

Story 1990 (1992 Tape 8)

Narrator: Ersoy Tekniker

Location: Lefkoşa, kaza town of  
North Cyprus Turkish  
Republic

Date: December 2, 1992

Nasreddin Hoca's<sup>1</sup> Respect for the Blessed Rain

One rainy day Nasreddin Hoca saw a man running down the street to avoid getting wet. The Hoca called out to him, "You should be ashamed of yourself for running away from Allah's mercy."<sup>2</sup> After hearing this remark, the man slowed down to a walk and was soaked by the rain.

Two or three days later there was another shower, and the same man observed Nasreddin Hoca running quite fast to get home. He shouted, "Hoca! Hoca! You said that I should be ashamed of myself for running from Allah's mercy, and now you should also feel ashamed of yourself!"

---

<sup>1</sup>A hoca is the preacher and religious leader of a community. In the pre-Republican era the hoca was also the community's teacher, for education was then the responsibility of the clergy. Separation of "church" and state in the Republic required that teachers be people with secular rather than religious training. Nasreddin Hoca belonged to the earlier period. For centuries he has been Turkey's most beloved comic folk character.

<sup>2</sup>The narrator here uses the word rahmet, which can mean (1) Allah's mercy, compassion, forgiveness, or (2) rain (as a mercy).

Story 1990

Nasreddin Hoca replied, “Hey, silly man! How can you dare to think that I am running away from Allah’s mercy? I am running because I do not want to defile the blessed rain by stepping on it!”