

Story 753 (1985 Tape 1

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Nasreddin Hoca Foils A Trick Against Him

This is a story about Nasreddin Hoca while he was still just a very young man. One day some of his friends wanted to play a trick on him. (It seems that they were always trying to play a trick on him!) On that particular day his friends met Hoca as he was on his way home. One of them said, "Hoca, we have been having an argument. Some of us say that could climb this tree, but others of us say you couldn't What do you say?"

Hoca looked at the tree and saw how tall it was, but he judged that climbing it would not be very difficult. He knew that if he didn't do it, they would make fun of him. On the other hand, he was well aware that they were trying to play some kind of trick on him, though he could not yet detect what it was. Anyway, he agreed to climb the tree.

As he was getting ready to climb, one of his friends said to him, "Hoca, aren't you going to take off your shoes?"

Suddenly Hoca understood the trick on him that they wished to play. It was to steal his shoes while he was up in the tree. They were all standing around smiling at

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prospect of carrying out this trick. But Nasreddin Hoca was smarter than his friends. After he had taken off his shoes, he put them safely inside the front of his shirt.

They asked him, "Why are you taking your shoes with you?"

Hoca answered, "Who knows? After I climb this tree, I may find a way of going home directly from up there, and so I could just continue walking."

Of course his friends were disappointed and embarrassed to be outwitted in this way. They were unable to play the trick they had planned.