

Story 1574 (1987 Tape 3)

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carpenter

Location: Bılık village,
Devrek kaza,
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Treasure-Hunting Problems

A friend of mine, who was also a carpenter, used to disappear from time to time and be absent from his workshop for several days. After this had happened several times, I asked him one day, "Why is it that you abandon your shop so frequently? You are not working much any more.

He answered, "We are going treasure hunting. Some day, as you will see, we shall find a treasure and then we shall be very rich."

"Where are you going to find such a treasure?" I asked him.

"Oh-h-h, we have already located it," he said, but he did not tell me where it was. Then he confided to me, "We have already located a treasure, but it is in a cave which is very difficult to enter and then later to leave."

/Ahmet Uysal: "Was this beneath the surface of the ground?"

Narrator: "Yes, it was. They were in a cave which was underground."7

Whenever they tried to enter the cave, they were blocked by something that was like a curtain. Then after they found

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a way of entering, they had difficulty getting out again, for their way was blocked by a buzz saw. They finally hired an imam¹ to go with them and say prayers that would keep the curtain from blocking their way. When the imam accompanied them and prayed at the entrance of the cave, the curtain was removed, and they were able to enter. Going to a place in the cave where a gold treasure was stored, they filled their sacks with gold. He told me that among the many things in the cave was a barber shop completely equipped with golden objects--golden scissors and even a golden barber's chair. Everything was made of gold, and everywhere one looked one saw only gold

When they decided to leave with the gold they already had in their sacks, they found that their way out of the cave was blocked by a spinning buzz saw. There was no way in which they could get past it. The imam prayed and prayed, but all of his efforts were in vain. They waited there near the spinning buzz saw until night. Then the imam said, "If we hope to leave this cave alive, we shall first have to return all

¹An imam is the prayer leader in a mosque. Many Turkish treasure hunters speak of treasures guarded by jinns. Ordinary people cannot cope with jinns, but there are certain hocas (Moslem preachers) who know how to manage jinns. Such a jinn hoca is known in Turkish as a cinci hocası. These jinn hocas are scam artists, confidence men who exploit the highly superstitious peasantry.

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the golden objects in our sacks to their former places. Further, we must place each of them exactly where it was before. After that when they tried to depart from the cave, nothing blocked their way. They left the cave just as night was approaching, but the twilight was still bright enough so that they could see where they were going.

This was the story he told me, and I have told it to you just the same way that he told it to me. Really, however, I did not believe him. I couldn't believe him.

Āhmet Uysal: "But you have never hunted for any treasure yourself?"

Narrator: "No, I have not. I have never had any interest in that sort of thing."7