

# TURKISH LEGEND

*„Let's share our culture”*



This booklet is a part of an activity of the Comenius project

# NASRETTİN HODJA



Nasreddin Hoca was a philosopher, wise, witty man with a good sense of humor. 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. Of course, all these stories currently attributed to the Hoca for about 700 years haven't originated from him. Most of them are the product of collective Humor of not only [Turks](#) but also other folks in the World.

Nasreddin Hodja, or Hoca which means teacher in [Turkish](#) ("c" is pronounced in Turkish like "dj" or like "J" in "John" in English), is known as with different names in the world. Some examples; [Turks](#) say "Nasreddin Hoca;" Kazakhs, "Koja



Nasreddin;" Greeks, "Hoja Nasreddin;" Azerbaijanis and Iranians, "Molla or Mulla Nasreddin;" Arabs, "Juha;" and Tajiks, "Mushfiqi". And some spellings of Nasreddin: Nasrudin, Nasr ed-din and Nasr al-din.

The year 1996 was proclaimed "Nasreddin Hoca year" by UNESCO. He is, now in 2004, 796 years old. He signed the humor of the millennium at the top.

#### SOME JOKES FROM NASRETTİN HODJA

##### "Help yourself my fur coat"

One day the Hodja was invited to a [wedding](#). Having arrived in his shabby clothing nobody seemed to take any notice of him. Well, this wouldn't do. He bided his chance and slipped out unnoticed.

He returned, wearing his best robe and his fine fur coat. From the entrance on he was overwhelmed with compliments, given the best seat at the table and urged to partake of the choicest morsels. Smiling, he began to dip the sleeve of his fur coat into the dishes, saying:

- Help yourself, my fur coat!
- What are you doing, Hodja Effendi? cried the host and some guests in alarm.
- Why, I was just inviting my fur coat to partake of these delicacies, since it seems to command so much respect! A few minutes ago, without my fur coat, I wasn't even noticed. Because of it, I am now being overwhelmed with attentions!

# THE CAULDRON GIVES BIRTH

