

Story #268 Tape # , Summer 1970)

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teacher

Location: Siği village (now
renamed Kумыaka),
kaza of Mudanya,
Province of Bursa

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Behlül Dane and the Hoca's Donkey

Behlül Dane was not a regular worshipper at the mosque like his brother [Harun Reşid]. People thought him crazy and called him deli [mad]. His brother disliked the gossip that was going around about Behlül's madness, and so, one day he insisted that Behlül attend the prayer service at the mosque.

Behlül attended the mosque, as required by his brother while listening to the sermon that the hoca was preaching, Behlül began shouting, "Lie flat on your back and tether your donkey!"

This act of Behlül's was reported to his brother. ^{Mind needed} When questioned why he had done such a thing, Behlül said this: "while delivering his sermon, the hoca was not thinking about it but thinking about his donkey, which he had left in his vineyard with a load of grapes. As it was raining hard, and flooding was likely, the hoca was concerned about the donkey and its load. He was wondering what he should do about it."

This thought of the hoca was known to Behlül through his special insight into things. That is why he left the mosque shouting, "Lie flat on your back and tether your camel!"