

Story 1366 (1989 Tape 3) Narrator: Perihan Artıburun, c.

Location: Konya, Konya Province

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The Great Errors in Young Nasreddin Hoca's Schoolbook

During part of the time that Nasreddin Hoca was a student, there was a law which prohibited the carrying of arms. Despite this law, Nasreddin Hoca one day started out to school with a large scimitar hung from his belt. Along the way he was stopped by a policeman, who took him to the police station. There the Chief of Police said to him, "Son, don't you know that there is a law against the carrying of weapons?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "I heard about that law, but I thought that it was meant for people who might commit violence with their weapons. I am carrying this scimitar solely for the purpose of erasing errors in this schoolbook of mine."

"Don't give such an unbelievable excuse as that! Why should you need such a big blade as that to erase errors in a book?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "Oh, I have made such great er-

¹The narrator was the widow of one of the most prominent political figures in Turkey during the 1960's, General Tekin Artıburun. After his retirement from the military, Tekin Artıburun became President of the Turkish Senate and later Acting President of the Republic of Turkey.

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rors that even a scimitar the size of this one is not big
enough to erase them!"