

Story 1017 (1984 Tape 2) Narrator: Hasan Tekiř, 35,
clerk in state office;
formerly an imam,
prayer leader

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

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Heaven and Hell

Ahmet Uysal: It is said that when a very good person dies,
his or her spirit goes to the world of spirits.

Is the person aware that this is happening?

Narrator: It is said that before such a person dies, his
future place is shown to him before his soul is
grasped and taken there

Ahmet Uysal: Do I understand correctly, then, that a person
knows before he dies whether he is to go to
heaven or to hell?_7

There was once a woman named Zübeyde who had brought
water into Arabia at a time when there had been a long
drought. She was a woman who had thus performed a great and
worthy act. During her lifetime she had, in fact, done many
good deeds of this kind.

Shortly after this good woman died, she appeared in a
dream to another woman who had been her neighbor. The neigh-
bor woman realized that Zübeyde had been accepted into the
spiritual world, and she asked Zübeyde, "What is it that

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earned you a place in the spiritual world?"

Zübeyde answered, "Don't think that I achieved this rank because of my bringing water to Mecca or because of of my other public services. Too much fuss has already been made over those accomplishments. I have discovered it was something quite different that gained me such favor. Do you remember the day when we were sitting together with all the other women when the ezan¹ started to be chanted? As you will remember, we were all talking loudly, I said, 'Be quiet! Let us listen to the ezan. It was that small act which saved me."

In the Koran it says, "Your grave will be either in the gardens of heaven or in the pits of hell.

¹The ezan is the call to prayer made from the minaret of a mosque by a religious official known as a muezzin. It is chanted and sung a few minutes before each of the five daily Moslem prayer services.