

Story #466

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Location: Istanbul

Date: 1971

Suheyl Ünver
Behlül's Parable of Log-Lifting

One day Behlül Dane saw a log in the garden of the palace. He grabbed the log on one end, and, gathering up all his strength, he lifted it. He let it fall back to the ground, and then he went to the other end. Once again, with great effort, he succeeded in lifting the log. Letting it fall back to the ground again, he then grabbed it in the middle and tried to lift it. This time, however, he was not even able to move it. He tried unsuccessfully several times until he was exhausted.

Harun Reshid, who had been watching all of this from a window in the palace, could not help interfering. "Behlül, what are you doing down there? You must be very tired."

Behlül replied, "I grabbed this world and lifted it, and then I put it down. I then grabbed the other world and lifted it too. But I have been thinking for a while: How are you going to lift both of them at the same time?"¹

¹That is to say, how can one be successful both in this material world and in the spiritual world?