There was once a man who had a black dog with which he hunted wolves. He was such a good dog that the man would sometimes give him a sheep as a reward for his faithful service, and in time this dog had a small flock of sheep. When the dog finally died, his little flock numbered fifteen sheep.

Upon the death of his dog, the man went to the local kadi and said, "Kadi efendi, I had a dog who has just died. This dog owned a flock of fifteen sheep. Who should inherit his property?"

Without thinking, the kadi said, "I am his heir. Go and bring the sheep here."

The man left the kadi's office, but on the way he decided to return and ask the kadi a question. He returned, entered the office again, and asked, "Kadi efendi, are you related to my black dog on your father's side of the family or on your mother's side?"