

Story 1481 (1992 Tape 7)

Narrator: Ayten Angin

Location: Trabzon, Trabzon  
Province

Date: July 1992

Childbirth Problems of a Laz

One morning İsmail, who lived on the Black Sea coast, was late in arriving at work. İsmail apologized to his boss. He said, "I am very sorry about being so late in getting here to work. My wife had a very difficult delivery, and it that which caused me to be late."

His boss was a very understanding man and he said, in that case it is all right. Don't be concerned about it."

After about a week had passed, İsmail again reported to work late. He gave the same excuse again for the lateness of his arrival on the job. "My wife had a very long and hard delivery, and that was what caused me to be late in getting here for work."

This time, however, his boss was confused by what İsmail said. "İsmail, that was the excuse you gave last week. can your wife have a baby every week?"

İsmail started laughing and then he explained the situation to his boss. He said, "Oh, no, Effendi!<sup>1</sup> My wife did not have a baby either time. She is a midwife."

<sup>1</sup>A mild honorific, comparable to Sir, it usually follows a first name: Hasan Effendi. At one time it was used to show respect to distinguished people, but it has become so devaluated in the twentieth century that it now is used only for servants and children.