

Story #196 (Tape #4, Summer 1970)

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Nasreddin Hoca As God of Earth

Tamerlane defeated Yıldırım Bayazıt, Yıldırım Bayazıt was, after this defeat, going toward Kayseri, and Nasreddin Hoca was in Kayseri at the time. [Is it Tamerlane who goes toward Kayseri?] There the people feared bloodletting.

The people of Kayseri said to Nasreddin Hoca, "Solve this problem for us."

"That is easy. That is easy," he answered.

"What is easy?"

"That business is easy," Nasreddin Hoca said. The Hoca had a tent

He had the tent and himself painted green and then he sat outside the tent. The troops of Tamerlane were coming, and they asked him, "Who are you?"

"I am the god of the earth and the key to the city of Kayseri," he answered.

When they heard this, they turned back and reported it to Tamerlane. "We saw a man green all over, sitting all alone and saying he was god of

But Tamerlane had his sister with him whose mouth was unopened. She had a very little hole in the center of her lips through which she sipped milk and so forth. No one in those days could find a remedy to cure this deformity. Then Tamerlane mounted a horse, taking his sister and a vizier

with him. He addressed the Hoca, saying, "Who are you?"

"I am the god of the earth and the key to the city of Kayseri."

"As you are god of the earth and the key to Kayseri, perhaps you can solve this problem. My sister's lips are joined. I want you to widen them a little."

"Sir, I can widen anything below the waist. Anything above the waist is Allah's sphere of activity. If anything below the waist wants to be widened, I'd be glad to do it for her."

When the people heard these words of the Hoca, they laughed loudly, and the girl laughed, too, and her lips were corrected.

Tamerlane then took the Hoca with him and went to Kayseri in peace and committed no atrocities there.