Once there was a Bektaşı who went to a public bath. While he was washing himself he saw a cockroach there in the bath. Angry, he said, "What business does a cockroach have here? Why should God ever have made such a creature? This God of ours does not always seem to know what he is doing. After finishing his bath, the Bektaşı left the bath and went home.

A few days later the Bektaşı became ill. He tried many different remedies in an effort to cure this illness, but none of them helped him any. He finally went to a healer who was a seer. This man knew many things that ordinary doctors did not. He said to the Bektaşı, "You should catch a number of cockroaches, crush them, and then eat them as a meat dish. This is the only remedy that will cure your illness."

The Bektaşı agreed to do this. The people who were taking care of him caught many cockroaches, crushed them,
then mixed them with a spoon into some of the patient's food. With great disgust the Bektaşi managed to eat the cockroach dish, and as a result he somehow recovered.

A few months later this same Bektaşi took a sea voyage. After they had been at sea for a while, a storm arose. It grew worse and worse until the waves reached up toward the skies. Some of the passengers chanted the ezan and many of them began to pray: "Please, O God, lower the waves and calm the sea!"

The Bektaşi ignored all of this praying. He sat quietly with his back against a mast and said nothing. One of the other passengers became greatly annoyed at the Bektaşi's behavior. Going to where the Bektaşi was sitting, he said, "O you evil fellow! Aren't you ashamed of yourself? Don't you see that we are about to sink into the sea? Can't you hear the ezan being chanted and the people praying? Why don't you do something?"

The Bektaşi answered, "Oh, no! I interfered in God's affairs once, and he made me eat a dish of cockroaches. I'll never commit that mistake again!"

---

2 The ezan is the call to prayer that precedes each of the five daily prayer services. Ordinarily it is chanted from the minaret of a mosque by a professional singer known as a muezzin.