

Story 1411 (1989 Tape 7)

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Location: Konya, Konya Province

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Why the Hoca's Creditor Laughed

One day one of Nasreddin Hoca's creditors approached his house to collect some money he had loaned to the Hoca. Because he did not have any money with which to repay that loan, the Hoca decided to hide and let his wife deal with the creditor. When the creditor knocked, Hoca's wife went to the front door, and the Hoca hid behind the door.

"The Hoca is not at home," she said. She then told the creditor that they certainly intended to pay the debt, and she then proceeded to explain how they would raise the money to do this. She said, "We are going to plant some thorn bushes all along the road before our house. Flocks of sheep pass by here every day, and as they do so they will rub against those thorn bushes. Of course, some of their loose wool will pull off and remain on the thorn bushes. We shall collect that wool every day, spin it into yarn, and then sell that yarn. With the money we get for that yarn, the Hoca will pay his debt to you."

When he heard this ridiculous account, the creditor began to laugh. Hearing the creditor laugh, Nasreddin Hoca

Story 1411

forgot that he was supposed to be away from home. He spoke up from behind the door, saying, "Aha, you scoundrel! You can laugh now that you have heard of the prospect of money!"