

Story #61 (Tape 51,
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#61

Nasreddin Hoca and God's Son-in-Law

A hafiz¹ once came to Akşehir and asked for the home of Nasreddin Hoca. The way was shown to him, and the hafiz went to Hoca's house after the ^{prayer service -- of evening} evening service in the mosque. When the stranger knocked at the door, Hoca looked ^{out} the window and asked, "Who is it?"

"I," said the hafiz.

"Yes, but who are you?" asked Hoca.

"I am God's son-in-law. Will you accept me as your guest?"

"Just a minute," said Hoca. He came downstairs, put on his gown and shoes, and walked to the mosque, with the hafiz following him. When he got there, he opened the mosque door and said to the hafiz, "This is your father-in-law's house. Walk right in!"

¹A hafiz is a person who has committed to memory the entire Koran. Such an achievement earns respect from the community, and here the hafiz in question was trying to exploit this status to get a night's lodging from Nasreddin Hoca.