

Story 1533 (1992 Tape 1

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Location: Derinkuyu, a kaza
town of Nevşehir
province

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Nasreddin Hoca¹ Avoids a Second Error

One day one of Nasreddin Hoca's friends went to his house and asked to borrow some money from him. After Nasreddin Hoca had thought about this for a few minutes, he said to himself, "I know very well that this fellow will not repay me, but I shall let him have the money anyway and consider my giving it to him as an act of charity." With this thought in mind, he handed his friend the amount of money he had requested.

After a short while Nasreddin Hoca's friend paid him back all of the money he had borrowed. The Hoca was quite surprised by this. The friend said, "Thank you, Hoca You loaned me that money when I needed it very badly. Thank you again!"

Time passed, and then one day the same friend went to Nasreddin Hoca and again asked to borrow some money from him. The Hoca thought about this for a minute, and then he answered, "No, I cannot lend you any money. I don't really have money to use that way."

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

The friend was very much surprised by Nasreddin Hoca's refusal. He said, "Hoca, when I came to you the first time, you loaned me the money I requested without knowing for certain that I would pay it back. Now that you know that my credit is good, why is it that you won't lend me money a second time?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "The first time you asked to borrow money from me, I thought that you would not pay it back, but you did pay it back. I was completely wrong in my judgment of you. Now you wish to borrow money from me a second time. If you paid back that second loan, too, then my initial judgment of you would be proved wrong a second time. It is bad enough to have been wrong once without being wrong a second time. That is the real reason why I shall not lend you any more money.