

Story 1922 (1992 Tape 3)

Narrator: Leylâ Özdemir, 25

Location: Kırklareli, capital of  
Kırklareli Province

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Temel<sup>1</sup> Deceives a Bully

One day a large and powerful man went to a coffeehouse. He was a very unpleasant person. To enter the coffeehouse, he did not open the door. Instead, he kicked it in. Once inside, he immediately shouted loudly, "Which of you is Hasan?" When no one responded to this question, he yelled even more loudly, "Whoever is Hasan should come forward at once. Otherwise, I know what I shall do!"

This time Temel, who had been reading a newspaper, came forward and said, "I am Hasan. So what?"

Hearing that, the big man grabbed Temel and beat him badly. Then the bully left the coffeehouse.

Temel's friends tended to his injuries and then helped him to get back on his feet. Still amazed at what had happened, one of those friends asked, "Isn't your name Temel?"

"Of course it is."

"Then why did you say that your name was Hasan?"

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<sup>1</sup>Temel (like Dursun) is a name given to so many Laz males that it automatically signals Laz to most Turkish audiences. Because Lazes are stereotyped as being stupid people, the name Temel may, by extension, be applied to any stupid person, whether or not he happens to be Laz.

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“Well, did not like the way that man was behaving, and I  
tricked him