

Story 881 (1964 Tape 2)

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Location: Görele, a kaza town
in Giresun Province

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The ¹Laz Sea Captain So Famous He Was Hailed Even in the Dark

*Middleton
- Jangent*
There was once a small freighter that carried grain from Rize to Terme.² One night they were making this trip on a dark, moonless night. Occasionally other small ships would pass them, but it was so dark that only the outlines of these vessels could be seen

The captain of the grain vessel was an old Laz named Hasan, who was a very proud man. On this particular night his crew decided to use his pride to pull his leg a bit. They hid in various parts of the ship, and when another ship would pass, they would call, in a muffled voice, "Ahoy, Hasan Captain! Greetings!" They made it sound as if the call came from the other ship. Or, when another ship would pass, one

¹ The Laz people constitute a large ethnic minority group in Turkey. They live mainly along the Black Sea coast, with their greatest numbers living on the eastern end of that coast. Their chief occupations are agricultural (raising tea, tobacco, and hazel nuts for export) and maritime (fishing, shipping, and ship building).

² Rize, near the eastern end of the Black Sea coast, is the provincial capital of Rize Province. Terme is about 180 miles west of Rize, along the Black Sea coast, a kaza town in Samsun Province.

Story 881

of the crew, "Hello, Hasan Captain! May Allah speed your voyage!"

When he heard these calls, the old captain thought that they must be coming from old nautical friends and acquaintances who had recognized him or his ship. Feeling very proud of this, he said to his crew, "Hear that! I am such a famous seaman that I am recognized all along this coast even in total darkness!"

Later another such call seemed to come across the water: "Good luck to you, O Hasan Captain!" The crew had a lot of fun carrying out this trick.