

Story 1921 (1992 Tape 3)

Narrator: Leylâ Özdemir, 25

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No Joking About Cemal<sup>1</sup>

Among his many friends Cemal had always been known as a very strong man. One day, however, as he was walking through the marketplace of Babayarı in Rize, someone slapped him hard on the back. In fact, Cemal was struck so hard that he saw stars before his eyes

When Cemal regained consciousness, he looked at the man who had slapped him, and his look was full of anger. But when he realized that his opponent was a huge man, almost twice his own size, Cemal was uncertain about what to do. He said to the big man, "Tell me-- were you serious or joking when you slapped me?"

The big man answered, with a grin on his face, "I was serious. What are you going to do about it?"

Cemal answered, "Well, since you were serious, I shall do nothing about it, but I do not tolerate having jokes played on

<sup>1</sup>The protagonist's real name is Kemal, but the residents of the Black Sea coast pronounce it Jemal, which in Turkish is spelled Cemal.