

Story 1405 (1989 Tape 7)

Narrator: Memduh Ün

Location: Konya, Konya Province

Date: May 1989

Responsibility for the Robbery of Nasreddin Hoca's House

One day Nasreddin Hoca's house was robbed, and the thieves took from it almost everything that he had. As soon as news of this robbery became known, all of the Hoca's neighbors went to his house to discuss the situation, and almost every one of them found some reason for blaming the Hoca himself for the robbery.

One of them said, "Oh, Hoca, you must not have locked the door well!"

Another observed, "Hoca, you did not have a really sturdy door. Almost anyone could have broken open that door of yours with a single blow!"

A third neighbor said, "Aman,<sup>1</sup> Hoca, the fence around your house is very low. In fact, it is so low that anyone could jump over it.

The Hoca listened to all of these criticisms without saying a single word. But after everyone had expressed his opinion about the Hoca's negligence, he finally spoke up. He said,

<sup>1</sup>Aman is a common exclamation in Turkish. It may (negatively) mean alas or oh, dear! More positively, it may suggest oh, my goodness or the equivalent of wow! or golly!

Story 1405

"Oh, neighbors, you are all correct in the comments you have made. These things you mentioned were indeed faults of mine. But don't the thieves deserve any of the blame for this robbery?"