

Story 925 (1981 Tape 8)

Narrator: Ali Çiftçi, farmer

Location: Çıkırıkçı village,
Sarıkaya kaza, Yozgat
Province

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King Solomon's Ring Stolen by an İfrit

King Solomon ruled the Mountains of Kaf.¹ He could order the winds to blow as he wished. The winds would carry him and his throne to any place that he wished to go. God granted to King Solomon the power to control the winds in this way

King Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred concubines

One day King Solomon's ring was stolen by an İfrit. This was a magic ring. On one side was written Bismillahirrah-
manirrahim.² On the other side was written Lâilâhheillallah.³

ring was used both as a ring and as a seal.

[Ahmet Uysal: When you say İfrit, does that mean şeytan or devil?

Ali Çiftçi: No, they are different.

Ahmet Uysal: How are they different?

¹Mythical mountains, wild and filled with monsters and other supernatural beings, on the rim of the world. They are always pictured as being a great distance away.

²[We begin] in the name of God.

³There is no god but God.

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Ali Çiftçi: An ifrit looks like a man but is large, almost like a giant,

Ahmet Uysal: Yes--I understand

Ali Çiftçi: The Devil was an angel who rebelled against God's will.

Ahmet Uysal: Does an ifrit look like a zebani,⁴ who looks like a huge black man, one of whose lips is on the ground and the other in the sky?

Ali Çiftçi: Yes.7

Well, King Solomon's ring was stolen by an ifrit, and his wives would not permit him to enter his own house. He could not establish his identity as Solomon without his seal. He walked around for forty days, unable to do anything else

In the meantime, the ifrit did not benefit in any way by his possession of the ring. Whenever he tried to use it, everyone knew that he was not Solomon but a pretender. When he had revealed his false nature in this way, he tried to run away and hide, but he could not do so, for wherever he went, the ring shone brightly, like a flash of lightning, on his finger. To save himself from further trouble, the ifrit finally threw the ring into the sea. As the ring struck the water, a fish rose to the surface and swallowed it

At that very time, King Solomon was walking along the same part of the seashore. By then his clothes had been torn in places, and he looked quite shabby. When he approached

⁴Large, fearsome demon who leads condemned sinners to Hell

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some fishermen, they said, "Go away from us!"

"I am King Solomon," he said.

The fishermen laughed, not believing him. "If you were King Solomon," one of them said, "you would be wearing your magic ring.

But another fisherman said to his companions, "Don't make fun of this poor man. Let us cast our nets for his kismet this time." They cast their nets and caught a middle-sized fish, which they gave to him

King Solomon cut open the fish in order to clean it. As he did so, he found his ring in its belly. He immediately placed it upon his finger again and thus recovered his power