



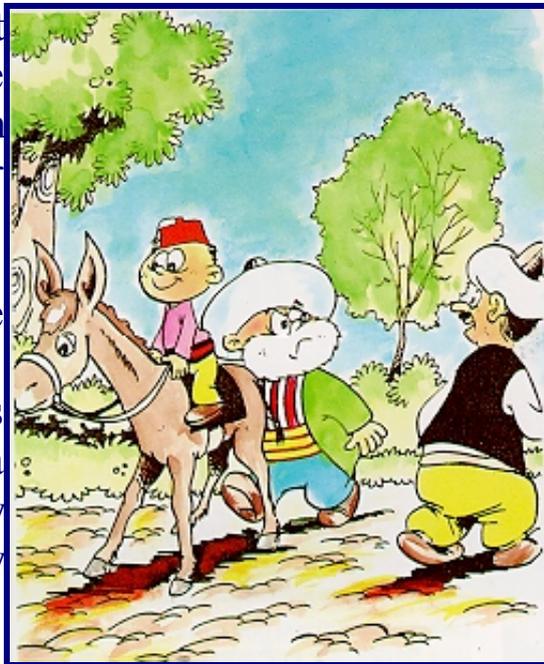
## Some Famous Stories Of Nasreddin Hodja

### The Criticism Of Men

Hodja and his son went on a journey once. Hodja preferred that his son ride the donkey and that he himself go on foot. On the way they met some people who said:

-Look at that healthy young boy! That is today's youth for you. They have no respect for elders. He rides on the donkey and makes his poor father walk!

When they had passed by these people the boy felt very ashamed and insisted that he walk and his father ride the donkey. So Hodja mounted the donkey and the boy walked at his side. A little later they met some other people who said:



-Well, look at that! That poor little boy has to walk while his father rides the donkey.

After they had passed by these people, Hodja told his son:

-The best thing to do is for both of us to walk. Then no one can complain.

So they continued on their journey, both of them walking. A little ways down the road they met some others who said:

-Just take a look at those fools. Both of them are walking under this hot sun and neither of them are riding the donkey!

Hodja turned to his son and said:

-That just goes to show how hard it is to escape the opinions of men.

### **Everyone Who Sees The Light**

Hodja's wife was pregnant. One night, her labor pains started and Hodja called the neighbours and the midwife. Soon they called out from his wife's room and said, "Hodja! You have a son!"

He was very happy. A few minutes later the midwife called out again,

"Hodja! You also have a girl."

After a little while, she called out again,

"Hodja! You have another girl!"

Hodja, who had been waiting in front of his wife's room, rushed into the room and blew off the candle.

"What are you doing?" asked the surprised women.

"Well! Everyone who sees the light wants to come out. What else can I do?" he answered.

### **Forty Year Old Vinegar**

His neighbour asked Hodja,

"Do you have some forty-year old vinegar?"

"I have," answered Hodja.

"Would you give me some? I need it to prepare a medication", said the man.

"No, I won't," replied Hodja. "If I had given some to everybody who asked for it, would I have it for forty years!".

### **Mortal's Way**



One day four boys approached Hodja and gave him a bagful of walnuts.

"Hodja, we can't divide these walnuts among us evenly. So would you help us, please?"

Hodja asked, "Do you want God's way of distribution or mortal's way?"

"God's way" the children answered.

Hodja opened the bag and gave two handfuls of walnuts to one child, one handful to the other, only two walnuts to the third child and none to the fourth.

"What kind of distribution is this?" the children asked baffled.

"Well, this is God's way," he answered. "He gives some people a lot, some people a little and nothing to others. If you had asked for mortal's way I would have given the same amount to everybody."

### **How A Donkey Reads**

During a conversation with Tamerlane, Hodja started bragging about his donkey.

"It is so smart that I can teach it even how to read," he said.

"Then go ahead and teach it reading. I give you 3 months," Tamerlane ordered.

Hodja went home and began to train his donkey. He put its feed between the pages of a big book and taught it to turn the pages by its tongue to find its feed. Three days before the three month period was over, he stopped feeding it.

When he took his donkey to Tamerlane, he asked for a big book and put it in front of the donkey. The hungry animal turned the pages of the book one by one with its tongue and when it couldn't find any feed between the pages it started braying.

Tamerlane watched the donkey closely and then said,

"This is sure a strange way of reading!"

Hodja remarked,

"But this is how a donkey reads."

### **HEAVY COAT**

One night the people heard a frightful noise from the Hodja's house.

They asked in the morning:

What was that noise?

Oh, my coat fell downstairs.

