

Story 1799 (1989 Tape 7)

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Location: Konya, capital city  
of Konya Province

Date: May 1989

Nasreddin Hoca's<sup>1</sup> Selective Thirst

One day Hoca set out from his village to go to the nearest town. It was during the summer, and the weather was very hot. Every once in a while he took a drink of water, but before he reached the town, his water bottle had been emptied. He had, however, taken along with him a watermelon. He cut the watermelon into many small sections and ate all of them, throwing the pieces of rind on the ground. Before proceeding, he urinated on the heap of rinds

After Hoca had finished his business in the town, he started walking home. He had filled his water bottle in the town before he left, but again his water supply was finished before he reached his destination. He grew more and more thirsty. When he reached the small heap of

<sup>1</sup>Nasreddin Hoca is the most popular comic folk hero in the Turkish oral tradition. Sometimes wise, sometimes clever, and sometimes foolish, he is always very human. --In modern Turkey a hoca is a preacher and religious leader. In earlier times he was also a teacher, for education was then the responsibility of the clergy.

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watermelon rinds, he began looking through them. He said, this piece was not touched by the urine," and so he it. Then he found another piece and said, "This piece wasn't touched, either," and he ate this too. This continued until he had eaten the whole heap of watermelon rinds.