

Story #520 (Tape # 1974)

Narrator: Mehmet Ali Şen, the hoca
of the village

Location: Village of Gündüzlü
(Muzal formerly),
Kaza of Inegöl, Bursa Prov

Date: September 30, 1974

Behlül Dane Sells Heavenly Palaces to Zübeyde and Harun Reşid¹

Behlül Dane, recognized as a madman, was one day playing with some sticks. Zübeyde, the wife of Harun Reşid and the sister-in-law of Behlül, asked Behlül what he was doing.

"I am building a kiosk in paradise," he answered.

"Will you sell me this kiosk?" she asked.

He said, "All right."

"How much do you ask for it?" she inquired.

"One akça. I shall sell it to you for one akça." [?] ²

Zübeyde gave him the akça. After Behlül had worked for a while longer, he completed the building. "Now the kiosk of paradise is yours," he concluded and left.

That night both Harun Reşid and his wife saw the kiosk of paradise in their dreams. It was doomsday, and Zübeyde was in the kiosk. Her husband asked her how she had obtained this palace, and she answered, "I bought it from your brother, Behlül, yesterday."

"How much did you pay for it?"

"One akça. I bought it for one akça."

The next morning Harun Reşid asked his brother to build him a kiosk in paradise just like the one bought by Zübeyde. Behlül accepted this pro-

¹ The narrator said that he had once read a tale like this one in a book entitled Yasin Tefsiri by Hamanî.

² In the Ottoman era the akça was a small coin of little value.

posal . When Harun Reşid asked how much he would charge for it, Behlül answered, "I'll build it for you for 100,000 liras."

"Well," his brother protested, "you sold one to my wife for only an akça. Why do you charge me 100,000 liras?"

"My sister-in-law bought that kiosk without having any evidence of its existence. But you, having seen proof of its existence, wish to buy one like it. That is why I am charging you 100,000 liras."