

Story 2123 (1988 Tape 16)

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Location: Aydın, capital of  
Aydın Province

Date: January 21, 1988

Nasreddin Hoca's<sup>1</sup> Children Attracted by  
Light

After a long pregnancy, the wife of Nasreddin Hoca one night seemed to be about ready to give birth. The Hoca therefore hurried to bring the village midwife to attend to his wife.

The midwife came and examined the woman. She then made preparations immediately for the delivery. She said to the husband, "Hoca, you will have to help me by holding the kerosene lamp so that I can see what I am doing."

Following her delivery of a baby, the midwife realized that there was yet another baby to be born. She explained this to Nasreddin Hoca and asked him to continue holding the lamp. After the second baby was born, however,

<sup>1</sup>A hoca is the preacher and religious leader of a Muslim community. In pre-Republican times a hoca was also a teacher, for education was then the responsibility of the clergy. In the Republic teachers are required to have secular rather than religious training, and so they should not now be confused with hocas, but occasionally, for purely sentimental reasons, a teacher or professor is still referred to as hoca. Nasreddin Hoca has long been Turkey's most beloved comic folk character.

Story 2123

Nasreddin Hoca blew out the light.

Surprised, the midwife demanded, "Hey, Hoca, why did you do that?"

Nasreddin Hoca responded, "If they see that light, still more babies will continue to come out!"