

Story 1752 (1994 Tape 3)

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Location: Kırmacı village,
Osmaniye kaza,
Adana Province

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Two Laz¹ Hunters Drag Home a Deer

Temel and Dursun² once went deer hunting together. Partway through the day they shot a large deer. It was so large, in fact, that they could not carry it. The only way that they could get it home was to drag it. Both men therefore grabbed the tail of the deer and started to drag the carcass of the animal.

After they had been dragging the deer for a while with quite some difficulty, they were given some advice by a passerby. That man said to Temel and Dursun, "If you grabbed the deer by the horns and dragged it, you would find your work much easier than dragging it by the tail."

¹The word Laz originally referred to an ethnic minority living on the extreme eastern end of the Black Sea coast. In more recent times the word has come to mean any resident of the Turkish Black Sea coast. The Lazes are stereotyped as being stupid or inept. Like many other stereotypes, this one is unjustifiable.

²Temel is the most popular name for Laz males in Turkish folktales. For many, in fact, Temel is almost a synonym for Laz. Dursun is also a name commonly assigned to Laz characters, as are Cemal, İdris, and Hızır.

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Thanking the passerby for his advice, Temel and Dursun decided to do as he had suggested. They moved along much faster after that, and they dragged the deer a very great distance. When they stopped for a moment to rest, however, Dursun said, "Temel, I think it really is easier to drag this deer by its horns, but I have a feeling that we are getting farther and farther away from home."