

Story #607 (1966, Tape #7)

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Nasreddin Hoca and the Şalvar¹ or the Gown

One day the hoca wanted to buy a pair of şalvar. He bargained with the tailor, and after a while they reached an agreement on the price. But just then the hoca thought to himself that if he bought a gown instead of the şalvar, he might get a better bargain. He said, therefore, to the tailor, "Give me the gown instead. I have changed my mind about the şalvar." Saying this, he dropped the şalvar back on the tailor's bench. The tailor took out a gown and handed it to the hoca, and the hoca took it and walked out of the shop.

The tailor shouted, "Hoca, efendi, you have not paid for the gown."

"I left the şalvar in exchange for the gown."

"But, hoca, you had not paid for the şalvar!"

"Good heavens, how strange these Bursa people are! Why should I pay for a pair of şalvar that I did not buy?"

¹ Şalvar are the traditional "baggy trousers" worn by rural Turks in many parts of Turkey.