

Story 1537 (1992 Tape 1

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Location: Derinkuyu, kaza town
of Nevşehir Province

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Nasreddin Hoca's¹ Idea of a Good Bear Hunt

Once Nasreddin Hoca was sent upon a bear hunt by padishah of the time. Upon his return from this hunt, the Hoca was questioned about it. "How was the bear hunt, Hoca?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "Oh, it was an excellent bear hunt!"

Then they asked, "How many bears did you kill, Hoca?"

Hoca answered, "None."

"How many bears did you wound?"

"None."

"Well, then, Hoca, tell us how many bears you saw."

"None."

These answers filled with curiosity the people with whom he was talking. They asked him, "If you did not kill any bears or wound any bears or even see any bears, how can you say that it was an excellent bear hunt?"

Nasreddin Hoca said to them, "Can you think of a more pleasant way to experience a bear hunt? I didn't kill any

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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bears. didn't wound any bears. And didn't even see
bear. How much better could it be?"