

Story 1368 (1989 Tape 3) Narrator: Perihan Artıburun, c. 75¹

Location: Konya, Konya Province

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Nasreddin Hoca's Topsy-Turvy Marriage

While he was living at Akşehir, Nasreddin Hoca decided to get married. He bought a small piece of land and enough building supplies to have a house constructed. He then called in a master builder and his crew of workmen. When they arrived, the Hoca said to the master builder, "I want you to build me a house, but I have one requirement which I want you to follow while you are doing it."

"What is that requirement, Hoca?" asked the master builder.

"I want you to use flooring boards to make the ceiling, and I want you to use ceiling material to construct the floor."

Confused by this order, the builder said, "Alas, Hoca, that is not the right way to build a house."

"But it will be the right way for my house," said Nasreddin Hoca.

¹The narrator was the widow of one of Turkey's most prominent political figures in the 1960's, General Tekin Artıburun. After his retirement from the military, Tekin Artıburun became President of the Turkish Senate and later Acting President of the Republic of Turkey.

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"Why do you think that, Hoca?"

"I think that because I am soon to be married, and after that everything will be upside-down for me!"