

Story 1214 (1990 Tape 8)

Narrator: Beyhan Kavasoğulları, 54

Location: Çeşme, kaza town in
İzmir Province

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Frugality of Black Sea Coast People

There was once a woman who was shaking out a rug over the edge of her balcony. You know how women shake rugs to get them clean. Well, the rug was really too heavy for this woman. While she was shaking it, she lost her balance and fell out of the balcony. Falling headfirst, she landed in one of several large garbage cans that stood beside the apartment house in which she lived. Only her legs were sticking out of the garbage can.

^{Laz} A resident of the Black Sea coast¹ came along and saw the woman's legs sticking out of the garbage can. "Oh! She seems almost brand new! In my hometown they would not have thrown her away but would still have been using her."

¹A resident of the Black Sea coast is known in Turkish as a Karadenizli, the term used here by the narrator. Although the Laz people make up only a fraction of the Black Sea coast residents, they are the butt of such noodlehead tales. Laz anecdotes are legion.