

Story 1236 (1988 Tape 11

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Kırşehir Province

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Nasreddin Hoca and the Mortal Cauldron

One day Nasreddin Hoca needed the use of a large cauldron. Not having one of his own, he went to a neighbor's house and asked to borrow the neighbor's cauldron. "All right," said the neighbor, and he let the Hoca take his cauldron.

After a few days the Hoca returned the cauldron to his neighbor, but before handing it to him, he placed in it a small saucepan without a handle. When the neighbor looked into the cauldron and saw the saucepan, he was surprised. "What is Hoca?"

Nasreddin Hoca replied, "While I had your cauldron, it gave birth to this smaller pan. Inasmuch as the cauldron is yours, the heir of the cauldron must also be yours." The neighbor was very pleased to hear this

A while later the Hoca again borrowed his neighbor's cauldron, but he did not return it right away. Several days later the neighbor appeared at the Hoca's house and asked for his cauldron. The Hoca said, "I am very sorry to have to tell you this, but your cauldron died."

"Died!" exclaimed the neighbor. "How could a cauldron die?"

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The Hoca replied, "You found it entirely believable that the cauldron could give birth. Why, then, do you doubt that a cauldron could die?"