

Story 1241 (1988 Tape 1

Narrator: Haskız Cinemre, 24

Location: Beşikdüzü, kaza town  
of Trabzon Province

Date: MArch 27, 1988

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.<sup>1</sup> 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?"<sup>2</sup>

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!"

<sup>1</sup>There 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.

<sup>2</sup>Real 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.