

Story 1480 (1989 Tape 10)

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Location: Demirli village,
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Date: May 1989

Inescapable Appointment with Azrail¹

Warren Walker: In your last tale you mentioned Solomon's knowledge of bird language.

Mustafa Şahin: Yes, he knew how to talk with birds. In fact, he was the ruler of all birds. But he could also speak to other things that did not understand human language. I know a story about that.⁷

One day a man went in a great hurry to Prophet Solomon and pleaded with him for help. He said, "While I was in the marketplace, I saw Azrail, who then began to follow me. Please tell the wind to carry me to the Kaf Mountains.² He will surely not be able to find me there, and so I shall be able to go on living."

In the meantime, Azrail was still walking around in the marketplace, and as he walked, he was thinking, "I was supposed to take the life of that man today in the Kaf Mountains. I wonder what he is doing here? Why is he not there?"

¹The Angel of Death.

²Mythical mountain range surrounding the extreme outer edges of the world.

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Of course, all of this was controlled by the will of Allah, thus the fate of the man could not be changed. Prophet Solomon complied with the man's request and ordered the wind to take the man to the Kaf Mountains. This made it possible Azrail to take his life at the time and place he had been destined to do so. Solomon was able to talk to birds, to the wind, and to other things, and his prayers were always accepted by Allah ³

³ Versions of this tale have appeared both in oral literature and in written literature. One of the best-known examples in written literature can be found in John O'Hara's Appointment in Samarra.