

Story 1759 1994 Tape 4)

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in Sivas Province

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Nasreddin Hoca's¹ Home Away from Home

One day Nasreddin Hoca felt a little sleepy, and so he lay down upon a wooden bench to take a nap. Just as he was about to fall asleep, he heard a rustling noise. Wondering what caused this sound, he pretended that he was asleep, but he observed what was going on as he squinted through his half-shut eyes. He saw a burglar moving quietly through his house, picking up various things and putting them into a sack. Then the thief sneaked out very quietly to avoid having Hoca hear him. He closed the door very slowly, and then he went on his way

Nasreddin Hoca arose, also very slowly, and followed the burglar like a shadow. The burglar went ahead, and Hoca followed. Soon the burglar reached his own house, opened the door, and entered, but Hoca also entered,

¹Nasreddin Hoca is the most popular comic folk character in the Turkish oral tradition. He is sometimes very wise, but he is just as often equally foolish. Today a hoca is a preacher and religious leader. In pre-Republican times he was also a teacher, for then education was the responsibility of the clergy.

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careful not to be noticed. Once inside, the burglar said, "Oh, good! I have succeeded in stealing much of the property of Nasreddin Hoca!" He then put the sack on the floor, and he himself sat down to catch his breath. When he looked around, he was amazed to see Nasreddin Hoca behind him. He said, "Hoca! What are you doing here?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "Didn't we move here?"