

Story 1727 (1974 Tape 17)

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The Creation of Adam and the Plot Against Him

earth was at first without people until Allah created our father Adam. Allah sent Michael down to earth to bring back some soil from such and such a mountain to be used to make Adam. Michael went down to earth for this purpose, but the mountain protested, saying, "Please, please, do not take any of my soil!" When Michael returned to Heaven without the soil, Allah sent Israfil for the soil. But the mountain again protested against giving up any of its soil, and so Israfil also failed in his mission. The same thing happened to the third angel sent to earth, Gabriel. Finally Azrail¹ was sent for the soil. When he reached the mountain, he ignored completely the mountain's pleading and crying. He grabbed a large handful of soil and took it to Allah.

After mixing some water with this soil, Allah molded the mud and from it created Adam. Allah then said to the

Judaic and Moslem angel of death.

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angels, "This is my creation. Prostrate yourselves before him." All of the angels except Satan did as they had been ordered to do. For his disobedience, Satan was removed from Heaven and thrown into Hell.

After the creation of Adam [and Eve], the population on earth increased. Within the family, a girl who was born in a given year would later marry the boy who was born in the following year. In those days brothers and sisters were permitted to marry. Abel and Cain² fought about which sister each was to marry. Abel complained, "The girl whom I am supposed to marry is ugly. I want to marry the girl who is supposed to become your wife." They began to fight about this, and the result was that Abel killed Cain. In order to hide the dead Cain, Abel dug a hole in the ground and put his brother into it. The practice of burying dead people began on that occasion.

As time went on, the many descendants of Adam became quite prosperous. Allah sent a message to Adam, saying, "Hey, Adam! All of your heirs should distribute

²The Moslem names for Abel and Cain are Ābil and Kāvil.

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in alms one fortieth of their wealth."³ When Adam spoke to his descendants about the command of Allah, they did not like this idea at all. They said among themselves, "This is probably not the will of Allah. It is a scheme of our father to take from us some of our wealth. We should kill him!"

Before they could kill Adam, however, Allah acted to protect him. He caused each community of Adam's descendants to speak a different language. Because they could not understand each other, they became the founders of separate nations--72.5 nations. (The half nation was made up of gypsies.)⁴

³This rule about charity (called zekât) is one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

⁴The confusion of languages is usually associated with the story of the Tower of Babel.