

Story 1026 (1974 Tape 17)

Narrator: İbrahim Parvanoğlu,
a bus driver

Location: British Petrol gas
station, on outskirts
of Sivas; but narra-
tor is from Suşehri
kaza of Sivas Province

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Nasreddin Hoca Tricks Man into Supporting Wall

One day a very prominent person heard about the wisdom of Nasreddin Hoca. He said, "What kind of a man is Nasreddin Hoca? I have heard much about his cleverness and wisdom, and I am curious about him. Let me go and find this unusual person so that I can observe his ability myself. I wonder if he is really as capable as he is said to be.

This man traveled to the village where Nasreddin Hoca lived. As he entered the village, he saw a young man leaning against a wall, and he said to this young man, "Do you know Nasreddin Hoca?" He had no way of knowing that the person he was addressing was Nasreddin Hoca himself.

The hoca answered, "Yes, I know him

"Will you go and ask him to come here to talk with me?"

"I should be glad to do that if I did not have to support this wall to keep it from collapsing. If you would be willing to hold up the wall while I search

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Nasreddin Hoca, I should be willing to go and find him for you

The stranger said, "I shall try to support the wall during your absence, but I do not know exactly how to do that." He braced his back against the wall.

"No, no!" said Nasreddin Hoca. "You must push against it much harder than that or it will collapse."

After the stranger had begun to push against the wall with all his strength, Nasreddin Hoca departed. Inasmuch as he was Nasreddin Hoca himself, he did not really have to search at all, and so he strolled around the village for an hour and then returned.

The stranger, who by now was sweating profusely, asked, "Did you find him?"

"Why should I find Nasreddin Hoca for such a simpleton as you?"

"Get out of here!" the stranger shouted.

"Be careful, there! Don't let that wall collapse!"

Very angry now, the stranger asked, "What kind of person are you?"

"I am Nasreddin Hoca, you fool. The wall is solid and strong, but I have made you support it now for a whole hour!"

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Laughing, the stranger said, "You are really just as remarkable a man as I had been told you were! Who else could have made me support this wall for an hour?"¹

¹This story is an atypical Nasreddin Hoca anecdote. Nasreddin Hoca is usually an amiable, good-natured person whose tricks and wit are gentler.