Narrator: Ali Çiftçi, in mid-60s by the time he told this tale

Location: Çikırıkçı village, Sarıkaya kaza, Yozgat Province

Date: 1981

Cain and Abel

When they were thrown out of heaven, Adam and Eve landed in different parts of the world. When they were reunited, they settled down. In time they had two sons, Abel and Cain\(^1\) was born first, and later Cain was born. At the time that each was born, a twin girl was also born. The girl who was born with Abel was İlhıma,\(^2\) and the girl who was born with Cain was Güveyda.\(^3\) İlhıma was quite pretty, but Güveyda was rather ugly.

After the four children had grown up, Adam said to his sons, "Allah ordered that my first son [Abel] should marry the girl born with my second son [Cain], and the girl born with my second son should marry my first son." This was the arrangement that Allah had made in order to cause the population to grow.

Abel objected, saying, "No! I want to marry the girl

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\(^1\)The Turkish name for Abel given here is Habil, and the name for Cain is Kabıl.

\(^2\)This name is not given in the Encyclopaedia of Islam, the Turkish Encyclopedia, the index to The Glorious Koran, or Montgomery's Commentaries on the Koran.

\(^3\)Same as Note 2 above.
Story 1515
that was born with me!

"No, you cannot do that, for Allah ordered otherwise."

Abel was a farmer, and Cain was a shepherd. In those
days people used to offer sacrifices to Allah, and if a fire
came out of the sky and carried off their sacrifices,
people knew that they had been accepted by Allah. One year
Abel took some grain to the altar as a sacrifice, and Cain
took a slaughtered lamb. When the grain was taken away by
the fire, but the lamb was left on the altar, Cain became
angry at Abel and killed him.

Kabil did not know what to do with his dead brother's
body, and so he carried it on his back everywhere he
for forty years. He did not know that he should bury Abel.
One day as he was sitting, very tired, with his brother still
on his back, Kabil saw two crows come along and start fight-
ing with each other. The crow which won the fight pulled off
his rival's head. Then he scratched a hole in the ground
with his claw, dragged his enemy's body into the hole, and
covered it with dirt. Kabil thought, "Oh, this must be a
message meant for me!" That was the first time that a human
being thought about graves. He dug a grave and placed his
brother's body in it.

As Cain was burying Abel, a voice in the air spoke to
Story 1515

him saying, "May Allah give you an appearance of darkness!"

Cain then spent the rest of his life in India.

/Ähmet Uysal: "Is that why the people of India are so dark-skinned?"

Narrator: "Yes."