

Story #64 (Tape 51)
1961-1962

Narrator: Hasan Otaç
Location: Çorça
Date: March 1962

110

#64 #64
The Bektaşî's¹ Retort

One day a bektaşî sat in the mosque and there started to drink rakî.
A man passing by looked in and saw the derviş profaning the mosque and became very angry with him. He walked into the mosque, spat on the dervish, and said to him, "Aren't you ashamed of yourself to be drinking rakî in the mosque!"

The groggy bektaşî said to him, "If I weren't so busy, I should teach you what a sinful thing it is to spit in a mosque!"²

¹The bektaşî sect of dervishes is looked upon as perhaps the most unorthodox. They do not pray the prescribed number of times each day; they do not fast; they drink alcoholic beverages openly. In former times, these differences were very noticeable. The Janissaries were often followers of the bektaşîs.

²Although spitting in the mosque might be sacrilegious, drinking, and doing so in the mosque, is a far greater offense.