Can a coat make such a noise?,

If you were in it, like me, yes!

### **HEN**

The Hodja had lost one of his hens. He searched it for a while, but it was nowhere. Then he took a small peace of black cloth and put it around the neck of another hen. People asked him:

Hodja, what is this?

This hen is mourning for its mother !!!

### **HODJA AND THE GOD**

The Hodja was travelling from a long way away, he got very tired and decided to rest. Then he prayed:

Dear God, he said. Please send me a donkey !

A few minutes later, he saw a man riding on a horse and leading a young donkey.

The man came nearer, stopped beside him and shouted:

You, leprous man! Instead of starving there, come on carry the donkey, it is tired.

Although the Hodja said, that he was also tired, the tyrannical man beat him with a stick and so the poor Hodja took the donkey on his shoulders.

Then the man on the horse proceeded on his way. Everytime the Hodja slowed down, the man beat him and after many miserable hours, they reached the town, where the man let the Hodja go, without thanking him. Then the Hodja fall down on the earth and slept many hours. When he awakened he murmured

Oh, God! What happened? Was it that I couldn't explain, or that you couldn't understand?

### **HODJA'S DREAM**

In his dream some people gave the Hodja nine gold coins, but Hodja wanted ten.-So he refused them. Suddenly he awoke and saw that his hands were empty. So he quickly closed his eyes again and said: It's okay, I'll take the nine coins.

### **HODJA'S WIFE AND HIS DONKEY**

When his wife died, the Hodja became very sorry, but he mourned for her only a few days.

After a while his donkey died and he was even more sorrowful and mourned for him many months.

People asked him why and he answered:

When my wife died, they all said, they could find a younger and better one for me, but when my donkey died, nobody offered the same service.

### **HODJA'S WRITING**

One day a man asked the Hodja to write a letter for him.

Where will the letter go? the Hodja asked.

To Baghdad, said the man.

I cannot go to there, the Hodja told him.

But you don't have to go. The letter will go there, said the man and the Hodja explained:

Nobody can read what I write. Therefore I must go there to read it.

### **IF I KNEW**

One day the donkey of the Hodja got stolen. The Hodja began to search it. While searching, he was shouting. The judge who saw that, asked him Who has stolen your donkey, and how?

The Hodja became very angry and said: If I knew the answer, my donkey wouldn't have been stolen!

## **IF IT IS A LIE**

One day a friend of the Hodja asked him to count as a witness and said to him:

If the judge asks you 'did this man give away all the gold coins' you can tell him that I did.

They appeared before the judge and the Hodja gave evidence that the man had indeed given away all the 'silver' coins.  
The judge accepted this and they were dismissed.

Outside the friend said to the Hodja:

Hodja Effendi, why did you say 'silver' instead of 'gold'?

If it is a lie, answered the Hodja, what does it matter, what it is?

## **IMMIGRANT**

One day, a thief came to the house of the Hodja and took everything he had except the blanket which covered him.

When the Hodja saw the thief carrying all his things away, he put his blanket over his shoulders and followed him.

When the thief arrived at his own house, he turned back and saw the Hodja.

What are you doing here? he asked.

What am I doing here, said the Hodja, you ask a thing like that? Didn't we move to this house?

## **JESUS IN HEAVEN**

In a village where the Hodja was giving a speech, he told the people assembled there about Jesus, how he lived in the heavens. One old woman was very curious and asked the Hodja, what this Jesus ate in Heaven.

Now the Hodja had been in the village for almost a month, and no-one had offered him any food, and because of this he was rather angry. So he replied:

You, silly woman, why do you ask what Jesus eats in heaven when you cannot remember to ask what the poor Hodja Nasreddin eats on the earth!

## **LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

During the birth of his children, the Hodja stood holding a lighted candle.

The first child was born, and as they were twins, after a while the second child was also born. Suddenly the Hodja extinguished the candle. 'Why' asked the attendant relatives. He replied:

Because, while there was light, first child was born, and then another. Who knows how many more there may be!

## **MAGIC PRAYER**

When the Hodja was in bed, he heard a thief walking on the roof. He quickly thought of a trick to catch him.

He turned to his wife and said:

One day when I lost the key and when you weren't at home, I said a prayer held on to the moonlight and jumped into the house from the roof.

Then he said a short prayer.

The thief, listening to the Hodja believed to these words, so he said a prayer held on the moonlight and fall into the house. The Hodja caught him and ordered his wife to bring a rope.

No need, Sir, said the thief lying on the floor As long as you have that prayer and I have that brain, I cannot escape.

