

Story #395 (Tape #3, 1972)

Narrator: Reşat Özbaş

Location: Söke, Province of Aydın

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Why Behlül Dane Smiled

Harun Reshid had never witnessed his brother, Behlül Dane, smile. He employed several men to follow Behlül wherever he went and report to him if they happened to see his brother smile. He promised to reward them if they would catch his brother smiling.

One day the men noticed that Behlül smiled as he was standing in front of the butcher shop. Harun was informed of this immediately, and he summoned his brother. "Brother," he said, "I have never seen you smile, but my men tell me that you were seen smiling in front of a butcher shop. What did you find so funny about a butcher shop?"

"Let me explain," Behlül said, "I always used to think how human beings would be punished in the afterworld for their sins. The scene I saw at the butcher shop inspired this thought in me, and I smiled: Just as every sheep is hung by its own tail, so we shall be punished for our own sins. Nobody will be punished for the sins of someone else."