

Story 1786 (1994 Tape 5)

Location: Yurdagül
Diyarbakırlı, 59

Location: Malatya, capital
city of Malatya
Province

Date: November 4, 1994

Nasreddin Hoca¹ and His Empty Coat

day Nasreddin Hoca washed his coat. After he had finished scrubbing it, he laid it upon a rope suspended between two trees in his backyard.

night after he had gone to bed, Hoca awakened suddenly. He heard noises, including several gunshots, in his backyard. He then thought of his coat, and so he ran outside to see if it was all right. When he looked at it, he discovered that it was full of gunshot holes. As he stared at those holes, he began to weep.

Hearing Hoca crying, his nearest neighbor went outside to see what was the matter. He asked, "Hoca, why are you crying?"

¹Nasreddin Hoca is the most popular comic folk character in the Turkish oral tradition. Before the time of the Republic, the hoca was both preacher and teacher, for in the Ottoman era education was the responsibility of the clergy. In the Turkish republic, a hoca is only a preacher and religious leader. Education is now secular.

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"Do you see all these bullet holes that were shot in my coat?"

"Yes."

"I can't help crying when I think what would have happened if I had been inside my coat," answered Nasreddin Hoca.