

Story 1412 (1989 Tape 7)

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Nasreddin Hoca Brings News from the Other World

One day some of Nasreddin Hoca's friends went to him and said, "Oh, Hoca, we know a great amount about this world, but we know nothing about the other world to which we shall after we die. Please go to the cemetery, and there, among the dead, get some information for us about the other world."

The Hoca went to the cemetery, wrapped himself in a white sheet as if it were a shroud, and entered one of empty grave openings. After he had been there for a short while, the Hoca heard a caravan passing through the cemetery. The mules in that caravan were loaded with expensive crockery and fine chinaware dishes. Wishing to take a look at the passing caravan, Nasreddin Hoca raised his head above the grave opening. When the mules saw that white object rise from the ground near them, they shied and scattered in every direction. As they ran about wildly, several of them collided with tombstones, smashing the contents of their saddlebags. As a result, much of the caravan load of crockery and chinaware was destroyed. When the pottery merchants discovered what had happened, they were furious at Nasreddin Hoca. They

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dragged him from the grave and beat him thoroughly

In the morning the injured and wretched Hoca dragged himself back to the village. Seeing the condition he was in, his friends all asked, "Hoca, what happened? Tell us! Why are you looking so miserable?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "Friends, I bring you news about the other world. Most things there are fine, but you must be very careful not to startle any potters' mules. If you frighten any potters' mules, you will receive a whole caravan load of beatings!"