

Story 2159 (1999 Tape 6)

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İzmir Province

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A Bektaşî¹ Rescues a Faithful Muslim
from Sin

It was the month of Ramazān,² and all devout Muslims were fasting. One especially faithful Muslim fasted during every day of the month except one, but he felt very guilty about that one day of delinquency. Wherever he went, he kept talking about this sin and expressing his regret for having committed it

A day or two after Ramazān had ended several men of that village were talking together in a coffeehouse. The conversation was pleasant and lighthearted until the group was joined by the man who had missed a day of fasting. He kept telling his sad account until those around him were tired of hearing about it.

¹A Bektaşî is a member of the order of dervishes founded in the 13th century by Hacı Bektaş Veli. They had considerable impact on both Islam and the Ottoman government. They were, nevertheless, among the dervish orders closed during the Kemalist reforms of the 1920s and 1930s. In Turkish folklore, however, they are represented as being irreverent scapegraces who outrage faithful Muslims. Many are the tales told about them.

²Ramazān (Ramadan in most countries) is the holy month of fasting in Islam, during which the faithful do not eat

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A Bektaşi who happened to be in the coffeehouse at that time asked the sinner, "On which day of Ramazan did you fail to fast?"

"It was on the tenth day."

"Uncle, don't worry about that any longer. That was the only day of Ramazan on which I fasted, and I now transfer to you whatever credit I may have acquired on that day."

a morsel of food or drink a drop of liquid between sunrise and sunset.