

Story #62 (Tape #51)
1961-1962

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#62 Nasreddin Hoca Does What a Human Being Should

One day Nasreddin Hoca and a group of his neighbors were going somewhere together. They all rode upon their donkeys. When they came to a hill, the Hoca noticed that his donkey was sweating. He got down from its back and whispered into its ear, "I am sorry that you are working so hard that you are sweating."

His neighbors noticed Hoca get down from his donkey's back and whisper into its ear, and they were curious about this. "Hoca, what did you whisper to your donkey?" one of them asked.

"I told my donkey I was sorry he had to work so hard that he sweated," answered Hoca.

All of his neighbors laughed, and one of them said, "Why did you do that? Donkeys do not understand human speech. They are not at all human."

"I did what is expected of a human being. I do not care whether or not he understood what I said. What I have to do is what concerns me," said Nasreddin Hoca.