

Story 1311 (1988 Tape 8)

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How Temel¹ Tricked a Steamship Company

Temel, who lived on the coast of the Black Sea, decided to go to İstanbul for a ten-day vacation. Upon being told that it would be cheaper for him to buy a round-trip ticket rather than two one-way tickets, Temel bought a ten-day round-trip ticket for the steamship that sails daily for İstanbul.

When he arrived in İstanbul, Temel went to visit all of his Laz friends who had moved to that city. About a month after his coming to that city, one of Temel's friends accidentally met him in Aksaray district of İstanbul. Surprised to see Temel, this friend asked, "What are you doing here, Temel? I thought that you had come here on a ten-day round-trip ticket."

Temel laughed in a quiet and guarded manner. "Sh-h-h!"

¹Temel (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.

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he said. "Don't ask me that, because I have played a trick on the steamship line."

"How did you do that?"

"I bought a ten-day round-trip ticket, but I have been hiding and keeping the ship waiting at the dock for me ever since the tenth day!"