

Story 1560 (1992 Tape 2)

Narrator: Mustafa Aytekin, 30

Location: Derinkuyu, kaza town  
in Nevşehir Province

Date: 1992

Nasreddin Hoca<sup>1</sup> Locates Center of the World

One day some people went to Nasreddin Hoca with a problem. They said, "Hoca, we should like to know where the center of the world is. Can you tell us where it is?"

Nasreddin Hoca thought about this for a few minutes and then he answered their question. He tapped his right foot on the ground and said, "The middle of the world is right here. I have my right foot on the exact center."

Greatly surprised, the people asked, "How can that be so, Hoca? How do you know that?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "If you don't believe me, go and measure it yourself!"

<sup>1</sup>A 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.