

Story 1453 1992 Tape 5)

Narrator: Mukaddes Darwish

Location: Izmir, Izmir Province;
taped in Lubbock, Texas

Date: May 1992

Temel¹ the Builder

Temel was a builder with a very successful construction business. One day he went to his doctor for a routine physical examination. The doctor gave him a thorough examination made numerous tests related to all of his bodily functions

On the following day Temel returned to the doctor's office in order to learn the results of all this testing. The doctor reported the results to him. Among the many things that doctor told Temel were these remarks: "You have some liquid buildup in your abdominal cavity. You also have some buildup of calcium in your body and also some buildup of iron."

Temel the builder then asked, "Oh, doctor, are you telling me that my body is as strong as concrete?"

¹In the comic jokes about the stereotyped Laz dummer or fool, the male characters usually have one or another of five or six very common Laz names. Most frequently used is Temel, with Dursun in second place. Thus when either of these names occurs in a Turkish folktale, the audience knows at once that it is a Laz tale.