

Story 1016 (Tapes 1 and 2) Narrator: Hasan Tekiř, 35,  
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 merkezi of Afyon,  
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Noah and the Flood

In the days preceding the Flood people disagreed with the prophecy of Noah. Not only did they disbelieve Noah, they also took every opportunity to abuse Noah with every form of evil action. No matter how many of his revelations from God Noah tried to share with these people, none of them would believe a word he said.

One day God said to Noah, "O Noah, build a great ship."

Noah answered, "O Lord, how am I to know how to make such a ship?"

"Look at a duck," God replied. "Eat the flesh of a duck then observe the skeleton that remains. That skeleton is constructed in the manner in which you should build the ship."

Noah did as the Lord commanded him. He began building great ship. When they saw what he was doing, people mocked him. Some of them came and defecated in the ship, despite all his efforts to prevent them from doing so. But God punished these people, for he gave them an itching dis-

## Story

ease which was contagious, so that many other people also caught it. One day one of these defiling the ship slipped and fell into his own excrement. The parts of his body that touched the excrement were immediately cured of their itching. When this was heard about by others with that disease, they all hastened to the ship and rolled in the excrement, and thus with their bodies they cleaned the ship thoroughly.

When the ship was ready, God gave new orders. He said, "Take on the ship with you those relatives of yours who believe in you

Noah had three sons: Ham, Shem, and Japheth.<sup>1</sup> Japheth is the ancestor of all Turks. Noah said to Ham, "A great flood is coming which will cover every spot on earth. Come on board this ship with us and be saved

But the boy did not believe Noah. He answered, "If there should be a great flood, I shall go to the top of a mountain and build a cabin there. The water will not be able to reach me there!"

God then spoke to Noah and said, "Noah, he is not one of yours."

<sup>1</sup>There are so many accounts of the kin of Noah that very little attempt will be made here to judge the accuracy or "correctness" of the present narrative.

Story 1016

Hearing this, Noah wondered, "Would a prophet's wife commit adultery?" His head sank onto his chest, and he remained that way for forty hours

Then God called to Noah a second time about this, saying, "Noah, you engendered that boy, but he is not of your religion. Do not grieve over this

Noah then lifted his head, and again he invited Ham to come on the ship, but the boy refused. He went to a mountaintop to build a cabin there. While he was attempting to do this, however, he was drowned.

Noah took with him those of his relatives who believed in him. His second and third sons were believers, and they went aboard the ship with him.<sup>2</sup> A lady who believed in Noah told him one day, "I believe your prediction that there is to be a great flood. When that time arrives, don't forget to take me with you on your ship." Noah promised to do so, but in the excitement of launching the Ark, he forgot to take her.

So finally the Flood did come, and the Ark floated on the surface of the water for a long period of time. There

<sup>2</sup>According to Thomas P. Hughes's A Dictionary of Islam (London: Aiken, 1895), pp. 434-435, "Noah took his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their three wives. Noah's wife and his son Canaan were left behind. Japheth went onto a mountain to avoid the Flood, but he was drowned by the waves of the Flood."

Story 1016

is a line from the poetry of a wandering minstrel which says, "The mountaintops reappeared after eleven months, all that time my blessed eyes shed tears." This was supposedly said at the time of Noah, and so apparently the stayed afloat for eleven months before land was sighted again.

In the end, after the waters had receded, they returned to the same valley in which they had formerly lived. A short time later there came to Noah that woman who had believed his prophecy about the Flood. She said, "Noah, you told me that there was going to be a flood and that when it arrived you would take me aboard your great ship. When is the flood going to occur?"

Noah answered, "It has already taken place. It occurred at such-and-such a time."

"Well, on that day I noticed that my cow's back was a little wet. It must have been the flood that caused that," the woman said.

God had protected from the Flood the woman who had believed in Noah