

This story is an allegory about those who preach much longer than their audience can bear.

There was once a cook that offered good soup for any takers. People from the neighborhood would come to his door with a cup, and he would pour soup into their cup. He didn't stop, however, when the cup was full, but kept pouring as the soup overflowed onto the floor.

When the recipients raised the alarm about the spilled soup, the cook said, "Well, the soup is so good that the cup should expand to receive more. If it was a really good cup, then it would never get filled up¹!"

The issue wasn't that the soup didn't taste good – but the cup could only practically hold a certain amount. Each person's cup was a different size, but it was indeed finite, and would only hold so much.

It was sad that the cook could not see that young kids and older adults² who came were in danger of slipping in the mess and hurting themselves. The neighbors suggested that they could easily come back another time for a refill, but the cook insisted on continuing to make a sticky mess even though it seemed so inefficient and wasteful.

The situation was such that people simply did not desire to return, and they sought there soup elsewhere.

1. as in, "If you were truly spiritual, you wouldn't worry about the time!"
2. parallel to difficulty of these two age groups to pay attention for very long