

Story 790 (1970 Tape 15)

Narrator: Mehmet Ece (alias Topal Ahmet), one-legged auto mechanic

Location: Ece from Erzurum, but tale is taped in Bursa, Bursa Province

Date: July 1970

One Name for Allah, Not 1,001¹

Once a scholar of the court of Harun Reşit announced that he would prove the existence of Allah by means of 1,001 names. Almost everyone attended his lecture, including Harun Reşit. One exception was Behlül Dane, who chose to run away rather than attend this lecture.

"What is that man's name? Catch him!" demanded the speaker.

When Behlül Dane was brought before this scholar, Behlül said to him, "You do not believe even in one name of Allah, and yet you claim that you can prove His existence by means of 1,001. I am a Moslem who believes in just name: Allah. I do not need 1,001, nor am I fool² enough to come to listen to you."

¹ Although the 1,001 names of Allah are frequently mentioned, the word names is really a misnomer. What is being referred to are the 1,001 attributes of Allah. These might rather be called epithets.

² Behlül's supposed insanity is being played upon here. He was not an ordinary fool but a Divine fool.