

Story 1899 (1995 Tape 4)

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The Laz¹ and Female Anatomy

One day Temel² was walking down one of the main streets of Istanbul. There was a girl riding on a bicycle coming toward him. When that girl got closer to Temel, her foot slipped off one of the bicycle pedals, and the girl fell to the pavement. She lay for a few seconds all sprawled out on the street. When she realized that her skirt had come open and exposed her private parts, she was very embarrassed. Pulling her clothes together, the girl tried to distract Temel from her humiliating situation. She asked, "Did you notice my reflex then?"

¹The 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.

²In tales about the stereotyped Laz as dummer or fool the male characters usually have one or another of five or six very common Laz names. Temel is the name used most often, with Dursun in second place. Thus if either of these names occurs in a folktale, the audience knows at once that it is a Laz tale. İdris and Hızır are also popular Laz names.

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Temel answered, "Aha, Istanbul is it called reflex?"