

Story 1763 (1994 Tape 4)

Narrator: Tuğba Günışık, 14

Location: İstanbul, capital  
of İstanbul  
Province

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Limited Laz<sup>1</sup> Privacy

Temel married a girl named Safinaz. One day, shortly after their wedding, Safinaz was changing her clothes in the bedroom. Suddenly Temel walked into the room without having given any notice that he was coming. This startled Safinaz, and she said, "Next time, do not enter this room without having first knocked on the door."

Temel answered, "Don't worry about that. I do not come in without first having looked through the keyhole."

<sup>1</sup>The word Laz referred originally to an ethnic minority living primarily in Trabzon and Rize provinces, along the extreme eastern part of the Turkish Black Sea coast. More recently the word has come to be applied to any resident of the entire Turkish Black Sea coast. In the Turkish oral tradition Laz people are stereotyped as being stupid or inept. This stereotype (like most others) is unjustifiable, for Lazes are, of course, much like other people.