

Story 991 (1975 Tape 1

Narrator: Mehmet Kara (Koruk),
Muhtar

Location: Nasreddin Hoca vil-
lage, originally
Hortu (supposedly
the birthplace of
N. Hoca), Sivrihisar
kaza, Eskişehir
Province

Date: September 27, 1975

Nasreddin Hoca and the Security of His Home

Nasreddin Hoca once had a new house built in this village. It stood close to the center of the village. After the front door had been put in place and properly hung, Nasreddin Hoca locked it securely. Near this door he had a large window installed, but instead of locking the window shut, he left it open at all times.

The members of his family were curious about this. They said, "Hoca, you have placed a strong door on the house and locked it. That will keep thieves out. But you have an open window alongside of it through which thieves could enter very easily. What is the reason for this?"

"Ah," said Hoca, "the locked door is to keep friends out. But I keep the window open in case a thief comes along. He will enter and take what he wants, whether the window is open or closed. I leave it open so that he will not break the glass."