

Story 1565 (1992 Tape 2)

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Location: Derinkuyu, kaza town  
of Nevşehir Province

Date: 1992

Three Drunks Invalidate the Prayer Service

There were three friends who spent the whole night drinking. When they heard the call<sup>1</sup> for the early morning prayer service,<sup>2</sup> one of them said, "Oh, friends, let us go to the mosque and perform the morning prayer service. We have been drinking all night, and therefore we have been sinning all night. If we perform the morning prayer service, then perhaps Allah will forgive us."

They went to the mosque and got in line to perform the service. The imam<sup>3</sup> began to chant the service in a loud, clear voice. When the first drunk heard this, he said, "Aman!<sup>4</sup> You have an excellent voice! Continue! Don't stop now!"<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The call to each of the five daily prayer services is known as the ezan. It is made from the minaret of the mosque by a mosque official known as a muezzin.

<sup>2</sup>The morning service begins at sunrise.

<sup>3</sup>The imam is the prayer leader in a mosque

<sup>4</sup>A mild expletive meaning, Alas, or, roughly, My goodness! or Good heavens!

<sup>5</sup>Any interruption of the prayer service is considered sacrilegious. It usually requires that the prayer service be started anew. Thus if it occurs late in the service, it may negate fifteen or twenty minutes of worship.

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The second drunk said to him, "Don't speak out loud during the prayer service or our worship will be invalidated!"

Turning to this second drunk, the third one said, "As if you yourself were not invalidating our worship!"