

Story 1578 (1987 Tape 3)

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Devrek kaza,  
Zonguldak Province

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A Laz<sup>1</sup> Commits Murder in Self-Defense

There was once a Laz who was very healthy during his younger years, but one day after he had become middle aged, he fell ill. After examining that Laz very carefully, the doctor gave him some directions which, he said, were to be followed very carefully.

"From now on," said the doctor, "you should drink no more alcohol. You should lose some weight, and so I want to stop eating as much as you have been. Furthermore, I want you to stop eating red meat. From now on, eat mainly green vegetables."

The Laz was quite upset by these restrictions which the doctor was placing on his diet. He did not like them at but at this point he decided not to respond in any way

The doctor then went on to add more restrictions. "Give

<sup>1</sup>The Laz people constitute one of the larger ethnic minorities in Turkey. Their exact origins are not definitely known. The largest concentrations of Lazes are in extreme northeastern Turkey along the Black Sea coast. Reputedly stupid, they are made fun of in numerous folk anecdotes about fools. The frequent success of Lazes who move to Istanbul belies the folk image.

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up smoking right away, because it is bad for your health. Reduce the amount of sex you have; in fact, it would be better if you stayed away from women completely." When the Laz heard these last two instructions, he could stand no more. Pulling out his pistol, he shot the doctor dead. As he was leaving the doctor's office, the Laz said to himself, "My God, if I hadn't killed him first, he would have killed me!"