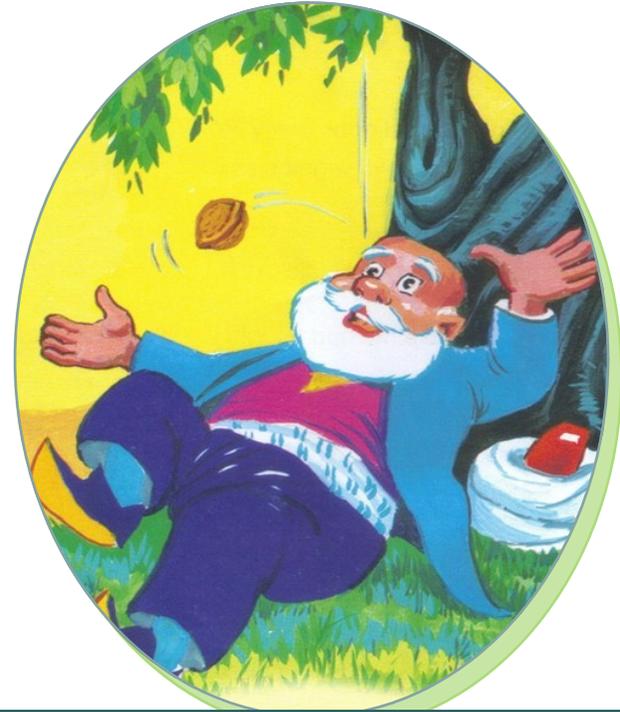


## The Philosopher's Philosopher

Nasreddin Hodja, the master of Turkish Humour, was born in 1208 in Hortu village near the town Sivrihisar/ Afyon, in the west part of Central Anatolia. Later he moved to Akşehir and he lived there until 1285.

He was a philosopher, witty and wise, and he had a good sense of humour. For centuries Turkish people passed his stories down from generation to generation.

Each generation also created new stories and attributed them to Hodja.



Abbas-Sıdıka Çalık Anadolu Lisesi Comenius Project Team

Pupils : Asena KARADUMAN, Esra PAYASLI,

Orpen NERGİZ, Uğur AYBAR

Teachers : Şeref KÖSEDAĞ, Bora KIR,

Aslıhan BELEN, Hatice ÇAĞLAR



His stories have been told almost everywhere in the world, spread among the tribes of Turkic World and into Persian, Arabian, African and

along the Silk Road to China and India cultures, later also to Europe. Most of them are the product of collective humour of not only Turks but also other folks in the World.

Today his stories reflect Turkish people. The themes of Hodjas stories are universal and timeless. They reveal the weaknesses of human nature and society, so they are told in many places around the world.

UNESCO named 1996 as Nasreddin Hodja year and every year from 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July, there is an international Nasreddin Hoca Festival in Akşehir.



# NASREDDIN



## HODJA

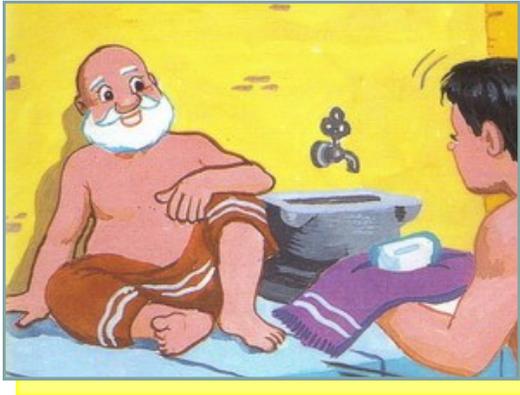
The Master of Turkish Humour  
(1208 -1285)



PROJECT: "OUR PAST IS UNIFYING US"

'UNITY IN DIVERSITY

[www.ourpastisunifyingus.com](http://www.ourpastisunifyingus.com)



#### WE ARE EVEN!

- \* One day Hodja went to a public bath, but nobody paid much attention to him. They gave him a worn, old bathrobe and a ratty, old towel. Hodja said nothing, and on the way out he left a big tip. A week later, he went back to the bath. Everyone was very glad to see him and they were tripping over each other to try and help him. They brought him a thick bathrobe and a great big, heavy towel. They brought him fine mint soap and new loofah sponges. They gave him a massage. Hodja thanked them and went out, leaving a small tip. One of the attendants ran after him saying, "Hodja, how can you leave such a small tip after all the extra services you got?" Hodja answered, "Today's tip is for last week's services and last week's tip was for today. Now we are even."

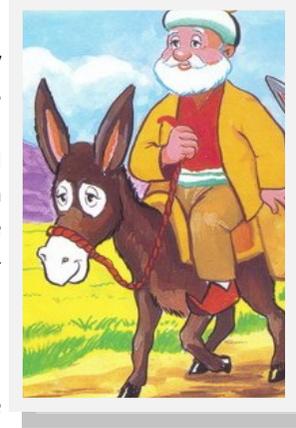
#### STRANGER

- \* One day Hodja was by the river sleepily and a stranger shouted across the river and asked. "Hodja, how can I get across the river?" Hodja answered "You are already across the river."



#### I AM SLEEPING

- \* One day Nasreddin Hodja came to city center and stayed in a hotel with his friend. His friend asked at midnight: "Hodja, have you slept?" his friend asked. "Whats up?" Nasreddin Hodja answered. "I want to lend you some money" his friend said. Nasreddin Hodja started to snore: "I am sleeping" he said.

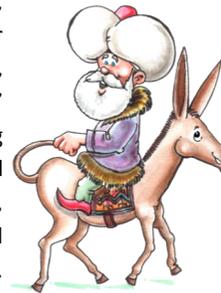


#### WHAT IF IT HAPPENS

- \* When they saw Hodja sitting by the lake and stirring some yogurt into the water, they asked him what he was doing: "I am adding starter into the lake to make yogurt," he answered. "But is it possible to turn the lake into yogurt?" "I know it is impossible but what if I succeed," Hodja replied.

#### RIDING A DONKEY BACKWARDS

- \* One Friday Hodja met his friends to go to the mosque. Hodja took his donkey with him, and the others walked. When they left for the mosque to pray, Hodja got on his donkey, but he sat on it facing backwards. "Hodja," one of his friends asked, "why are you riding your donkey backwards?" "Well, my good man," said Hodja, "if I sat facing forward, you would all be behind me. And if you all went in front of me, I would be behind you. Either way we would not be facing each other."



#### YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE!

- \* Hodja and his son were travelling to another village with their donkey. His son was riding the donkey, and Hodja was walking along beside him. They met two old women on the road. Hodja heard one say to the other, "Look at that! The young boy is riding



while the old man is walking. Young people today have no respect!" After they had passed by, Hodja told his son to get down, and he got up to ride the donkey. They continued down the road. After a few minutes they met two old men limping toward them. Hodja heard one say to the other, "That poor child! On this hot day, he has to walk and his father only thinks of himself!" After they had passed by, Hodja pulled his son up onto the donkey with him. They went along under the hot sun and came to a group of workmen sitting beside the road. Hodja heard one of them say, "That poor animal! It's too much, two people riding it! The poor animal is about to die." After they had passed by, Hodja and his son got off the donkey and continued walking along beside it. After a few moments, they came to a group of women washing their clothes in the river. Hodja heard them say to each other, "Look at those stupid people! They have a perfectly strong donkey, but they aren't even using it!" Finally, Hodja turned to his son and said, "You see, there will always be someone who is not pleased with your behaviour. So only work to please God."

