

Story 1241 1988 Tape 1)

Narrator: Haskız Cinemre, 24

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of Trabzon Province

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Where Nasreddin Hoca's Wife Was to Show Her Face

When Nasreddin Hoca was married, it was to a woman whom he had never seen before.¹ As it turned out, she was a woman whom the Hoca did not find very attractive in appearance.

Shortly after their wedding his new wife asked Nasreddin Hoca, "Hoca, to whom am I allowed to speak, and to whom do you wish me to show my face?"²

Nasreddin Hoca said at once, "You may show your face to whomever you wish, just so long as you do not show it to me!"

¹There are still many arranged marriages in Turkey, but in earlier times the practice was much more common. Inasmuch as exogamy was favored as a marriage criterion, the bride and groom often came from different villages and were unlikely to have seen each other even at a distance.

²Real veils have been outlawed in Turkey for well over half a century, but they were mandatory for women during the various periods of history when Nasreddin Hoca supposedly lived.