

Story #455

Narrator: Professor Suheyl Ünver

Location: Istanbul

Date: 1971

Behlül Dane and the Three Worshippers at the Mescit¹

At his summer residence Harun Reshid had a mescit where about a hundred people went to worship. Once while services were being held there, Harun Reshid said to Behlül Dane, "Go and invite those praying to come here to my home afterwards for dinner."

He had banquet tables prepared for a hundred people. After the services were over, however, only three people came to the dinner. "Why did only three people come home with you?" he demanded of Behlül Dane.

"Your majesty," said Behlül, "you did not ask me to bring home all who were at the mosque. You ordered me to bring home to dinner those who were praying, and I brought all of those people with me."

¹ Mescit--sometimes spelled mescid; a small mosque, often part of wealthy estate.