

Story 1289 (1989 Tape 13)

Narrator: Ayşe Turhan, 28

Location: Gürün, kaza town of
Sivas Province

Date: January 6, 1989

Pumpkins, Walnuts, and the Wisdom of Allah

One day Nasreddin Hoca was working in his garden. It was quite a hot day, and after the Hoca had been working for some time, he became tired and lay down in the shade of a large walnut tree to rest. As he lay there gazing up at the sky, he noticed some walnuts on the branches directly above his head. He said to himself, "Allah, O Allah! Such small nuts grow on such a huge tree as this, while on the ground great large pumpkins grow on thin, weak vines. The ways of Allah are sometimes quite unreasonable.

Just as he was about to fall asleep, a walnut fell from the tree and hit him on the head. It had fallen from high up in the tree, and it struck his head with enough force to hurt quite a bit. Suddenly he exclaimed, "O Allah, forgive me for questioning the way in which you created things. What would have happened to me if pumpkins instead of walnuts had grown on this large tree?"