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Location: Çan from village of Konya Province; taped at Izmir, where he was working

Date: May 1962

Nasreddin Hoca and the Two-Speed Donkey

One day Nasreddin Hoca was bringing back from the forest some firewood that he had cut. The wood was loaded on his donkey, which seemed to be struggling to carry it all. When they came to a hill, the Hoca wanted to give his donkey some relief, and so he unloaded the wood from its saddle. Then, placing the saddle on his own back and loading the wood on the saddle again, he climbed upon the donkey's back. But the donkey could not climb the hill. "What a lazy animal you are!" said the Hoca. "I have relieved you of the load of wood and am carrying it on my own back!" Dismounting, Hoca carried the wood up the hill, leading his donkey as he went.

At the top of the hill, he loaded the saddle and the wood on the donkey again. Then he rubbed alum on the donkey's anus, and the donkey started running for home, disregarding the weight of the wood. Since the Hoca could not then keep up with his donkey, he rubbed some alum on his own anus. The alum had so much effect on him that he soon passed the donkey.

When he came to his own house, the Hoca could not stop, but

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just kept running right past it. He shouted to his wife,
"My donkey is coming along behind me. Unload him when he
gets here. If you want to catch me, rub some alum on your
anus and follow me!"