

Story #461

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Wealth Not Worth a Fart

Arabs think Behlül was crazy.

Turks have great admiration for him.

ter. When Harun Reshid was in the right mood, he would have Behlül called to entertain him and all his company.

Once Harun Reshid had a large palace built, a palace of which he was very proud. When it was completed, he showed it to all his guests. One day he asked Behlül Dane to tell him what he thought of the palace.

"As a matter of fact," said Behlül, "it is not worth a fart!"

Harun was quite annoyed by this impolite remark, but he said nothing about it at the time, for he had great respect for Behlül. A while later Harun became ill with a great swelling in his abdomen. After consulting his doctors, Harun Reshid called in his brother Behlül in order that he might pray for him.

Behlül came and said, "Your life hangs between two things: the palace, on the one hand, and the wind in your abdomen, on the other hand. If you die of the wind in your abdomen, what is the value of your life? You see now that your wealth is not worth a fart."