

Story 1240 (1988 Tape 1)

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of Trabzon Province

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The Mental Patient and the Blank Wall

In the kaza [county] in which I live there is a mental institution. One day while a doctor at that institution was walking down a hallway, he saw a patient standing perfectly still and staring at a wall. The doctor asked the patient, "Why are you looking so steadily at that wall?"

"Because I want to look at it," the patient replied, and he continued to stare at the wall.

"I am now looking at the wall too," said the doctor, "but I do not see anything on it. What do you see on it?"

The patient answered, "I have been looking at that wall for a long while, and I have never seen anything on it. You just started looking at it. Of course you don't see anything on it!"