



One day Hodja walked into a tea shop and sat down beside a friend.

"How are you?" asked the friend.

"Well, to tell the truth," said Hodja, "I'm a little thirsty and hungry. I haven't been able to drink or eat a thing for the past three days."

"My dear Hodja," said the friend, "let me buy you some tea and pastries," and he ordered some. "You must have been quite ill," the friend said. "What was wrong?"

"Oh, I wasn't ill," said Hodja. "I was broke."