

Story #125 (not taped)

Narrator: Ahmet Kıyıcı

Location: Ankara

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How Long Will It Take?

One day Nasreddin Hoca was chopping wood close to the road a few kilometers from Akşehir. After a while a man came along the road, walking toward Akşehir, and he called to Hoca, "Can you tell me how long it will take me to get to Akşehir?"

Hoca heard him and looked up from his work, but he said nothing. So the man called again, louder this time, "How long will it take me to get to Akşehir?"

Still Hoca said nothing, and this time the man roared like a lion, "How long will it take me to get to Akşehir?"

When Hoca did not answer even then, the man decided he must be deaf, and so he started walking rapidly toward the city. Nasreddin Hoca watched him for a moment, and then he shouted, "It will take you about an hour!"

"Well, why didn't you say so before?" demanded the man angrily.

"First I had to know how fast you were going to walk," answered the Hoca.