Story 1702 (1993 Tape 5)  
Narrator: Sabit Uzun  
Location: Trabzon, Trabzon Province (at bakery that was front for arrangement of call-girl appointments)  
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Collected by Jo Ann Conrad  

The Roomy Home of Temel's Family

One day a teacher was talking with his class about living conditions in their area. He asked all of the students about the homes in which they lived. When it was Temel's turn to be questioned, the teacher asked, "Temel, how many brothers and sisters do you have?"

Temel answered, "I have five."

The teacher then asked, "Is there enough room for everyone in your house?"

"Yes," said Temel. "In fact, all of us children have separate rooms and there are extra rooms to spare. That is why it is so strange that our parents both sleep in the same room.

Temel is the most popular male name among the Laz people, a large ethnic minority living principally in Rize and Trabzon provinces in extreme northeastern Turkey. Temel is such a common name in that region that in folktales it is virtually a synonym for Laz. The Lazens are stereotyped as being stupid or inept, though in fact they are no different from other people.