

Story 1380 (1989 Tape 5)

Narrator: Memduh Derin, 59,
graduate of a technical school

Location: Konya, Konya
Province

Date: May 1989

Classroom Etiquette

The late Eşref Hoca once taught music for a while at the Islamic Institute in this city. One day when he entered his classroom, he noticed that the students showed no proper sign of respect toward him. Half of them were sitting and talking, and the other half were playing physical games. Not a one of them made any sign to acknowledge the appearance of the hoca among them.

Eşref Hoca was very sensitive to such matters of proper behavior and courtesy. He said, "Oh, sons, if it is proper to stand up when a teacher enters a classroom, then you should stand up; if that is not proper, then you should not do so."

Some of the bolder students tried to excuse their impolite behavior. They said, "Our hoca, there is no statement written anywhere in the school regulations book that says students should rise when a teacher enters his classroom

Story 1380

"But, my sons," answered Esref, "neither is there a statement anywhere in that book that says students should do handstands when a teacher enters his classroom, but that was what you were doing when I came in here!"