

Story 1531 (1992 Tape 1

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Squash, Walnuts, and the Wisdom of Allah

One very hot summer day Nasreddin Hoca¹ was lying in the shade of a large walnut tree. As he lay there resting, he looked around and saw some squash vines with some large squash on them. He thought to himself, "O Allah, why did you ever arrange that small walnuts should grow on huge trees while big squash grow on small, low vines?"

After a few minutes a walnut fell from the tree and struck his head. Feeling the pain in his head from this blow, he said, "O Allah, forgive me. You understood Your work of creation very well! If it had been a squash instead of a walnut hit my head, I should probably have been hurt more--or perhaps I should even have been killed!"

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.