

#4  
The Professor and the Man from Kayseri

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Kayseri man

A professor visited Kayseri one day. He was a man famous for his knowledge of all subjects. But a Kayseri man said that he doubted the reported wisdom of this professor. "I shall ask you a question," he said to the professor, "and if you cannot answer it, you will pay me ten liras. Then you will ask me a question, and if I cannot answer it, I shall pay you one lira--for, after all, I am an uneducated man and not a professor."

The professor agreed to this arrangement, and the Kayseri man proceeded to ask him this question: "What creature is it that has three legs?"

After thinking about this for a while, the professor finally said, "I don't know what it is," and he paid the Kayseri man the ten liras. The people standing around watching also began to puzzle about the question, but none of them could answer it either.

The professor said to the Kayseri man, "Now I shall ask you a question: What is the creature that has three legs?"

"I don't know," said the man from Kayseri, and he gave the professor one lira back and walked away pocketing the other nine.