

Story 1708 (1993 Tape 6)

Narrator: Remzi Cer

Location: Trabzon, Trabzon  
Province (at bakery  
shop which was  
front for arranging  
call-girl  
appointments)

Date: June 11, 1993

Collected by Jo Ann Conrad

Nasreddin Hoca<sup>1</sup> and the Sea of Yoghurt

Back in the old days there was a person named Nasreddin Hoca. He was a very quick-witted and humorous man. One day the Hoca went down to the seashore and began to pour yoghurt very slowly from a bowl into the sea. Observing this, one of his friends called to him, "Oh, Hoca, what are you doing there?"

"I am adding this yoghurt to this water with the hope of fermenting the whole sea and turning it into yoghurt."

"But Hoca," his friend said, "you cannot possibly ferment the sea enough to turn it into yoghurt."

Nasreddin Hoca smiled and answered, "But just suppose I should be successful in doing so!"

<sup>1</sup>In pre-Republican times a hoca was both a preacher and a teacher. Nasreddin Hoca, the most popular comic character in Turkish folklore, belonged to that earlier period.