

Story 772 (1970 Tape 14)

Narrator: Ihsan Altınay

Location: Kumyaka village
(formerly Siği until
changed in 1970's),
kaza of Mudanya,
Bursa Province

Date: July 1970

Nasreddin Hoca as God of Earth

When Tamerlane invaded Nasreddin Hoca's section of the country, many peasants pleaded with the Hoca to do something to prevent the Mongol troops from plundering everyone.

"Build me a throne and I shall try," he said.

They built him a throne and covered it with sheepskin. Then they built a canopy over it and placed it right in the middle of the main road into their village.

When Tamerlane's vanguards reached that point, they said to Hoca, "Get out of the way!"

"No, I am the god of the earth, and I shall not let you pass."

When Tamerlane heard of this incident, he was very angry. "Who is that fellow, anyway?" he demanded. Without listening to any answer, Tamerlane decided to go himself and find out. Striding to the Hoca, he asked, "Who are you?"

"I am the god of earth."

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"Oh, is that so? Well, I have a blind sister. I shall have her brought here so that you can open her eyes."

"No, no, things above the waist are in the area of the god of heaven. But if she should need to have anything opened below the waist, then I, as god of the earth, could help in such a matter."

Tamerlane laughed at this wit and left the Hoca unharmed.