

Story #412 (Tape #4, 1972)

Narrator: Necmi Okur

Location: Narlı Kuyu, Silifke, İçel, was site of the taping; Ark Arası was narrator's village, also in Silifke

Date: October, 1972

The Laz Fisherman Who Cheated God

A number of Laz fishermen went out on the Black Sea one day to fish. They had a very good catch and filled their boat with fish. All at once, however, the sea became rough and a storm came along. The sea rolled in big waves.

One of the Laz said, "Oh, God, if you stop this storm, I'll give you a fish." But the storm continued. "Oh, God, if you will stop this storm I shall give you two fishes." But the storm continued, and the number of fishes went up--three, four five. As the storm went on, growing worse all the time, the Laz finally said, "Oh, God, if you will only stop this storm, I'll give you the whole catch!"

The storm subsided, and at last they reached land safely. One of the other Laz fishermen said to the first one, "You were going to give all the fish to God. Why don't you do it?"

"Le, biz Lazık. (Boy, we are Laz)

Allaha attık bir kazık." (We really cheated God!) ¹

¹In some dialects oğlan (boy) becomes lan, len, or ulan, ülen; in a few areas, including the Laz area, it sometimes becomes simply le--just as Kız (girl) becomes shortened to gi. --Kazık atmak means to cheat or deceive. In its literal meaning it is more colorful and suggestive. Atmak means to throw; kazık means stake, peg, impalement. The expression can have this sense: we really shafted Allah!