

Story 1306 (1988 Tape 8)

Narrator: Nuray Akbulut, high school student

Location: Akçaabat, kaza town of Trabzon Province

Date: October

The Death of Temel's<sup>1</sup> Cat

all One cold day in winter when it was snowing a little, Temel took his cat down to the edge of the Black Sea to give it a bath. As Temel was washing the cat, a friend of Temel went past and said, "Temel, don't do that, for you may kill the cat. This is not the time of year when you can bathe a cat!"

"But it is very dirty. I shall certainly bathe it."

Unable to persuade Temel, the friend moved along to wherever he was going. About an hour later when the friend was on his way home, he came upon Temel, who was now crying. "What is the matter, Temel?"

"Oh, my cat died."

"Didn't I tell you not to wash your cat in this cold weather?"

"It didn't die while I was bathing it. It died afterwards while I was wringing it out!"

<sup>1</sup>Temel (like Dursun) is a name given to so many Laz males that it automatically signals Laz to most Turkish audiences. Because Lazes are stereotyped as being stupid people, the name Temel may, by extension, be applied to any stupid person, whether or not he happens to be Laz.