his navel. And the rays that enter at sunset strike his feet. His Reverence discovered how to do this not in any marvelous way but by calculating the revolution of the earth and finding out how much the earth turns and what the position of the sun is.

<sup>3</sup> The Nevruz celebration is one of the most ancient in Turkish culture. It is based on the myth of Ergenekon, or Hidden Valley, in which the Turkish people are trapped, for the valley has no exit. With the aid of Bozkurt (sacred blue-gray wolf) they melt a mountain made of iron and thereby open a way to the outside world. At this celebration there are many different traditional folk dances as well as ancient Turkish games, including cirit and buz kaşı.

<sup>4</sup> Efendi is a term of respect. At one time it had considerable prestigious implication and was applied to distinguished men. Its prestigious quality has undergone so much devaluation that today it is used only for servants and children.