

Story 1566 (1992 Tape 2)

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Location: Derinkuyu, kaza town
of Nevşehir Province

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The Use Made of Old Moons

One day a group of people went to Nasreddin Hoca¹ to ask him about something which confused them. They said, "O Hoca, when the moon grows old and is replaced by a new moon, what becomes of the old moon?"

Thinking about a way to answer this question, the hesitated. Then he said, "When the moon has done its work and grown old, they cut it up into very small pieces to make more stars.

¹A hoca is a preacher and the religious leader of a community. In pre-Republican times the hoca was also the community teacher. Separation of church and state in the Republic required that teachers be people of secular rather than of religious training. Nasreddin Hoca is Turkey's most popular comic folk character.