

Story #279 (Tape #14, 1961-62)

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Cow or Donkey?

Hoca had a donkey, the famous donkey, and he loved his donkey very much. One day, he got married, and his wife wanted him to go and buy a cow

"Oh," he said, "we have a little stable. It's not big enough for a cow and a donkey. Why should we buy a cow?"

The wife said, "Why? Because the cow gives us fresh milk so that we can drink it. Go and buy a cow for us right today."

And Hoca had to obey. He went and bought a cow, and they put the cow and the donkey in the same little stable. Really, it was too small for them. Both the cow and the donkey were not comfortable any more. And Hoca felt very badly about it, and he was very unhappy.

And one night he started praying to God and saying, "Oh, please, God. You are powerful and you are great, and you can do anything you wish. Please take this cow's life away so that my donkey will be comfortable again."

And he prayed this way for some days, and one morning when he went into the stable, he screamed, "Oh!"

And the wife said, "What's wrong? Are you sick?"

"Oh, no," he said. "My donkey's dead."

And then he lifted his hands in prayer and said, "Oh, my God, what's this you have done to me? You are great. You are very great, but you can't tell apart a cow from a donkey!"