

Story 1572 (1977 Tape 11

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of Erzurum Province

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The Immutability of Fate¹

Many important people in the past wished to change the Fate that was written for them, but they were unable to do so. This you should know.

Once Nurettin Arabî² found a means of examining the Great Book of Affairs.³ When he located his own name in the Great Book of Affairs, he discovered written alongside it a statement that he would be killed at a certain time at a certain place. He was greatly surprised to discover such a statement, and he asked himself, "Why is it written here? And why should I be killed? I am, after all, the Commander of the Faithful! It cannot be!"

Nurettin Arabî put his finger in his mouth to wet it with saliva. Then he used his wetted finger to erase

¹This interpolated story in ATON No. 1700 is a folktale in its own right. In order to avoid losing its identity entirely in that extremely long tale, we have (for indexing and cataloguing purposes) entered it here under its own ATON number.

²Nurettin (Nur al-Din?) Arabî is not listed in the Encyclopedia of Islam, The Cambridge History of Islam, or the Turkish Encyclopaedia.

³Even though much mythology and early religion was transmitted by the oral tradition, Moslem narrators visualize

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name from the Great Book, but when he dropped his arm to side, his name reappeared at the same spot. He very quickly erased it again, but once more it reappeared on the page. Then when he attempted to erase it for a third time, a voice spoke from above saying, "If you erase that for a third time, I shall erase you. You must accept your Fate." In the end he was killed at the time and place that had been written. So, if even Nurettin Arabî could not change his Fate, how can we?

religious concepts, Fate, and the will of the Deity in general as written doctrine. The writing seems not only to make the abstract graphic but also to insure its validity.