

Story #139 (Tape #40, 1961-1962) Narrator: Nuri Genç

Location: Iskenderun

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Abu Navvas with the Tangled Feet

Haroun al-Raschid and Abu Navvas were on friendly terms with each other and often each made jokes at the expense of the other. One day Haroun was preaching in the mosque when he spotted Abu Navvas in his congregation. Knowing that Abu Navvas was greatly intimidated by his wife, Haroun Al-Raschid brought the subject of his sermon around to the force most wives exerted on their husbands and the fear most men had for the wrath of their wives. "Whoever of you is afraid of his wife, let him now stand up," said the Caliph. Most of the men present stood up, but Abu Navvas did not.

"Oh, then, Abu Navvas, you are not really afraid of your wife? They told me you were in great fear of her."

"Oh, indeed I am, efendi! When I heard you simply refer to her my feet became so tangled that I couldn't arise!"