

Story #504 (Tape #16, 1974)

Narrator: İdris Okan,  
elderly man

Location: Belekçe Han  
Kavağı köyü,  
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The Hot Feet of Harun Reshid

BTJ

One day Harun Reshid said to his brother, "Come, let us divide all of this property. We have enough goods."

"Let us have a rehearsal about all these goods before I take any of them," said Behlül. "Let us divide them after that."

There was a large pile of wood before the house. He lighted the pile of wood and placed a sac<sup>1</sup> over the flames. Then he said to his brother, "You stand on that iron barefooted and then enumerate all of your belongings by name, saying,

Harun Reshid answered, "Brother, how can one stand on this and enumerate all these things? It has become red-hot."

Behlül said, "This was washed in forty değel<sup>2</sup> : cooled in the Kevser River.<sup>3</sup> The fire of hell is more fearsome than

<sup>1</sup> A sac or sac is a large piece of sheet iron, slightly convex, a griddle upon which yufka, a thin, unleavened bread, is baked.

<sup>2</sup> It sounds as if the narrator says here değel, whatever that means. The hot iron has been "fortied," treated in some way forty times. To protect objects, to keep evil from them, they are often washed, rinsed, or otherwise acted upon forty times, forty being a holy number.

<sup>3</sup> A mythical river in Paradise.

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this one. How will you be able to enumerate your property there?

Then there will also be questions about each and punishments declared for each sin. There will also be discussed the matter of those you let go hungry and of those whom you have beaten. You must also answer for these things. How are you going to do all that there?" After he had said that, Behlül added, "I do not want any goods. I give them all to you."