

Story 1287 (1989 Tape 13)

Narrator: Ayşe Turhan, 28

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Nasreddin Hoca's Aromatic Thoughts

At one period during the life of Nasreddin Hoca there were some years of famine in the land. People were often hungry. One day during that difficult time Nasreddin Hoca was sitting by his fireplace and thinking, "Oh, how pleasant it would be to have some hot tarhana¹ soup with a thick layer of fat floating on the top. How heartily I could eat a bowl of such soup!"

While he was still thinking about having some soup of that kind, there was a knock on the door. When the Hoca opened the door, he found there his neighbor's son with a bowl in his hand. The boy said, "Hoca, efendi,² my father sends his greetings to you and wants to know if you can send him a bowl of tarhana soup."

The Hoca stroked his beard and said, "Think of that!"

¹Tarhana is made with curds and flour. Soup made with tarhana is a favorite dish of many Turks.

²A mild honorific, comparable to Sir, it usually follows a first name: Hasan Efendi. At one time it was used to show respect to distinguished people, but it has become so devaluated in the twentieth century that it now is used only for servants and children.

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People are so hungry they can even detect the smell of soup
that exists only in my mind!