

Story 869 (1961-62 Tape 71) Narrator: Mehmet Çan, laborer on construction gang

Location: Narrator was from village of Konya Province; tale taped at Izmir, where he was working

Date: May 1962

The Blanket Gone and the Fight Finished

Once some young fellows wanted to play a trick on Nasreddin Hoca. They were all from his village and they knew him well and liked him. At night they created a great outside his house by engaging in a sham fight.

When Nasreddin Hoca was awakened by the noise, he to his wife, "I'd better go down and stop that fight."

As he started downstairs, his wife said, "Here, put this blanket around you!"

As the Hoca was trying to push the mock fighters apart, they jostled him a good bit. He finally separated them, but as they left, one of them snatched Hoca's blanket and disappeared with it

When he returned to his bedroom, his wife asked him, "What was the matter down there?"

The Hoca was not very sure of that himself. After hesitating a moment, he said, "They must have been fighting over my blanket. Anyway, the blanket is gone, and the fight

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is finished."¹

¹ It is impossible to render effectively in English the comic verbal effect of this anecdote. It is a nükte, an anecdote that turns on a play on words. In Turkish the last sentence is a succinct couplet: Yorgan gitti,

Kavga bitti!