

Story 1688 (1993 Tape 5)

Narrator: Sabit Uzun

Location: Trabzon, Trabzon  
Province (at bakery  
which served as  
front for call-girl  
appointments)

Date: June 1993

Two Laz<sup>1</sup> Parachutists and the Prophetic Dream

One day Temel<sup>2</sup> and his friend İdris decided to go skydiving. As the airplane was taking them up to the required altitude for skydiving, Temel told his friend about a dream he had had the night before. He said, "İdris, last night in a dream I saw and spoke with my late grandmother. She told me that the next time you jumped from a plane, your parachute would not open. Perhaps you should not jump again

İdris just laughed at Temel's dream. He did not take at all seriously the warning he had been given.

When the plane had reached the correct altitude, both Temel and İdris jumped. Temel jumped first, and his para-

<sup>1</sup>The Laz people constitute a large ethnic minority that lives principally in Rize and Trabzon provinces in extreme northeastern Turkey. Lazes are stereotyped as being stupid or inept, though in fact they are no different from anyone else.

<sup>2</sup>Temel is a very popular Laz male name--even more so in folktales than in real life. For folk audiences the name Temel is automatically associated with Laz, though the name is sometimes used by other Turks. Dursun, İdris, and Hızır are also popular male names among Lazes.

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chute opened almost immediately. Then İdris jumped, but parachute failed to open.

When İdris passed him at great speed, Temel called "İdris, where are you going so fast?"

İdris answered, "I am going to kiss the hands of your grandmother!"