

Story 850 (1969 Tape 10)

Narrator: Nuri Genç, 68

Location: Iskenderun, Hatay  
Province

Date: 1969

One of the Ten Bound for Paradise

Just two kilometers north of the highway that runs between Antakya and Reyhanlı<sup>1</sup> there are the remains of the living quarters of one of the ten bound for <sup>Heaven</sup> Paradise. That man was one of a group known as the "Aşeri Mübeşşeri,"<sup>2</sup> which consisted of ten people that our <sup>M<sup>6</sup></sup> Prophet<sup>3</sup> said were going to go to Paradise immediately after their deaths.

There was a cave nearby that place, quite a large cave, which contained a pond close to its mouth. There were many (fish) in that pond. In fact, it actually swarmed with fish but none of the local people would even attempt to catch any

<sup>1</sup>Antakya is the Turkish name of this ancient city; to the Christian world, the city is known as Antioch. Reyhanlı is a kaza town some twenty kilometers northeast of Antakya.

<sup>2</sup>Aşeri Mübeşşeri is the Turkish transliteration of the Arabic Ashara Mubashshara.

<sup>3</sup>The prophet referred to is, of course, Mohammed. Supposedly he named ten people close to him as being destined for heaven. These ten were friends and relatives of the Prophet. The individuals on this list vary somewhat from source to source. Some, such as Abu Bakr, his immediate successor and first Caliph, are on all lists. Just which one of the ten was supposedly a resident in Hatay Province is not specified by the narrator.

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of those fish. The area was considered sacred, a place which should be respected by human beings.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup>This very brief piece of oral history may possibly shed light on the immediately preceding tale (ATON 849) by the same storyteller.