

Story 1018 (1984 Tape 2) Narrator: Hasan Tekis, 35, clerk
in state office; for-
merly an imam, prayer
leader

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

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Doctor Lokman¹

Doctor Lokman was known to be a very wise scholar, a great scientist, and a medical authority. He also claimed to be a prophet, but I shall not comment now on just how valid that claim was. He lived during the time of Moses,² and I shall tell you something about that.

In the time of Moses Doctor Lokman was ordered by God to give names to all of the herbs that could be used to cure the many different illnesses of mankind. Each plant told Dr. Lokman³ what illness it could cure, and he wrote down

¹Although he is generally credited with being (1) legendary, and (2) ancient, Lokman otherwise has different images. Besides being a medical doctor, he is also credited with writing a great number of wise sayings. Again, he is sometimes shown in the role of moralist and philosopher. See the Encyclopaedia of Islam. Lokman is mentioned in Sura (Chapter) XXXI of the Koran, a chapter named after him.

²Although cited here as a contemporary of Moses, he is elsewhere in the Archive holdings credited with being a contemporary of Plato. The time gap between Moses and Plato may be as much as 1,000 years.

³Ancient sages of legend and some folktale characters are credited with understanding the language of birds and animals and/or the language of flowers and other plants.

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all this information in a small book. Among the many cures that he discovered in this way was a remedy for death.

Very pleased with the work he had accomplished, he put his book in his pocket and embarked on a ship to return home. On his way home, he saw on the ship a person that he thought was Moses, but this was not really Moses at all. It was the Archangel Gabriel disguised to look exactly like Moses. Going over to the person who looked like his friend Moses, Doctor Lokman said to him, "Among the cures I have discovered is a remedy for death

"How can death be cured?" asked "Moses.

"Here--I'll show you," said Dr. Lokman, and he took the little book from his pocket. As Lokman started to show this book, Gabriel knocked it out of his hand. It fell into the water and was lost. By then, however, the ship was close to shore, and some of the pages of the book washed into a barley field. Dr. Lokman was later able to find one of the pages in that barley field.

After that, doctors began to give barley water and barley soup as remedies for certain illnesses. Neither of these treatments, however, is a remedy for death.