

Story 1129 (1965 Tape 2) Narrator: İlyas Gölkan (Ağa),
farmer, 75 years old

Location: Village of Yeni Karaağac
formerly Çorapçioğlu
Kaza of Karacabey
Province of Bursa

Date: 1965

Hasan Kâhya Threatens a Goat with Prayers

There was once a man named Hasan Kâhya who had a large herd of goats. One day for no apparent reason these goats began to die. Almost every day he would lose two or three goats. Not knowing what to do to stop this steady loss of goats, Hasan Kâhya one day went to seek the advice of a hoca.¹ He said, "Hoca, every day two or three of my goats die, but I cannot discover what causes their deaths. What is the reason for this? Can you tell me?"

"Hasan Kâhya, do you say your five required prayers daily?"

"No, I do not."

Then you are irreligious. That is the reason your goats are dying.

"So, what will happen?"

"You are to perform your five daily prayers."

After that, Hasan did perform his prayers regularly every day. But this did not help his goats' difficulty at all.

¹ The hoca is the preacher and the religious leader of a community.

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Where five had sometimes died daily, now as many as ten might die. At this rate of loss, it was not long before the whole herd had disappeared except for one. Hasan did not know what to do to keep this last goat alive, and so he fed it the same bread that he himself ate

One day the goat felt very frisky and started jumping around. It jumped even on Hasan's back. Annoyed at this, Hasan said, "You spoiled goat, stop playing around in such a silly way, or I'll start performing my daily prayers again!"