



**F**or a while Hodja served as advisor to the king. One day the king's chef prepared a very tasty dish of eggplant and other vegetables. As Hodja and the king were eating, the king asked Hodja, "Isn't this dish the best you have ever eaten?"

"Oh, yes, Majesty, the very best," said Hodja.

"Then I want it served every day," said the king. But after ten more meals the king turned to Hodja and said, "Take this away. This food is terrible."

"Yes, indeed it is," Hodja agreed.

"But Hodja," the king said, "just a few days ago you said this was a wonderful dish."

"Oh, I did, Your Majesty, but I serve you, not the vegetables."