

Story 1704 (1993 Tape 6)

Narrator: Muammer İşkent,
reporter for
newspaper Türksesi
(Voice of Turkey)

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Province

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Collected by Jo Ann Conrad

The Laz¹ Who Came in from the Storm

Temel² once went to the home of Cemal³ to visit for an hour or two. While he was there, however, a violent thunderstorm arose, and with it there was very heavy rain. Cemal said, "Oh, Temel, this storm may be dangerous. Don't try to return to your own home today but spend the night here with me and my family.

"All right," Temel answered, but soon after that, Temel disappeared.

¹The Laz people are an ethnic minority living principally in Rize and Trabzon provinces in extreme north-eastern Turkey. They are stereotyped as being stupid or inept, but in fact they are no different from other people.

²Temel is by far the most popular Laz male name. It is so popular that it is often perceived as a synonym for Laz, though the name is sometimes used by other Turkish people.

³Cemal is the Laz pronunciation of Kemal. There are enough Laz variations from standard Turkish pronunciation to constitute what may be called a Laz dialect.

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After a short while there was a knock on Cemal's door. When Cemal opened the door, he was surprised to see Temel, completely soaked by the rain, standing before it. Annoyed, Cemal said, "What are you doing out in this storm, Temel? I thought that you were going to spend the night here with us.

"Yes, I shall indeed spend the night with you," answered Temel. "I just ran home to get my pajamas."