

Story 755 1985 Tape 1)

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Location: Çivril, a kaza town
of Denizli Province

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Why the Hoca's Creditor Laughed

One day Nasreddin Hoca borrowed some money from a friend, but he was later unable to pay it back on the date promised. At that point the friend needed his money and could not wait longer to recover it. He decided, therefore, to go to the Hoca's house and talk with him about this

As he was approaching the Hoca's house, the Hoca, looking out a window, saw him coming. He said to his wife, "Tell him I am not at home

When the creditor knocked on the door, Hoca's wife opened it. "Where is the Hoca?" the man asked.

"He is not at home now."

The man continued, "Hoca borrowed some money from me When is he going to pay it back? He has had it for a very long time. I want him to pay it back very soon now, for I need it."

The Hoca's wife answered, "Yes, I know about that money. Hoca told me today that he would be repaying it soon."

"Oh, good! But how is he going to do it?"

The wife answered, "Do you see that barbed-wire fence

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over there?"

"Yes."

"Well, that barbed-wire fence is on the edge of a meadow where a large flock of sheep comes to graze every day. As it comes and goes, the flock passes along that fence and leaves bits of wool on the barbs.

"And what of that?" asked the friend.

"Well, I am going to collect those bits of wool every day. Then I shall spin them into thread and weave the thread into cloth. Hoca will then take the cloth to market and sell it. In this way we shall soon generate the money needed to repay you."

Of course the creditor found it difficult to believe this story. He said nothing, but he began to laugh at the Hoca's wife.

Now all the time the Hoca had been listening to their conversation from inside the house. When he heard his friend laughing, Hoca came out and said, "See how pleased you are when you hear the word money mentioned!"