

Story 1705 (1994 Tape 1)

Narrator: Cevdet Uğuz,
veterinarian

Location: Taşkale village,
Karaman (formerly
kaza town but now
vilayet merkezi),
Karaman Province

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The Expulsion of Süleyman Demirel from Heaven

Before he became President of the Republic of Turkey, Süleyman Demirel had been Prime Minister seven different times. He was removed from the office of Prime Minister six times either by election or by military intervention. This anecdote was told about him during his seventh term as Prime Minister.

When Süleyman Demirel died,¹ he was carried to heaven at once by Azrail.² It was not very long, however, before the angel brought him back to earth again.

People asked Azrail, "Why did you bring Süleyman Demirel back to earth again?"

¹Demirel did not die during his last stint as Prime Minister. He subsequently became President and was very much alive two years later when this tale was taped.

²The Moslem and Jewish angel of death.

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Azrail answered, "When this man arrived in the other world, he threw that place into a state of confusion. He talked incessantly about politics, about political parties, and about elections. This caused arguments and quarrels among the inhabitants there. It was therefore decided that there is no room in heaven for an eternal politician. That is why I brought him back here."