

Story #535 (1969 Tape #12)

Narrator: Mehmet Tekçe, a green grocer, Manav

Location: Aliçerçi village, kaza of Bozkır, Province of Konya. This is Tekçe's home, but tale told at nearby village of Akça Pınar.

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The Two Lazes and the Hamsis¹

Once there were two Lazes who were fishing in the [Black] sea. When a storm arose, one said to the other, "Oh, Hurşit, what shall we do? Our ship will sink, and our children will be left orphans. What shall we do?"

The other said, "Hey, ~~Allah!~~^{Heaven!} Let me give you a hamsi, for which you should take us safely to the shore."

Nothing happened.

Later the same Laz said, "O Allah! Let me give you another hamsi to help us land safely on the shore." Still later, he called out for a third time, "Hey, my great Allah! Let me give you one more hamsi to help us land safely."

When his companion heard this, he said, "Stop! You have almost finished the hamsis!"

¹ The hamsi is a small fish, somewhat like a herring, that lives in the Black Sea. They are a staple food for the Laz people, who prepare them according to numerous recipes.