

Story 1796 1991 Tape 5)

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Nasreddin Hoca¹ Locates the Center of the Earth

day some people gathered around Nasreddin Hoca and asked him, "Hoca, can you tell us where the exact center of the earth is located?"

Without any hesitation, Hoca pointed to his donkey which was standing nearby. "Do you see my donkey standing there?"

Hoca."

"Well, the exact center of the earth is the spot upon which my donkey's front right foot is standing at this moment."

Most of those present accepted what Hoca had said, but a couple were doubtful about it. "How can you say

¹Nasreddin Hoca is probably the most popular comic Turkish folk character. Scholars dispute where and when he lived, but he may be entirely imaginary. He was sometimes a very wise or shrewd person, but almost as frequently he was ingenuous or foolish. In Republican Turkey a hoca is a preacher and religious leader; in earlier times he was both preacher and teacher, for educational training was then the responsibility of the clergy.

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that, Hoca? How can you know for certain that that spot is really the center of the earth?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "If you do not believe what I said, go ahead and measure it."