

Story 992 (1975 Tape 1

Narrator: Mehmet Kara (Koruk)  
Muhtar

Location: Nasreddin Hoca vil-  
lage, originally  
Hortu (supposedly  
the birthplace of  
N. Hoca), Sivrihisar  
kaza, Eskişehir  
Province

Date: September 27, 1975

Where ~~Nasreddin Hoca~~'s Wife Could Show Her Face<sup>1</sup>

Nasreddin Hoca married a woman who was said to be quite ugly in appearance. The morning after their wedding ceremony, his bride said to the Hoca, "Hoca, I want your instructions about showing my face in public. To whom may I show my face, and to whom may I not show my face?"

"You may show it to anyone you wish," said the Hoca, "as long as you do not show it to me!"<sup>2</sup>

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You have probably heard that story about Nasreddin

<sup>1</sup>Before the founding of the Republic, Turkish women wore veils in the Moslem fashion. Only among other women and selected males did they ever remove their veils. The Hoca's wife is here clarifying this matter with the Hoca.

<sup>2</sup>What follows is not a tale, but it is applicable to the best-known of all Turkish folktale characters, Nasreddin Hoca.

Story 992

Hoca's sitting beneath a walnut tree in his garden. He supposedly questioned the wisdom of God in placing such tiny fruit on such a large tree and placing huge watermelons on a small vine. When a nut fell on his head, he supposedly realized his own error and God's real wisdom.

that story is not true!<sup>3</sup>

We know quite a bit about Nasreddin Hoca. He was born 690 years ago in this village, and he lived here part of his life. Among other religious leaders he known by the name Emiroğlu Abdullah. His daughter's grave is in Sivrihisar, and his grandson, who was called Hızır Hakim, is buried in İstanbul. This Hızır Hakim was a judge<sup>4</sup> during the time of Fatih Sultan Mehmet.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup>The reference is to a Hoca tale called "Watermelons, Walnuts and the Wisdom of Allah." See ATON No. 355.

<sup>4</sup>The word hakim in the grandson's name means judge.

<sup>5</sup>Sultan Mehmet II conquered Constantinople in 1453. He was given the title Fatih (Conqueror), and is usually referred to as Fatih Mehmet.