

Story 18: Did the man have a head?

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Representing: *Roma Community*

The Story:

While the Roma were traveling, they came across a place full of caves and dens. The Roma were very curious and wanted to satisfy their curiosity. They saw a 50-60 cm wide cave and convinced the thinnest of them to reach inside and take a look. While he was going in, the others told him that they would hold him and if anything dangerous happened, they would pull him out if he kicked his feet.

The man reached in, but there was a bear inside. Seeing the man and his torch, the bear tore off the man's head with one strike and dropped it. When the man struggled for his life, those outside pulled him out.

They looked at the man they pulled out and thought that something was missing and started to argue among themselves: "When we put this man here, was he or was he not like this?" As the discussion continued, 'Did this man have a head or not?' they said, 'If anyone knows, it would be his wife,' and called his wife. When they asked her: "Did your husband have a head or not?" she replied: "I know he had a mouth, because he talked a lot. But I don't remember if he had a head."

Story Moral: *Roma are a nomadic and curious people who enjoy making fun of themselves. This is a funny story they tell to satirize both their lifestyle and the husband-wife relations.*

