

Story #459

Narrator: Ali Efendi, Gravedigger  
at Akşehir; collected  
orally by Professor  
Suheyl Ünver

Location: Akşehir, Province of  
Konya

Date: July 6, 1964

Behlül Dane Shows Harun Reshid the Way Home

One day Harun Reshid said to his brother, "Take this meat and carry it to my home."<sup>1</sup>

Behlül Dane took the meat to the cemetery and hung it up there. When Harun Reshid arrived home in the evening, he said, "I sent home some meat today. Did it arrive?"

Harun then asked Behlül Dane what had happened to the meat that he had sent with him. "Well," said Behlül, "you told me to take it to your home, and that is what I did. This world, after all, is just a visiting place. I took it to your real home."

<sup>1</sup>Realistically, one cannot imagine the Caliph's buying meat and sending it home, or going to work and returning home in the evening. Peasant narrators often apply their own living standards and values to the characters of their folktales.