

Story 751 (1985 Tape 1)

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Denizli Province

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Nasreddin Hoca Sells Pickles

Nasreddin Hoca once had a large earthenware jar¹ of pickles which he could not use. He therefore loaded it on his donkey and took it to the nearest town on a market day.² After finding a good place to stand in the market, Hoca took several nice fresh pickles out of the jar and placed them on a tray. He then started to yell at the top of his voice, "Pickles, pickles, pickles!"

When his donkey heard Hoca screaming that way, he responded, "Haw-hee, haw-hee, haw-hee!"

Nasreddin Hoca gave his donkey a severe look, but he said nothing to it. Then he again yelled, "Pickles, pickles, pickles!"

Immediately the donkey started to bray back, "Haw-hee, haw-hee, haw-hee!"

Hoca glared at the donkey this time, but still he said nothing.

¹Such a large jar is called a küp in Turkish.

²Each of the countless open-air markets in Turkey has a designated day of the week on which to be open. Shoppers know which markets are open and which closed, and thus they know where to go on a given day to make their purchases.

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As this was going on, a number of people at the market, observed it and started laughing. "Look at them," someone said. "They are both selling pickles: the Hoca on the one side and his donkey on the other!"

"Pickles, pickles, pickles!"

"Haw-hee, haw-hee, haw-hee!"

The crowd watching this amusing situation grew larger larger. Some of them made fun of the two pickle sellers, this angered the Hoca. When he could not stand it any longer, he said to his donkey, "Look here! Who owns these pickles and wants to sell them? Is it you or I?"

This remark silenced both his donkey and the crowd of hecklers. After that, many people bought pickles from the Hoca that day.