

Story 1536 (1992 Tape 1

Narrator: Mustafa Aytekin, 30

Location: Derinkuyu, a kaza
town of Nevşehir
Province

Date: 1992

Judge Nasreddin Hoca¹ Rules Everyone's Testimony Correct

Nasreddin Hoca worked as a judge during part of his life. One day while he was a judge, there was a man who came to him with a complaint. This man claimed that a neighbor had committed a number of offenses against him. Nasreddin Hoca listened very carefully to this claim, and then he said to the man "You are right

The next day the accused neighbor went to Nasreddin Hoca and told the judge his own side of the conflict. Again Nasreddin Hoca listened to all the evidence this second man provided in support of his position. And when this second man had finished presenting all of his testimony, Nasreddin Hoca said to also, "You are right."

Now it happened that all during the time that the two contenders had been stating their claims, Nasreddin Hoca's wife had been overhearing everything that they and her husband

¹A hoca is a preacher and the religious leader of a community. In pre-Republican times the hoca was also the community teacher. Separation of church and state in the Republic required that teachers be people of secular rather than of religious training. Nasreddin Hoca is Turkey's most popular comic folk character.

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were saying. After the second contender had left, she went to her husband and said, "Oh, Hoca, you listened to the first man's story, and then you said to him, 'You are right.' Then the second contender came and told you his side of the story. After listening to him patiently, you also said to him, 'You are right.' How can both sides of a case be right? That is impossible!"

Nasreddin Hoca thought about this for a moment. Then he said to his wife, "Woman, you are right, too!"