

Story #483 (Tape #11, 1970)

Narrator: Sadık Erol, in 70's, once Atatürk's chauffeur

Location: Pazar köy, Mengen kaza, Province of Bolu

Date: July 1970

Behlül Dane and the Worshippers at the Mosque

One day Harun Reshid said to Behlül Dane, "Behlül, a son was born to me today, and I wish to give a banquet in his honor. I want you to go to the mosque and bring back all the faithful praying there." A great feast was prepared.

Behlül Dane went to the mosque at prayer time, but he saw that most of the people were already leaving. Of those remaining in the mosque, only one was praying seriously. When this one worshipper arose and slowly began to leave, Behlül stopped him. "What is the matter, Behlül?" asked the man. (This man knew that Behlül was somewhat odd.

Behlül replied, "You are wanted by Harun Reshid. He has prepared a great banquet."

"What does he want of me at a banquet?" asked the man. "I am only a poor old man."

"No, no, he wants you," answered Behlül, and he took the man along with him, the two walking together

Harun Reshid awaited the guests for the banquet, expecting that Behlül Dane would bring the entire congregation. But now he saw that Behlül was bringing only one man to the palace, and he thought, "This

fool has again done something stupid! Here he comes with but one man when I asked him to bring the whole congregation. Behlül, what is this?" he asked when Behlül reached the palace.

"Do not be angry," said Behlül Dane.

"What did I tell you to do?" demanded Harun.

"I have done what you told me to do."

"But what was it that I told you to do?" insisted Harun

"Did you not tell me to bring from the mosque all the faithful who were praying there?"

"Yes, and where are the others?" asked Harun.

"The rest were not praying as the faithful should. This man was the only one doing that. The others had their thoughts elsewhere."

Harun Reshid accepted this explanation of his brother and said that he was right.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The narrator fails to make clear the salient feature of this tale: Behlül Dane's ability to read the minds of others.