

Story 1718 (1993 Tape 3)

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Location: Olucak village,  
Süşehri kaza,  
Sivas Province

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A Laz<sup>1</sup> and a Kayseri Man<sup>2</sup> Cheat Each Other

A Laz once decided to make some counterfeit money. He printed a number of 15-lira notes, although there is no such monetary unit in Turkey.

Very pleased with his counterfeit bills, he decided to spend some of them. He went to Kayseri, entered a shop and said to the shop owner, "I want to buy some things here in Kayseri, but first I want to exchange this 15-lira note for some smaller and more convenient bills."

The Kayseri merchant agreed to this. Taking the 15-lira note, he handed the Laz two 7.5-lira notes.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Although there is a small ethnic minority of Lazi who live along the Black Sea coast (in the most northerly provinces of Giresun, Trabzon, Rize, and Artvin), the term Laz has come to designate any resident of the southern shore of the Black Sea, not just the Lazi. All Lazes are unjustifiably stereotyped as being stupid or inept.

<sup>2</sup>Just as the Laz are unjustifiably stereotyped as being stupid, residents of Kayseri are reputedly very clever.

<sup>3</sup>Also, of course, a nonexistent monetary denomination