

Story 867 (1961-62 Tape 71

Narrator: Mehmet Çan, laborer in construction gang

Location: Narrator from village of Konya Province; tales taped at Izmir where Çan was working

Date: May 1962

Nasreddin Hoca and the Empty Cap

day Nasreddin Hoca had all his clothes laundered and hung up to dry in the garden of his home. The skullcap which he wore at prayer services was hung on the branch of a tree.

That night while he was sleeping, he awakened and went outside to urinate. When he went into the garden, he could see vaguely in the dark a skullcap a short distance away. Thinking it was a thief, he called to his wife, "Give me my bow and arrows!" When he got his weapons, he shot an arrow through the cap. Satisfied then that he had killed the thief, Hoca went back to bed.

When he awoke in the morning, he went down to the garden at once to see who was there. But there was no one there. Looking at the cap with the arrow through it, the Hoca asked himself, "I wonder what would have happened if my head had been in that cap?"