

Story 959 (1973 Tape 10)

Narrator: Unidentified

Location: Aşaköy village,  
Bursa Province

Date: February 1973

The Muezzin,<sup>1</sup> <sup>in San'ya</sup> the Lunatic, and the Drunk <sup>seah - abuo</sup>

A very drunken man once entered the mosque courtyard. There he noticed that all of the other people in the courtyard were staring up at the top of the minaret. The drunk did not understand what was going on, and so he too began to stare at the minaret.

Up in the minaret balcony there was a lunatic who was forcing the muezzin to repeat the ezan, even though he had just finished chanting that call to prayer. The muezzin chanted the ezan a second time. The crazy man then demanded, "Chant it again!"

I have already chanted the prayer call twice!" objected the muezzin.

The lunatic then said, "Well, chant it again anyway! If you don't, I shall throw you down to the ground!"

Helpless, the muezzin pretended to be starting the ezan again. Instead of using the traditional words, however, he

<sup>1</sup> The muezzin is the mosque official who chants the ezan (the call to prayer) before each of the five daily prayer services attended by faithful Moslems.

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called, "There is a crazy man up here who will throw me to the ground!"

Everyone waited beneath the minaret with great curiosity and great concern, but no one made any move to assist the muezzin. Finally the drunk, quite confused by all this, shouted, "Hey, what is happening here? Is this a cinema or a theatre?"

Someone close to him said to the drunk, "Cut it out. Everyone is worried about the muezzin. That crazy man up in the minaret with him is forcing the muezzin to call the ezan over and over again. If the muezzin refuses, the lunatic threatens to throw him to the ground, probably killing him."

The drunk drew his knife from its sheath and began trying to cut the wall of the minaret. As he did so, he shouted up toward the top of the minaret, "Hey, you madman, if you do not come down right away, I shall cut down this minaret with my knife!"

Badly frightened, the lunatic decided to come down. It was in this way that the life of the muezzin was saved