

Story 1097 (1974 Tape 48)

Narrator: Süheyl Uçarer, 60  
(grandfather of  
Alev Uçarer)

Location: İstanbul

Date: Summer 1974

Who Is the More Clever?

Nasreddin Hoca had a very clever <sup>cleverness (All)</sup> donkey. Sometimes the Hoca was pleased by his donkey's cleverness, but at other times he was annoyed by it.

For a while in his life Nasreddin Hoca made money by supplying grocery stores with salt. He would fill bags with large chunks of salt, load them on his donkey, and take the salt to the mill to be ground. Then he would take the ground salt to various grocery stores and sell it.

This salt was very heavy, and after carrying it for some time, his donkey became annoyed with this procedure. The donkey finally decided upon a way of lightening his heavy burden. Both going to and coming from the mill, the donkey lay down in the shallow water at the edge of a river along the way. While he was lying in the water, some of the salt melted away into the water.

When Nasreddin Hoca realized what the donkey was doing, he grew annoyed and he said to himself, "I'll show that donkey something!" On the following day he filled the salt bags not

## Story 1097

with salt but with sponges. On the way to the mill, the donkey, as usual, lay down in the river. This time, however,

load grew heavier instead of lighter, for the sponges filled with water. The sponges became so heavy, in fact,

the donkey could not even stand up with them on his

Going to the donkey, the Hoca said, "What do you think about that? Is it you or I who is the more clever?"