

Story #140

Narrator: Mehmet Genişgen

Location: Taşköprü, kaza town in  
Province of Kastamonu

Date: August 1964

Bekri Mustafa as Muezzin

One day in the time of Sultan Mahmut, Bekri Mustafa was appointed muezzin to Saint Sophia Mosque. He helped conduct funerals there, standing in front of the congregation for the part of the service held in the mosque yard. At one of these funerals, he lifted up the lid of the coffin and whispered something into the ear of the corpse, "Fis, fis, fis."

Someone from among the congregation asked, "Mustafa, what did you talk about with the deceased?"

"Only God and the deceased and I know that," answered Bekri Mustafa.

"Yes, but we want to know too," insisted the man, and all of the congregation agreed with him.

"Well, if you must know, then, I shall tell you. The deceased is on his way to the next world. I have father, mother, relatives, and friends there, and they are certain to ask him how things are back here on earth. I told him simply to say to them, 'Bekri Mustafa became muezzin for Saint Sophia Mosque during the reign of Sultan Mahmut.' From that fact alone they will understand how corrupt the times have become."