

Story 1662 (1993 Tape 4)

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Province; but taped
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Nasreddin Hoca¹ at the Donkey Shop

(This next story is about Nasreddin Hoca. As
know, Nasreddin was a real person. He lived in Akhisar²
Every year at Akhisar they hold a Nasreddin Hoca Festival.

Once a new shop opened in the neighborhood where
Nasreddin Hoca lived. It appeared to be a very clean shop,
and it had been freshly repainted. With his pious and
saintly face the Hoca went to the shop and said to the two
owners, "Welcome, sons! Good luck to you! May everything
go well for you!" Noticing then that there was no stock
of any kind in the new shop, Nasreddin Hoca asked, "What
are you selling?"

Looking at the Hoca with a mocking smile, one of the
owners said, "Oh, Hoca, we are selling donkeys."

¹Nasreddin Hoca is the best-known comic character in
Turkish folklore. He is a somewhat universal type found
in many different countries, and in some of his roles he
appears (with different names) in Aarne-Thompson and other
type indexes. Many (perhaps most) Turkish people insist
on his historicity, placing him in various times in the
past, most frequently in the time of Tamerlane.

²The narrator confuses Akşehir, the city with which

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Nasreddin Hoca realized that the owner was making fun of him. He therefore said to the owners, "Oh-h-h, Maşallah! Maşallah! Your business seems to be flourishing, for you have here only two unsold donkeys!"

the Hoca is most often associated, with some place called Akhisar.