

Story 1291 (1989 Tape 13)

Narrator: Ayşe Turhan, 28

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Sivas Province

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Nasreddin Hoca Rules All Witnesses Correct

During the period of his life when Hoca was a kadı,¹ two men came to his house. Each of these men had a complaint against the other, and they wanted Nasreddin Hoca to settle their conflict.

After listening to the evidence and the complaint of the first man, the Hoca said, "You are right." He then listened to the evidence and the complaint of the second man, and he said the same thing to him: "You are right."

Throughout all of this discussion, Nasreddin Hoca's wife had stood to one side listening to everything that was being said. She now interrupted the proceedings and said, "Hoca, efendi,² there is a disagreement between these two men. You listened to the evidence of both men and to each of them you said the same thing: 'You are right.' But they cannot both be right! One of them must be right and the other wrong!"

¹In pre-Republican Turkey the kadı was a judge of Moslem canon law.

²A mild honorific, comparable to Sir, it usually follows a first name: Hasan Efendi. At one time it was used to show respect to distinguished people, but it has become so devaluated in the twentieth century that it now is used only for servants and children.

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Turning to his wife, the Hoca said, "Woman, you also right!"