

Story 1548 (1992 Tape 1)

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of Nevşehir Province

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The Hoca's¹ Wish for a Yoğurt Lake

day Nasreddin Hoca took a cup of yoğurt to a local lake. When he arrived at the shore of the lake, he began to stir the yoğurt slowly into the water. People seeing him do this were curious. They called to him, "What are you doing, Hoca? Why are you mixing yoğurt into the water of the lake?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "I am adding this yoğurt to the lake water in order to ferment the lake and turn it all into yoğurt. If that happens, I shall be rich."

When the people heard this, they laughed at Nasreddin Hoca. They said, "Oh, Hoca, you cannot ferment a whole lake!"

"I know. I know," answered the Hoca. "But if it should happen that it does ferment, you should all come and see me at that time!"

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.