

Story 1369 (1989 Tape 3)

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c. 75

Location: Konya, Konya
Province

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A Retort by Nasreddin Hoca

One day Nasreddin Hoca went to a marketplace and there he saw a man selling a parrot for two akçes.¹ This started the Hoca thinking. He thought, "If that small bird is worth two akçes, then my large turkey must be worth at least four akçes."

Nasreddin Hoca returned home and got his turkey. Taking it to the marketplace, he began to shout, "A turkey for sale! I am selling this turkey for four akçes!"

None of the people at the marketplace showed any interest in buying the turkey. In fact, they were quite amused at the Hoca's efforts to sell it. Some of them asked him, "Hoca, what makes you think that your turkey could be worth four akçes?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "If a small parrot could be

¹A small silver coin of the Ottoman era. It was worth 1/3 of a para, which was worth 1/40 of a kuruş, which was worth 1/100 of a lira. Long before the lira fell in value to only 1/5,000 of a U.S. dollar (in the early 1990's), both akçe and para had been devaluated out of existence.

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sold for two akçes, then my much larger turkey is surely worth four akçes."

"But, Hoca," they protested, "that little parrot can talk. Can your turkey talk?"

but it can think!"

/Commentary by narrator: "Why did the Hoca make such a remark? Because our Prophet, Mohammed, once said, 'No worship is more important than right thinking.' If a person is in the right frame of mind, his worship is most effective."7