

Story 1134 (1974 Tape 11 Narrator: Mehmet İlhan

Location: Sekeli village, Yerköy kaza, Yozgat Province

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Behlül Dane<sup>1</sup> Informs Harun Reşit of His Real Home

One day when Harun Reşit was in the marketplace, he bought some meat. Turning to Behlül Dane, he said, "Here! Take this meat to my home."

Behlül Dane took the meat and went to the all cemetery. There he placed the meat upon a gravestone.

When Harun Reşit returned from work, he asked his wife "Where is the food?"

"What food? Did you send something for me to cook?"

"Yes. I bought some meat and then gave it to Behlül Dane with instructions to bring it here."

didn't bring any meat here."

called Behlül Dane to their presence, and Harun Reşit said to him, "I gave you some meat to deliver. What did you

<sup>1</sup> Behlül Dane is largely a legendary figure in the Moslem past of the Abbasid Period. Whether there is any historicity to this figure is questionable, though until the 18th century there was a grave at Baghdad that was supposedly his. He was said to be the mad half-brother of Harun Reşit (Haroun al-Raschid), greatest of the Abbasid caliphs, who flourished around 800. There was method in his alleged "madness," for his antic behavior was a "cover" for his role as satirist and critic of worldliness of the powerful and wealthy--notably the caliph himself. At times he was, like the Jewish schlemihl, a saintly fool.

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do with it?"

"You told me to take it home, and so I took it to your home. If you had told me to deliver it to the house where you were a temporary guest, I should have brought it here. But you told me to take it to your home, and so I took it to your grave."