

Story #464

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The Health and Wealth of Behlül Dane

One day Harun Reshid was lying in bed with a high fever when his brother Behlül Dane came to visit him. After examining his brother, Behlül said, "O, Harun, suppose that I should offer you a bowl of ice-cold water with which to quench this fire within you. What would you give me?"

Harun Reshid replied, "If you can stop this fire within me, I shall give you half of all my possessions."

Then Behlül Dane said, "But suppose that after drinking the water, your belly started swelling and you could not urinate. What would you give the physician who could relieve you?"

"I should give him the other half of my possessions."

Upon hearing this, Behlül Dane uttered the following prayer in behalf of his brother: "Since you are willing to exchange your worldly possessions simply for a bowl of ice-cold water and the ability to discharge that water, I pray that you may be as healthy and as wealthy as I am."