

Story 1529 (1992 Tape 1)

Narrator: Mustafa Aytekin, 30

Location: Derinkuyu kaza,
Nevşehir Province

Date: 1992

The Limited Consolations Offered to Nasreddin Hoca¹

One day Nasreddin Hoca sat in great grief before his house. He was mourning over the loss of his wife, who had died just a few days earlier. Several of his neighbors went to the Hoca's home to comfort him at this time of sadness. They said to him, "Do not feel that your situation is utterly hopeless. We shall help you by finding you another wife. In fact, we shall find you one who is younger and more beautiful than your first wife was."

Some time after Nasreddin Hoca had remarried, he was again observed sitting in front of his house looking very dejected. The neighbors again went to console him. They asked, "Oh, Hoca, why are you sitting here so quiet and so sad? What has happened?"

The Hoca explained the reason for his behavior. "When my wife passed away and I was very sad, you came and promised to find me a new wife who would be younger and more beautiful than my first wife. Since then my donkey has died, but no one has

¹A hoca is a preacher and the religious leader of a community. In pre-Republican times the hoca was also the community teacher. Separation of church and state in the Republic required that teachers be people of secular rather than of religious training. Nasreddin Hoca is Turkey's most popular comic folk character.

Story 1529

come here and promised to get me another donkey that would be younger and stronger than the one I had lost!"