

“The Servant Who Knows His Master”

A contemporary variation of the popular folktale, “The Khoja and the Eggplant”



By Lucine Kasbarian

USA

The President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan, was often a guest at the court of the famed wise man and spiritual leader, Nasreddin Khoja.

One day following their meetings, President Sargsyan was commanded to stay for supper, where khash was served.

“This is my favorite dish!” proclaimed the Khoja, “I love nothing more than khash.”

“Quite right, Effendi,” said President Sargsyan to his host, “Khash is the greatest delicacy in all the world!”

Weeks later, the Armenian President was again commanded to stay for supper, and again, khash was served. The Khoja flew into a rage. He called out to his wife. “Once was bad enough! Why did you again prepare this infernal dish when I am entertaining such an important guest? Don’t you know how much I hate khash?”

The Khoja looked to President Sargsyan as if expecting a response.

“I could not agree more, Effendi,” said the President “I, too, hate khash. It is the vilest dish in the world.”

“But President,” said the Khoja, “Weeks ago, you said khash was the greatest delicacy in all the world!”

“Quite right, Effendi, I did,” said the President. “But I am the servant of your Eminence, not of the khash.”

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P.S.

An illustrated Armenian folktale retold by Lucine Kasbarian will be published next year.