

Story 1568 (1992 Tape 2)

Narrator: Mustafa Aytekin, 30

Location: Derinkuyu, kaza town
of Nevşehir Province

Date: 1992

Nasreddin Hoca¹ Lightens His Donkey's Load

One day Nasreddin Hoca decided to take to the marketplace some wood that he had cut. He hoped to sell it there. Placing the bundle of wood on his shoulder, he mounted his donkey and started off toward the marketplace. When people saw him coming along in that way, they asked him this question: "Hoca, are you carrying the wood on your shoulder instead of putting it down on the donkey's back?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "You people have no mercy at all! The poor donkey is already carrying me. The least I can do is carry the wood."

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.