There was a Bektaşi who drank a great amount of raki, often getting completely drunk from it. One evening after he had been drinking raki for a while, he decided to go outside and take a short walk. He still had part of a glass of raki left, and he set this on the windowsill to keep it cool.

While he was out walking, a crow flew in through the open window and alighted on the windowsill. Seeing there a partial glass of what looked like water, the crow drank it. It was the Bektaşi's raki, and it very quickly made the crow quite drunk. Flying further into the room, the crow landed on a Cross which was hung on one of the walls. While sitting

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1 A Bektaşi is a member of a dervish order of the same name. In pre-Republican days, the Bektaşi order was powerful both religiously and politically. All such orders were outlawed during the Kemalist Reforms of the 1920's.

2 Raki is a powerful liquor with an anise flavor. It is the national liquor of Turkey, and it is manufactured by a government monopoly. Diluted with water, it turns white, and for this reason plus its potency it is called "Lion's Milk."

3 Bektaşis were unorthodox Moslems. Besides being accused of hedonism, they were also sometimes accused of being
there, the crow defecated and befouled the Cross. After a few minutes the crow found the window again and flew away.

When the Bektaşi returned from his walk, he wanted to finish the rakı, but he discovered that the glass was now empty. He wondered if someone had entered his house during absence and drunk the rakı. Looking around the room, he saw bird manure on the Cross, and he concluded that a crow had flown into the room and finished his rakı.

Musing upon this incident, the Bektaşi said, "O crow, if you had been a Moslem bird, you would not have drunk my rakı. 

4 All alcoholic beverages are forbidden by Islamic law.