

Story #458

Narrator: Professor Suheyl Ünver

Location: Istanbul

Date: 1971

Behlül Dane Shows That the Leg Is the Sheep's but the Stench Is Society's

One day Behlül Dane complained to Harun Reshid about the behavior of some people. His brother said to him, "Mind your own business! Every sheep is hung by its own leg."

Upon hearing this, Behlül Dane went out to a butcher shop and bought a sheep. He hung the sheep from the bough of a tree where it soon began to decay and smell terrible. Those who passed by did not dare to remove the sheep, for they knew it had been hung there by the brother of ^{the} Caliph, and they did not wish to bring down upon themselves his curse. Finally, however, some of the people went to Harun Reshid and lodged a complaint.

Harun had Behlül summoned to his presence. He asked him his reason for hanging a sheep in that place. Behlül responded, "Every sheep may be hung by its own leg, but its foul stench may prevent people from passing close to it." By this he meant that you cannot just ignore an evil act.