

Story 1413 (1989 Tape 7)

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Location: Konya, Konya Province

Date: May

Nasreddin Hoca Rescues the Moon

One night Nasreddin Hoca went to the well to get some water. It was a brightly lit moonlight night. When the Hoca lifted the cover over the well in order to dip up some water, he saw the reflection of the moon in the water below. He began worrying about what he was seeing. He said to himself, "Aman!¹ How did the moon fall into the water?" The more he thought about this matter, the more worried he became. He thought, "I must do something to get the moon out of this well!"

He began maneuvering the wooden bucket around in an attempt to scoop up the moon from the bottom of the well. As he was doing this, the bucket became stuck against one of the stones that formed the circular wall inside the well. The Hoca began pulling and yanking on the rope in his effort to get the bucket free from the stone. When the bucket suddenly came loose, the Hoca fell over backwards. As he lay there on his back looking upward, he saw the moon shining in the sky. "Thanks to Allah!" he exclaimed. "I may have hurt my back, but

¹Aman is a common exclamation in Turkish. It may (negatively) mean alas! or oh, dear! Used more positively, it may suggest, oh, my goodness! or the equivalent of wow! or golly!

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saved the moon and managed get it back into the sky where
i belongs