

Story 1570 (1992 Tape 2)

Narrator: Mustafa Aytekin, 30

Location: Derinkuyu, kaza town
of Nevşehir Province

Date: 1992

The Mountain Between Hoca's¹ Calmness and Crying

One day Nasreddin Hoca lost his donkey. He began at once to search for it. He looked here and there but he was unable to locate it. A child of one of the neighbors observed the Hoca's unsuccessful effort to find his donkey. The boy asked, "What are you doing, Hoca? What are you looking for?" After Nasreddin Hoca had explained the situation, the child asked him another question: "If that is the case, then why aren't you crying? You are so calm!"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "My last hope is that my donkey is on the other side of that mountain. If I cannot find my donkey over there either, then you will see how I can cry!"

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.