

Story 967 (1973 Tape 5)

Narrator: Ali İhsan Acar, 18

Location: Imralı village,
Emirdağ kaza, Afyon
Province

Date: March 19, 1973

The Wickedness of Women

Once in the past there were a man and wife. Every day the husband performed his ^{prayer service} prayer ritual at the five required times, and then after each performance of this ritual, he addressed a personal prayer to God.¹ In that personal prayer he said, "O God, please protect me from the wickedness of the (Devil) and from the wickedness of evil people." But never in any of these prayers did he say, "Protect me from the wickedness of women

One day his wife asked him, "Oh, Husband, why is it that you never ask God to protect you from the wickedness of women?"

The man answered his wife, "O Woman, what evil could

¹The first part of every prayer service consists of a set ritual of prescribed physical movements and liturgy. This part (known as Farz) is the required part of the prayer service (namaz). It is done in unison with all other worshipers in the mosque, and it is conducted (led) by a Moslem priest. At home, of course, one does this alone, and there is no leader. The second part of the namaz is a personal matter, not a community performance, and it is optional. It is called sünnet.

Story 967

you do to me?"

"Well, all right, Husband," his wife said

Time passed along, and their lives remained much the same. Their conversation about prayer was forgotten by the husband but not by the wife. One day while she was at the market-place, she bought a large quantity of fish--hundreds of fish. Taking these fish home, she sowed them in one of her husband's fields while he was somewhere else.

Shortly after that, her husband began to plow that very field. As he did so, he uncovered many fishes. Greatly excited by this, he ran from neighbor to neighbor shouting, "I am plowing fish out of my field I am plowing fish out of my field!"

Thinking that he had gone mad, his neighbors caught him and took him to the mental hospital in a nearby city. After a few days his wife went there to visit him, and she told him everything about her having planted the fish. She then asked him, "Now, Husband, do you see what harm a woman's wickedness could do to you? Learn your lesson from this!"

After that, she arranged to have him released from the hospital, and they returned to their village again.