

Story 1552 (1992 Tape 2)

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Location: Derinkuyu, kaza town
in Nevşehir Province

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The Ear the Hoca¹ Never Twisted

One day a neighbor of Nasreddin Hoca cooked some mantı.² The delicious aroma was so strong that Nasreddin Hoca was able to smell it all the way to his house. Because he had been longing for some time for mantı, Nasreddin Hoca wished that he could rush to the neighbor's house and eat some. After thinking for a while, he thought of a plan that would take him to his neighbor's house, where he would probably be offered some of that mantı.

The Hoca said to his wife, "Woman, let us now pretend that we are having a fight. You will run away from me to the neighbor's house, and I shall follow you, shouting as if I were very angry at you. This will take us both to neighbor's house. When you arrive there, you are to 'Help me! The hoca may kill me!' They will, of course, try

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.

²A pasta dish somewhat like ravioli.

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to bring about peace between us, and to calm us, they will surely offer us some mantı to eat."

They proceeded to behave in exactly the way that the Hoca had described. They went to the neighbor's house, where the Hoca pretended to be very angry and where his wife pretended to be very much afraid of him. There the neighbor and his family persuaded the Hoca and his wife to calm down, and they placed a bowl of mantı between them. The Hoca had thus attained his goal of getting some mantı, but he was still not entirely satisfied, for he noticed that the side of the bowl facing his wife was heaped up with more mantı than there was on his side of the bowl. Pretending that he was still somewhat angry, he said loudly, "If I had caught this woman before, I should have twisted her ear like this," and he gave the bowl a twist which brought the fuller side toward him.