

Story #454

Narrator: Professor Suheyl Ünver

Location: Istanbul

Date: 1971

Behlül Dane Discourses with the Dung Heap

One day Behlül Dane left Harun Reshid's banquet table and disappeared. He had gone to the toilet. Harun Reshid had him searched for everywhere, and at last he was found in the toilet.

Behlul was talking to the excrement there in the following way:
"A short while ago you were ashure,¹ zerde,² baklava,³ and pilav. Why are you now in such a terrible condition?"

The excrement replied, "What could we have done? We entered the circle of man, and we were reduced to this state."

¹ ashure--a dessert originally prepared for eating on the 10th of Muharrem; also known as "Noah's Ark Pudding." It has a whole range of ingredients, including pomegranates and nuts.

² zerde--a sweetened rice dish colored with saffron.

³ baklava--a pastry made from thin layers of dough, soaked with honey.