

Story 1015 (1984 Tape 1) Narrator: Hasan Tekiř, 35,
clerk in state office;
formerly an imam,
prayer leader

Location: Seydiler village, kaza
merkezi of Afyon,
Afyon Province

Date: January 9, 1984

ALL
The Bridge of Sirat

On Judgment Day scales will be set up to weigh people's good deeds and bad deeds. Those whose good deeds weigh more than their bad deeds will go to Heaven, but those whose bad deeds outweigh their good deeds will go to Hell. After this weighing of deeds, everyone will be required to cross the Bridge of Sirat, which is described as very, very long, requiring 1,000 years of travel downhill, 1,000 years of travel uphill, and 1,000 years of travel on the level.

It is said in a verse in the Koran that a majority of those who slip from the bridge and fall into Hell below will be women. This is a result of their not having obeyed their masters' (men's) orders.¹

After the weighing of deeds, everyone will be required to pass across the bridge. Beneath the bridge lies Hell, filled with flames. Besides the flames everywhere in Hell, there is the still more terrible place there known as the

¹Specific reference in Koran not given

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Gayya Pit.² This is such a dreadful place that many Moslems pray all their lives, "My Lord, protect me from the evils of Gayya Pit."

/Ahmet Uysal: They say the this bridge is thinner than a hair and sharper than a sword.³ What is this bridge made of? They say that it is made of the bristles of a dragon named Gayşa.

Narrator: This is not mentioned in the Koran. 7

²This is not included in the seven sections of Hell cited in Koran. See excerpt from A Dictionary of Islam, Xerox copy of which is in ATON Notes.

³Everyone else to this point (1988) has given this description of the bridge.