There was once an eccentric old hoca in Istanbul named Antakyaşı Ruṣtı. He knew very little about chemistry, but he had heard the names of substances referred to by chemists. He liked to mention oxygen, hydrogen, and CO₂ whenever he had an opportunity to do so.

One day Antakyaşı Ruṣtı climbed into the mimber at the Saint Sophia mosque in Istanbul. He had been selected to preach to a large crowd of hocos who were gathered there.

At one point in his sermon he said to the congregation, "Hey, you who do not even know what hydrogen is or what oxygen is or what CO₂ is—you do not even know enough to write an application. How, then, can you possibly understand the more difficult subject of being a hoca?" He was really a very unusual character.

1 A hoca is a Moslem priest.

2 Antakyaşı preceding a name indicates that the person is a native of the city of Antakya (Antioch) in extreme southern Turkey, Hatay Province.

3 The mimber (also minber) is the pulpit of a mosque. It is ascended by way of a very steep (almost ladderlike) stairway.