

Story 1378 (1989 Tape 5)

Narrator: Şerafettin Gölcük,
48, of Theology
School, Selçuk
University

Location: Ödemiş, kaza city of
İzmir Province

Taped at Konya

Date: May 1989

The Laz and the Unripe Olives

There was once a Laz who came to Ödemiş. He was especially interested in the fact that Ödemiş is a place where a great many figs and olives are grown. He was very fond of these two kinds of fruit, and he also knew that both were mentioned in the Koran

This Laz arrived in Ödemiş in August. He did not know what either olive or fig trees looked like, and so he kept asking people, "What kind of tree is this? What kind of tree is that?" When someone pointed out some olive trees to him, he asked, "Are they the same kind of olive trees that are written about in the Koran?"

"Yes, they are

When the Laz heard this, he immediately picked several unripe olives and put them in his mouth. Of course, the taste of those green, unripe olives was not at all pleasant. The Laz then said, "O Allah! You mentioned olives in the Koran, but had you ever tasted them before you did that?"