## **MANY HENS, NO ROOSTER**

One day when the Hodja went to the baths, his friends wanted to play a joke on him. They each took an egg with them and came to the baths. Hodja Effendi, said one of them. Everyone will say chuck-chuck-chuck and lay an egg. The one who cannot do this must invite all the rest to dinner.

The Hodja agreed and they began to put the prepared eggs underneath them. Then it was Hodja's turn. He shouted: Cock a-doodle-do

What is that? they asked.

Do not so many hens need a rooster? he replied.

## **MIRACLE OF THE TURBAN (old type of hat)**

One day a man brought a letter to the Hodja and said:  
Hodja Effendi, please read it to me.,  
The Hodja saw that it was written in a foreign language and said:  
I cannot read that, it isn't written in Turkish.  
The man became angry:  
You are a teacher. You should be ashamed of your turban! You  
cannot read a letter.  
The Hodja put the turban on the head of the man and said:  
If the miracle is on the turban, take it and read the letter by yourself.

### **MISTAKES IN THE BOOKS**

At the time of Temur no one was allowed to carry a knife or a gun.  
One day the soldiers caught the Hodja with a big knife. The head of  
the soldiers shouted:  
Don't you know, that you are not allowed to carry a knife!,  
But, I use it to scratch out the mistakes in the books.  
But why is your knife so big?  
Because the mistakes are big!

### **RIGHT RIDING**

When the Hodja was going out with his students, he sat on the donkey  
facing the tail. They asked him why and he explained:

As a teacher I must be in front of you. But if I face the front, I cannot  
see what you are doing behind me. Therefore, if I sit on the donkey  
this way, I can see you all quite easily.

### **ROASTED GOOSE**

One day a man said to the Hodja that he saw a man bringing a roasted  
goose.  
It doesn't interest me, said the Hodja.  
But it was going to your house, said the man.  
Then it doesn't interest you, replied the Hodja.

### **SEARCHING FOR THE HODJA**

One day, a man came to Akshehir and wanted to see the Hodja, who  
was famous as a great joker.  
He saw a man leaning on a wall and asked him if he knew where the

Hodja was.

This man said that he was busy at the moment leaning against the wall so that it would not fall down, but if the man would do his job he would go and look for the Hodja and call him.

The man said O.K. and leaned against the wall. He waited and waited but the other man did not return.

He told some people passing by, of the situation. When he described the man the people began to laugh and said to him:

Didn't you believe that the Hodja was a joker? That was the Hodja to whom you spoke.

## **SHADOW JUDGE**

When the Hodja had no job he went to the head-judge and asked for a job. The head-judge said that all places at the court were full and there was no place for the Hodja.

Let me be the shadow judge, said the Hodja.

You can send the interesting law suits to me.

The head-judge liked this idea. So the Hodja began to his job, having a good office to work in.

Every day the Hodja came to his office, put the papers in front of him, waited until the evening, and went home. He did nothing during this time.

One day a man came to the head-judge and said of another:

This man was cutting that beat on the wood I said 'hink' and this made him stronger. Now I want my money.

The head-judge thought and thought, suddenly he remembered that there was the shadow judge for such lawsuits and sent the men to him and he listened from behind the door.

The Hodja listened to the man, took the piece of wood and turned to the wood cutter.

Give me the money you got for this wood cutting. He took it, then let it fall on the wood and said: You wood cutter, take your money and go! And you, the 'hink' sayer, take your voice and go!

## **SILLY RESTAURANT OWNER**

When the Hodja was in another village, he got very hungry. He was walking through the market when he smelled food from a restaurant.

He saw the owner standing at the door. He asked:

Does all this food belong to you?

Yes, said the man.

Really? asked the Hodja.

You silly man, said the Hodja. Why do you stand here, instead of eating it all?

## **STRANGE JOB OF THE GOD**

The Hodja collected over many years 1000 coins and one day a thief came and stole the money. The Hodja was very sorry and prayed every night.

After many days, a man came and gave 1000 coins to the Hodja. The Hodja asked:

What is this?

The man explained:

I am a sailor and the ship I was on was in perie. The waves lashed the ship and we were all very frightened. So I said: 'If I return safely on land, I will give 1000 coins to the Hodja' and here they are.

When the Hodja heard this he said:

Dear God? what a strange job you have. Where did my money go and from where does it return! What is the use of this?

## **TAKING A BATH**

A man asked the Hodja,

Hodja Effendi, to which side must I turn when bathing in the sea?

The Hodja answered;

To the side where your clothes are.

## **TIT FOR TAT**

When the Hodja was repairing the roof a man called him from below.

