

Story 1424 (1976 Tape 32) Narrator: Selahattin Peksöz

Location: Emrem Sultan village
Beypazarı kaza,
Ankara Province

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Yunus Emre¹ and Taptuk Emre

Taptuk Emre, Yunus Emre's teacher and master, came here from Horasan² seven hundred and fifty years ago. Yunus Emre stayed with him for forty-three years as his student and servant. There came a time, however, when Yunus Emre wished to leave his master and have an independent life of his own. But after he had been away for a short time, he felt guilty about what he had done, so he returned here to Emrem Sultan. When he arrived at Taptuk Emre's house, he found that Taptuk Emre was not at home. "Where is my teacher?" he asked Taptuk Emre's wife.

¹Medieval Turkish folk poet who lived from approximately 1230?-1307?. He is now considered one of the most important of all Turkish poets. There is a Yunus Emre Society in Turkey which holds annual Yunus Emre symposia; there are often Yunus Emre sections in literary and folklore conferences.

²Now known as Khurasan, a province of Iran. A center of mysticism during the Seljuk and early Ottoman periods, many of the Moslem mystics were backtrackers who migrated back west in the direction from which their religion had come. Many a Turkish site claims to have had a "Horasan Dede" settle there at an early date. Such a figure is usually credited with having invigorated the religious enthusiasm of the area. He is usually considered a saint, and numerous legends about him exist. Dede literally means grandfather or old man; figuratively, it may mean dervish or saint.

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"Your teacher went to prayer service at the mosque," she answered.

"Is he angry at me?"

"I don't know. He went to the mosque, but he will soon return. Sit by the threshold and wait for him. When he arrives, I shall say, 'Yunus has returned.' If he asks, 'Yunus?' then kiss his hands, but if he asks, 'Which Yunus?' then run away.

Taptuk Emre was blind by that time. When he arrived home, he felt with his cane someone sitting before his door. "Who is this?" he asked

"Yunus," answered his wife.

"Our Yunus?" he asked

"Yes."

Yunus Emre arose and kissed the hands of his teacher. Then he apologized to Taptuk Emre for having left him.

But Taptuk Emre surprised him by saying, "It is really time that you leave this place. You have served me for a long time.

After that, Yunus Emre went to Sakarya. There, he became a drover for seven years, and it was there that he found his position in life. He began building a tomb

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there for himself. At that very time, his former teacher, Taptuk Emre, said, "I wonder what our Yunus is doing? I am going to go and visit him." He mounted a snake and rode to Sakarya on its back.

Yunus Emre saw Taptuk approaching as his teacher crossed the river on the snake's back. Yunus Emre asked himself, "How should I go to meet my teacher?" Then he mounted a wall and said, "Move ahead, O blessed wall!"

When Taptuk saw Yunus Emre approaching in this way, he said, "O Yunus, you are a greater man than I am."³

³In modern intellectual circles, Yunus Emre is remembered for his poetry. Among the folk, he is more often remembered as a performer of miracles.