

Story #453

Narrator: Professor Suheyl Ünver

Location: Istanbul

Date: 1971

all Behlül Dane Tames Horses and Mules

Becoming ^{*angry*} with Behlül Dane one day, the *all* Caliph *all* Harun Reshid had him shut up for punishment in a stable with his worst-tempered horses and mules. Behlül played on a saz which he had with him, and soon the animals there became receptive to him.

Some time after this, when Harun Reshid's anger had passed away, he wondered how Behlül was faring in the stable, and he asked some of his men to go and see. When they returned to the Caliph, they reported that Behlül was happy and comfortable, that he was taming the horses and mules, singing to them all the time. The Caliph then declared that he had forgiven Behlül and that he should be set free at once.

When Behlül received this news of his release, along with an invitation to the palace, he sent back the following message: "My Caliph, please pardon me, but I am quite well and determined to stay here, for this place has taught me that it is much easier to understand and get along with animals than it is with human beings."