

Story 1760 (1994 Tape 4)

Narrator: Remzi Ece, 35

Location: Suşehri, kaza town
in Sivas Province

Date: August 1994

Nasreddin Hoca¹ Expands His Bed

Once Nasreddin Hoca had a quarrel with his wife after they had retired for the night. Their bed was rather narrow, hardly wide enough so that two people could sleep comfortably in it. His wife said, "Hoca, move over a to the other side. Why do you lean over so heavily on this side that you almost crush me?"

Without saying a word, Hoca meekly retreated from this quarrel. Getting up, he put on his clothes and left the house.

Then he walked some distance to another village. There he met one of his neighbors who was walking in opposite direction, toward home. Hoca said to this man, "Hey, neighbor! When you get back to our village, walk past my house. If you should see my wife, tell her where I am and ask her if I should move any farther."

¹Nasreddin Hoca is the most popular comic folk character in the Turkish oral tradition. He is often very wise, but just as often he is equally foolish. In modern Turkey a hoca is a preacher and religious leader, but in pre-Republican times he was also a teacher, education then being the responsibility of the clergy.