

Story #640 (1974, Tape #50)

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The (Hoca) and the Married Woman -- *married*

Once there was a Hoca who taught (school). He would always address one of the children as "son of a handsome and generous mother." Day after day, whenever he called on that child he would call him by that title. The child grew exasperated at being singled out in this manner. One day he came home and told his mother that he was daily being humiliated in front of his friends by being called "son of a handsome and generous mother."

The mother told her husband what was bothering their son. The next morning the father told his son to tell the hoca that he was fatherless and that his mother invited him over to their home. The child went to school and told the hoca what his father had instructed him to say. The hoca accepted the invitation and prepared to go visit the boy's mother.

Meanwhile, the mother set out the mortar<sup>1</sup> and started to break wheat for bulgur.<sup>2</sup> The hoca came to the house and the

<sup>1</sup>Almost every rural family in Turkey has a stone mortar which holds about a peck of grain. The grain is bounded in this mortar with a thin, long-bladed wooden mallet, first to dehusk it and then, if desired, to crack it.

<sup>2</sup>Bulgur is made of dehusked wheat that has been cooked and then cracked. It is an instant hot cereal, for it requires only water and slight heating to be edible.

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woman told him they could finish breaking the wheat; then they could go rest and then get up. The man of the house was nowhere around. So they broke the wheat. The hoca took off the ring he was wearing and gave it to the woman. While they were gathering the wheat cracked in the mortar, the door opened, and the man of the house walked in. When he saw the hoca, he took the rope from around the cow's neck and put it around the hoca's and told him to stay put there. He turned to his wife and asked what there was for dinner. The wife told him there was nothing to eat.

He said, "What do you mean nothing? Didn't you make yoğurt?"

The woman replied that the cow's udders had not filled out, so she was not able to make yoğurt.

The husband said, "I'll show that cow! I'll give her something for her udders!" He then raped the hoca. He removed the rope from his neck, and the woman left.

The next morning the man said to his son, "Give our best regards to your teacher. Your mother had bulgur to be broken, and we got it done. We owed her a ring, and now she's got a ring. Your father had an anus coming, and he got it!"<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>This tale is a nükte, for it ends with a play on words. Ring (üzük) and anus (büzük) rime.