

Story 1254 (1988 Tape 1

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of Nevşehir Province

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Nasreddin Hoca and the Overcrowded Bed

One night Nasreddin Hoca and his wife lay in bed talking before they went to sleep. This was the Hoca's second wife, and the Hoca was her second husband. For various reasons, the two of them did not get along very well together. On this particular occasion, the Hoca began to talk about his former wife, describing what a very nice and considerate person she was. Then his wife began talking about her former husband telling the Hoca what a wonderful man he had been

After this had gone on for a few minutes, the Hoca became very annoyed at his present wife, and so he kicked her out of bed. On the following day the wife went to the local kadı¹ and complained about being mistreated by the Hoca. After listening to her complaint, the kadı ordered the Hoca to come to his courtroom.

When the Hoca arrived there, the kadı said to him, "Your wife has complained against you that as the result of a

¹A kadı was a judge of canon law in pre-Republican Turkey. During the Ottoman period, religion was not separated from state, and thus religious figures often had considerable official status.

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discussion you kicked her out of bed. Is she justified in making this complaint?"

"No! She did not explain what really happened last night," answered the Hoca. "This is what happened. When we were lying in bed and talking, my former wife came along and got into bed with us. Then her ex-husband came along, and he also entered the bed. Well, with four people in that one bed, it was greatly crowded, and as a result, she fell out."