

Story 1101 (1974 Tape 56)

Narrator: Nihal Gürün, 59
(mother of Dikmen
Gürün Uçarer)

Location: İskenderun, kaza city
of Hatay Province
(Taped at İstanbul)

Date: Summer 1974

Where Nasreddin Hoca's Wife Could Show Her Face

After Nasreddin Hoca got married, his new wife one day asked him, "Hoca, where can I show my face? Before which of your relatives and friends can I remove my veil?" (Back in the time of Nasreddin Hoca, women in Turkey did not show their faces in public, and they did not show them even in private situations without the permission of their husbands.)

The Hoca replied, "Hanım, you can show your face to anyone you please just so long as you do not show it to me."¹

¹ The narrator neglects to include the key element in this tale: the fact that Hoca's wife was purportedly a very ugly woman.