One evening Atatürk and some of his friends were having a party at which they were talking and drinking. Some one suggested that Neyzen Tewfik be invited to come and entertain them.

Neyzen Tewfik arrived at the party and started playing upon the kaval. He played for a while, but no one seemed to be listening to his music. Everyone was talking loudly, and no one was paying a bit of attention to his playing. Neyzen Bey stopped playing then and made this remark: "The fondness of the dissolute for kaval playing is, in my opinion, like the fondness of the donkey for water-whistling."