

Story 1538 1993 Tape 1

Narrator: Mustafa Aytekin, 30

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The Hoca<sup>1</sup> Values Weed above Good-for-Nothing Man

One day while Nasreddin Hoca was spending some time in a coffeehouse, some of the people around him were gossiping about a man named Abdullah. As the talk continued, all of the customers in the coffeehouse agreed that Abdullah was a useless man. When one of those customers said, "He is a worthless who is equivalent to a weed," all of the others nodded in agreement.

But Nasreddin Hoca disagreed with this judgment of Abdullah. He said, "No, he is not like a weed."

When they heard this remark, all of the rest of the customers grew quiet. They thought, "Hm-m-m! Apparently Nasreddin Hoca thinks much better of Abdullah than we do."

But then Nasreddin Hoca went on to finish his comment. "A weed is something that has at least some use. You can feed a weed to your farm animals. Abdullah is completely useless in every way, and so you cannot compare him to a weed."

<sup>1</sup>A 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 as Turkey's most popular comic folk character.