

Story 1285 (1989 Tape 13)

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The Clever Laz ^{All}

One day Temel,¹ a resident of the Black Sea coast, was flying in an airplane from Ankara to İstanbul. About halfway through the flight, the pilot announced that one of the plane's engines was not functioning properly and that it would be necessary to lighten the plane's load by throwing out some of the luggage. A window was opened, and the passengers threw out most of their luggage.

But the plane was still losing altitude, and so the captain announced that it would be necessary to have some of the passengers jump out to lighten the load further. A number of passengers jumped out.

Even this did not lighten the load enough to allow the plane to maintain its altitude. The captain therefore announced that it would be necessary to rip out and throw out the windows, the seats, and all of the other furnishings of the plane. The passengers were now hanging on tightly to

¹Temel is a name that any Turk might have, but there is a higher percentage of Lazes named Temel than there is of any other ethnic or regional group. Thus Temel is the name given to the stereotyped dull-witted Laz. The Temel of this tale is atypically clever.

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prevent their being blown out of the plane.

After a short while the captain announced that still more passengers would need to jump out. When Temel was told that it was his turn to jump out, he said, "I accept the decision that I should jump out, but I will do it only on the condition that you will applaud me by clapping your hands.

Everyone agreed to this, and when Temel was about to jump, they all let loose their holds and clapped their hands. But Temel continued to hang on tightly.