

Story 1719 (1993 Tape 3)

Narrator: İhsan Işık

Location: Olucak village,  
Suşehri kaza,  
Sivas Province

Date: December 15, 1993

Temel<sup>1</sup> and Sex Status

One day Temel was talking with some friends about finding a girlfriend. They said to him, "Finding a girlfriend here in Trabzon is difficult, but it is very easy to find one in İstanbul. All you have to do there is go to any bar and you can find one.

Soon after Temel heard this, he went to İstanbul. Almost as soon as he arrived in that city, he went to a bar. Seeing a very pretty girl there, Temel approached her and said, "I should be pleased to buy you a drink.

The girl answered, "Thank you, but I am not that kind of girl." Ignoring her remark, Temel insisted on buying her a drink. But the girl repeated, "I am not that kind of girl. Now please leave me alone!"

"Why?" asked Temel.

<sup>1</sup>Temel seems to be the most popular male name among the Lazes. The term Laz has come to designate any resident of the Turkish Black Sea coast, including an ethnic minority known as the Lazı, who live mainly in the most northeasterly provinces of Giresun, Trabzon, Rize, and Artvin. Residents of the southern shore of the Black Sea are generally (and unjustifiably) stereotyped as being stupid or inept.

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"Because I am a lesbian," said the girl.

"What is that?" asked Temel.

"It means that I like girls."

"Oh-h-h!" said Temel, "then I must also be a lesbian because I too like girls."