

Story 1131 (1965 Tape 2) Narrator: İlyas Gölkan (Ağa),  
farmer, 75 years old

Location: Village of Yeni Karaağaç,  
formerly Çorapçıoğlu  
Kaza of Karacabey  
Province of Bursa

Date: 1965

Why Hasan Kâhya Wept

There was once a goat herder named Hasan Kâhya who never saw the inside of a mosque until he had grown quite old. often walked past the mosque, but he never bothered even to glance through the open door. This mosque one day received a hoca<sup>1</sup> who was a fine speaker and a wise counselor. Hasan Kâhya overheard people at the coffeehouse talking about this new hoca and his speaking ability, and Hasan decided to go to the mosque once to hear him.

On Friday at noon<sup>2</sup> Hasan Kâhya went to the mosque. Finding the door open, he went inside. There everyone was seated listening to a sermon that the hoca was giving. The hoca talking about heaven and hell.

<sup>1</sup> A hoca is the preacher and religious leader of a community.

<sup>2</sup> Although the official sabbath in Turkey is now Sunday, the traditional religious sabbath is Friday, and most Moslems consider the Friday noon service at the mosque the religious high point of the week. Whether or not a sermon is delivered at any other prayer service during the week, there is almost always one at the Friday noon service.

## Story 1131

Very soon Hasan Kâhya began to cry. When the hoca observed this, he addressed Hasan, saying, "Hey, Hasan Kâhya! You are seventy-five years old, and have you come to senses only now?"

"My hoca, that is not why I am crying. I once had a very goat who fell off a cliff and injured himself so badly he died. Ah, the poor creature! When I saw your beard, it reminded me of his. That's why I'm crying! That's why I'm crying!"