What do you want said the Hodja.

Come down for just a minute, he said. I'll tell you something!

The Hodja got down and the man said: Can you lend me some money?

Come, said the Hodja, for just a minute up above.

The man came with him onto the roof and the Hodja said:

I have no money!

## **UNEXPERIENCED NIGHTINGALE**

One day the Hodja wanted to eat peaches and he saw a garden full of peach trees. So he climbed up the tree and began to eat them, one after the other.

But the Hodja was an unlucky man. While he was eating with great appetite, the owner of the garden came. The Hodja hid behind the branches, but the man heard something moving and shouted:

Who is there?

The Hodja was afraid and sang like a nightingale. The man shouted:

You, come down, a nightingale doesn't sing like that!

What didn't you like?, shouted the Hodja. Can an inexperienced nightingale sing better than this?

## **WAY OF THE ROOSTER**

One day the Hodja purchased some hens and a rooster and on the way to Akshehir he released the rooster to lead the hens home. But of course, when the Hodja freed them, they all fled. But he caught the rooster, gave it a beating and cried:

You silly bird, you know when it is morning because you are crow, why don't you know the way to Akshehir?

## **WHAT DOES THE HODJA THINK**

One day the Hodja saw a garden and entered. There he saw many kinds of fruits and began to put them in his bag. At this moment the owner of the garden arrived and cried:

What are you doing there?

You know the storm we had yesterday, said the Hodja. It blew me here.

And who broke off this fruit?

I wanted to hold on to the branches and they fell down.

And who put this fruit in the bag?

I was just thinking of that, said the Hodja. Come on, we'll think together!

## **WHAT TEMUR DOES NOT KNOW**

In the time of Temur, he was very strict and everyone committing a crime was beaten.

One day the Hodja was with him. Temur was shouting.

Beat this man 700 times!, This one 1000 times!, This one 1200

times!, This one 1500 times!

Then the Hodja spoke: Dear Temur, do you know everything?,

Of course, shouted Temur angrily.

No, said the Hodja. Here is something which you don't know. It is the meaning of the number 1500 or the taste of the stick.

### **WHERE THE COFFIN GOES**

One day one of the men of Akshehir died. His wife was crying.

Oh, my husband! Where have you gone? There is no light, there is no food, there is nothing!

When the Hodja heard this, he ran home and said to his wife.

My wife! Open the door! The coffin is coming to our house!

### **WHERE TO GO**

The people asked the Hodja,

Dear Hodja, tell us, where should we go in a funeral procession, in front, at the back, or at the side?

The Hodja answered, It doesn't matter where you go, as long as you don't go in the coffin.

### **WHOM DO YOU BELIEVE?**

One day, a friend of the Hodja came to him and asked if he could borrow his donkey for two hours to go to the town. The Hodja, not really wanting to lend his donkey, thought for a while and then said:

Dear friend, I would like to help you but I have lent my donkey to another friend

The man was turning to leave when he heard the donkey, who was in the stable, bray. The braying became louder and louder. Then the man turned to the Hodja with great anger and shouted:

You, Hodja, you have cheated me!

The Hodja, in turn, was very angry and shouted back: You silly man, haven't you any sense, whom do you believe, me or the donkey.

### **WILL YOU OR WON'T YOU**

One day, the Hodja became very angry with Sultan Temur, a strict ruler, who had arrived in Akshehir with his powerful army. He went to him and asked in an angry and threatening way:

Tell me, Temur, will you take your army and go away from Akshehir

or not?

The Sultan was astonished and wanted to know what he meant.

No comment, said the Hodja. Tell me, will you take your army and go away from Akshehir or not; If not, I know what to do!

Now the Sultan became very angry and said: If I don't, what will you do then?

The Hodja replied: What will I do? I'll take the people of the town and we'll go away!

## **WRONG WAY**

When the Hodja was going somewhere, he got on his donkey with his back facing to front.

Hodja Effendi, the people said. You are sitting on your donkey the wrong way round.

No, he said. It's just that the donkey is standing the wrong way round.

## **YAWNING**

One day, the Hodja went to another village. Nobody offered him something to eat, instead they asked him:

"Hodja, why do people yawn?"

There are two reasons: One of them is tiredness, the other is hunger.

After yawning for a while he finished up his words:

I'm not tired!

## **YOUTH OF THE HODJA**

One day the Hodja wanted to get on his horse but he couldn't reach his aim.

Oh, what a shame, he said aloud. That I am not young as I was in the old days.

Then he said in a whisper which was heard only by himself:

I know how you were in your youth!

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