

Story #319 (Tape #5, 1971)

Narrator: Prof. Süheyl Ünver

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Malazgirt

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Why Behlül Dane Refused to Take a Wife

One day Harun Reşid summoned all the girls in his palace and asked Behlül Dane to select one for a wife. At first Behlül acted quite indifferent. Finally he chose one among the girls. This section of the narration is not clear on tape. He said, "I'd like to marry this girl."

"Very well. It shall be so," answered Harun Reşid.

The girl came to Behlül, and he at once felt her stomach. "I cannot marry this girl," he said.

"Why can't you?" asked Harun Reşid. "She is very beautiful and has a fine character."

"Well," said Behlül, "her stomach is full of children, and after we are married she will burden me with these children, bringing them forth one by one. I cannot afford to marry her."