

Story #354 (Not on tape.)

Info: Informants: Children at Ayşe Abla İlkokulu

Narrator: Neriman Hızır (Ayşe Abla)

Date: March 1962

Shoes for a Journey

One day when Nasreddin Hodja was just a boy, his friends decided to play a trick on him. After considerable discussion, they agreed to steal his shoes. But how? Suddenly the leader among the group had an idea.

"Nasreddin!" he called.

And Nasreddin obligingly came over to see what was wanted.

"We've been talking, and Ahmet thinks you can climb that cypress tree. Mehmet and I are sure you cannot. Irfan, here, isn't sure whether you can or you can't. What do you say? Can you? Or can't you?"

Nasreddin looked at the tree. Then he looked at his friends. Clearly something besides the tree-climbing was on their minds, but Nasreddin couldn't be sure just what it was.

"Oh, I can climb it, all right," he answered.

"Let's see you, then," said the leader. "Here, I'll hold your shoes for you while you climb."

Aha! So that was it...Shrugging his shoulders, Nasreddin stuffed his shoes into the pockets of his baggy trousers. With a twinkle in his eye, he replied, "I'll just take them along with me. It may be that I'll find a road at the top of the tree. In that case, I shall need my shoes!"