

Story #514 (Tape #6, Summer 1966)

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Why There Are No Jews at Kayseri

One day a Jew made up his mind to go to Kayseri. When he reached the city gates at Kayseri, he saw three children at play. When he drew closer, he saw that the children were playing with three very precious stones. The Jew offered to play with the children, hoping to take these gems away from them. When the children did not invite him to join their game, the Jew asked them what they would like in exchange for the precious stones. The children talked together about this, and one of them said that if the Jew would bray three times like a donkey, they would give him the stones. Trusting the sincerity of the children, the Jew brayed three times like a donkey.

The children then withdrew a few steps, and one of them asked, "If you, a donkey, can appreciate the value of these stones, how do you suppose it possible that we human beings should not appreciate their worth?"

[Comment by bystander: The Jew concluded that if even the children of Kayseri were so shrewd, the city would not be a place where his business would prosper. Since then, no Jews have ever gone to Kayseri.]