

Story 1565 (1992 Tape 2)

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of Nevşehir Province

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Three Drunks Invalidate the Prayer Service

There were three friends who spent the whole night drinking. When they heard the call¹ for the early morning prayer service,² one of them said, "Oh, friends, let us go to the mosque and perform the morning prayer service. We have been drinking all night, and therefore we have been sinning all night. If we perform the morning prayer service, then perhaps Allah will forgive us."

They went to the mosque and got in line to perform the service. The imam³ began to chant the service in a loud, clear voice. When the first drunk heard this, he said, "Aman!"⁴ You have an excellent voice! Continue! Don't stop now!"⁵

¹The call to each of the five daily prayer services is known as the ezan. It is made from the minaret of the mosque by a mosque official known as a muezzin.

²The morning service begins at sunrise.

³The imam is the prayer leader in a mosque

⁴A mild expletive meaning, Alas, or, roughly, My goodness! or Good heavens!

⁵Any interruption of the prayer service is considered sacrilegious. It usually requires that the prayer service be started anew. Thus if it occurs late in the service, it may negate fifteen or twenty minutes of worship.

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The second drunk said to him, "Don't speak out loud during the prayer service or our worship will be invalidated!"

Turning to this second drunk, the third one said, "As if you yourself were not invalidating our worship!"