

Story #476 (Tape #11, 1970)

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Location: Pazar köy, Mengen kaza,
Province of Bolu

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Behlül Dane and the Hoca's Donkey

One day a hoca was preaching to the congregation while his mind was busy with another matter. He thought, "If I tether my donkey in the vineyard, he will damage many of the grape vines, but if I tether him out in the open, he will not get enough grass to eat."

Behlül Bir Dane¹ was listening to him, somewhere in the back row of the mosque. By means of the power which Allah had given him, Behlül Bir Dane knew what was going on in the mind of the hoca. He stood up and shouted, "Lie on your back and tie your donkey to I-don't-know-what part of your body!" Then he walked quickly out of the mosque.

When the congregation heard this, they said among themselves, "The mad Behlül is acting up at the mosque again." They complained to Harun Reshid against Behlül when he came home in the evening. They told him what Behlül Budala² (the name he then had) had done in the mosque that day.

Harun Reshid called Behlül to his presence. He asked him, "Behlül, why did you behave so in the mosque today?"

¹See footnote on this name in previous tale, #475.

²See footnote on this name in previous tale, #475.

Mind-reading

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The hoca was called. Harun Reshid said to him, "Hoca, you must me the truth. Hoca, why did Behlül behave so in the mosque today? did you do that caused him to say what he did to you?"

The hoca replied, "Do not blame him, your majesty. Leave him alone.

When I was preaching, I was thinking about my donkey. I thought that if I tied him in the vineyard, he would do great damage there but if I tied him in the open, he would not find enough grass to eat. While I was preaching, I was thinking of these things. He was able to understand this even though the rest of the people could not. I knew then he had understood my thoughts. From now on, never punish him for anything he does. Behlül has the power to know the Unknown."