

Story 1830 1989 Tape 7)

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Nasreddin Hoca's¹ Gourmet Prayer

Hoca was one day invited to a feast. The servants brought dish after dish of food to the dining-room table. Hoca took a large serving of each of the kinds of served, and he enjoyed all of them.

At the end of this very long meal, dessert was served. It looked delicious to Hoca, and he wanted very much to eat some of it. But, alas, he was by then too full to swallow even a spoonful of that dessert. Opening up his hands toward heaven, Hoca began to pray: "Oh, Allah, either make my stomach larger or take away my life!"²

¹Nasreddin Hoca is the most popular comic folk figure in the Turkish oral tradition. Sometimes wise, sometimes foolish, he is always an engaging personality. Many are the anecdotes told about him.

²In Turkish folktales, hocas are often stereotyped as being great eaters, if not actually gluttons. Nasreddin Hoca and other hocas often turn up in tales involving food.