

Story #613

Narrator: Servet Bilir, M.D.Location: Narrator from Eskişehir; taped at AnkaraDate: Summer 1966Come to Your Daddy, ^{#613} Needle!Child of exile - [Figurative expression for a Laz]

One day a "child of exile"¹ was sitting by the seaside mending his clothes. After a short while he dropped his needle into the sea. He was quite upset by this accident. Opening his suitcase, he took out a large ^{needle -- upholstery type} upholstery needle, threaded it, and tied a knot in the end of the thread. Then he lowered it into the sea and started saying, "Come,² sonny, come! Come to your daddy!"

¹This is usually told as a Laz anecdote. The Lazs often forsook their overcrowded ill-provided-for Black Sea coast homes to find employment in Istanbul. Such a person may be called gurbet usagi, literally, exile youth. The term is also applied to refugees from the blood feuds that take place in a number a villages along the Black Sea and in villages of the Black Sea coastal range of mountains.

²This story is told in an eastern Turkish dialect. Gel, for come, is pronounced with an English soft G, like Jel, instead of the Standard Turkish hard G.