

Story 879 1964 Tape 2)

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in Giresun Province

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Ramazan the Albanian and His Ha-r-r-rd Name

There was once an illiterate Albanian named Ramazan. One day this Ramazan went to a seal shop to have a seal made with which he could sign his name. He said to the seal maker, "I am a large man, a strong man, and a hard man, and so you should make the seal accordingly."

When this Albanian returned the following day, the seal maker said, "Well, here it is."

"Well, read it," said the Albanian.

The seal maker read, "Ramazan."

"That is no good! That is not a hard name!"

The seal maker was at a loss as to what to do. But a grocer who overheard their conversation called Ramazan to him, "Come here! I can make a good seal for you. Leave that one there and come back in about half an hour."

When the Albanian returned, the grocer handed him the same seal.

"Well, read it," said Ramazan

The grocer looked at the ring and read, "R-r-r-r-r-r-ramazan!"

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"That's it! That's a good hard name!" said the Albanian.¹

¹ Any Albanian named Ramazan would almost certainly be of Turkish descent, either wholly or partially. This anecdote thus becomes more a dialect story than an ethnic story in any other sense.