

Story 834 (1974 Tape 18)

Narrators: Unidentified very old man who was narrator of tales 831-833

Plus two other unidentified men

Location: Olgun village, Rafayık or Refahiye kaza, Province of Erzincan

Date: August 1974

Some (Saints) of Erzincan Province

Dr. Ahmet Uysal: Do you have many saints' tombs in Erzincan Province?

Old man: There is a tomb of the Tailor Father in the city of Erzincan.

Uysal: Can you tell me about this saint?

Old man: No, I don't know anything about him.

Uysal: Haven't you heard about any of his miracles?

Old man: No, I don't know anything about him. But they say that that Tailor Father has a tomb in Erzincan

Second man: There is the tomb of Sultan Veled down by the river of Fırat.¹ They say that one of his feet is out.² Do you think that that is true?"

¹This is the Euphrates River.

²It is not clear whether the foot is sticking out of shroud or whether it is outside or through the tomb wall.

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Does he really have a foot out?

Third man: Yes, it is so. A friend of mine named Mürsel opened his tomb and looked inside. He said that Sultan Veled was perfectly preserved. His face was closely shaved, and he looked very handsome. He was lying there looking just as he had in life, without any damage.

Old man: Yes, I saw Sultan Veled too, and he lies there in just that condition.

Third man: Yes, he has been lying like that for many years without aging at all.

Old man: There is a saint that is buried on top of the castle by the river. He was killed in a battle there.

Uysal: Was he a Muslim?

Old man: Of course he was! They called him Saint Zennune.

Uysal: Saint Zennune?!!

Old man: Yes, Saint Zennune. They cut his head off by the castle. He then picked up his head and went with it to the top of the castle to the little hut there in which he had lived. It remains there just as it always had been before his death, but now it has been made into his tomb.

Second man: Did he take his own head up there?

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Old man: Yes, he carried his own head up there.

Uysal: Is he like the one who is also called "The Headless One"?

Old man: Yes, that is much farther down the river, closer to Urfa

Uysal: In that story, though, the head rolled to where the tomb was to be.

Old man: Saint Zennune's (tomb) is on the top of that castle, in a little hut. We used to go there quite often. If you had a wish for something, you went to his tomb and told him what your wish was. In order to find out whether your wish had been accepted by him you took a small stone and rubbed it against the wall of the tomb. If the stone stuck to the wall and remained there, it meant that your wish had been accepted and that you would get whatever it was that you wanted.