

Story 990 (1975 Tape 1

Narrator: Mehmet Kara (Koruk),
Muhtar

Location: Nasreddin Hoca vil-
lage, originally
Hortu (supposedly
the birthplace of
N. Hoca), Sivrihisar
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Province

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The Ways to Heaven and Hell

A person who leads a good life will go to heaven, but it is sometimes difficult to be virtuous. On other hand, a person who leads a light and careless life may go to hell.

These two kinds of life are like two donkeys who start from the same place, the one loaded with stone and the other loaded with logs. The donkey carrying stones has a very heavy load, and it must struggle along with it, but the stones protect it from all dangers. If it passes through a forest fire, the stones will not burn. The other donkey, loaded with logs, can walk along much more easily, but if it should pass through a fire, logs will burn. That donkey will burn to death if it cannot run quickly to a lake and jump in.

One must work hard to get to heaven. If one does not work hard to be virtuous, he may go to hell