

Story 1403 (1989 Tape 6)

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Revenge Against an Unfaithful Wife

There was once a hoca¹ who had a very fine voice. He chanted the ezan² so beautifully that he earned the admiration of many people. One of these people was a housewife who was the mother of four children. She actually fell in love with the hoca's voice. In fact, whenever he started to chant the ezan, this woman made everyone around her become silent so that she could hear his voice better. She listened with close attention, and his voice brought great joy to her.

All this attention to the hoca's voice made the woman's husband very jealous, and so he decided to avenge himself against his wife. One day he announced, "Oh, Wife, I shall be out of town for the next two or three days

As soon as her husband had left, the woman thought, "While my husband is away it would be a good time to call the hoca to my house so that the hoca and I can become better acquainted." She therefore wrote a note to the hoca inviting

¹A hoca is a Moslem preacher.

²The call to prayer, usually made from the minaret of a mosque. It is usually made by a mosque official known as a muezzin, but many a small village mosque cannot afford to

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him to her home, and she gave this note to her son to deliver to the hoca.

Her husband, however, intercepted the boy and took the note from him. He then changed his appearance so that he would look like a hoca. He put on a turban and he covered the lower half of his face with a veil. As a result, his wife did not recognize him at all when he arrived at her door.

They ate together and talked for a short while. Then the woman had to leave the room for a few minutes. While she was gone, the husband defecated and smeared the excrement all over the walls of the room. Then he left the house without having been seen by anyone.

When the woman returned and saw the mess that had been made in the room, she was furious, and she began at once to hate the hoca. It took her quite a while to clean the room thoroughly. When her husband returned three or four days later, she did not, of course, tell him anything about what had happened. But now whenever the hoca began to chant the ezan, the wife would say, "Aman,³ your voice is as offensive as your character is!" Thus the husband had taken his revenge

employ a muezzin. In such a case, the hoca himself will chant the call to prayer.

³Aman is a common exclamation in Turkish. It may (negatively) mean alas! or oh, dear! Used more positively, it may suggest, oh, my goodness! or the equivalent of wow! or golly!