

Story 1120 (1966 Tape 5) Narrator: Hacer Ertemli

Location: Bursa

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Yunus Is His Name

A man had not seen one of his friends for many years when one day he chanced to meet him on a street corner. After talking together for some time, they parted and went their separate ways. When the man reached home, he said to his wife, "Today I saw an old friend of mine, but I cannot remember his name. I wonder what his name is? Is it Ali, Veli, or what?" He and his wife went through all the names they could think of, none was the right name. "What is his name? What is his name?" he kept asking. He kept asking himself this question so that after a while the frustration made him become ill

His family put him in a hospital. There the doctors tried all sorts of medicine on him, but none of them had any helpful effect upon him. The doctors said, "Just lying here in the hospital is not going to cure him. Why don't you take him on a train trip? Perhaps that will take his mind off his problem and thus cure him." They put him on a train, but throughout the trip the man did nothing except to keep asking over and over again, "What is the name of my old friend? What is

When he returned from the train trip, he was no better than he had been when he started it. The family put him back in the

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hospital. After he had been there for a while, the doctors made another recommendation: "Try taking him on a voyage. Perhaps the sights at sea will distract him, and he will forget his problem

They put him aboard a ship, and the whole family traveled with him. But he would not even turn his head to look either at the ship or the scenery that was passing. The man's two sons were along with them. One of them said, "Oh, Mother! Look at the boats, look at the birds, look at the dolphins!"<sup>1</sup>

"Yes, yes, that's it His name is Yunus!"

<sup>1</sup> Yunus is a proper name in Turkey, but it also means dolphin. The name Yunus is the equivalent of the English Jonah.