

Story 1460 1992 Tape 3)

Narrator: Leylā Özdemir, 25

Location: Kırklareli, capital of
Kırklareli Province

Date: May 1992

Cemal as Hanging Man

One morning when Temel¹ went outside of his house, he saw his neighbor Cemal hanging by the waist from a nearby tree. He ran to the tree, untied the rope around Cemal, and got him down. He then asked, "Oh, Cemal, what were you trying to do?"

"I was trying to hang myself."

"But, Cemal, I thought that when people hanged themselves, they put the rope around their necks," said Temel

"Well, that was what I did at first," answered Cemal, "but I discovered that I couldn't breathe very well that way."

¹In tales about the stereotyped Laz as dummer or fool, the male characters usually have one or another of five or six very common Laz names. Temel is the name used most often, with Dursun in second place. Thus if either of these names occurs in a folktale, the audience knows at once that it is a Laz tale.