

Story 1940 1995 Tape 4)

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ince

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Laz<sup>1</sup> Business Administration

One day Temel<sup>2</sup> came home from work filled with joy. He said to his wife, "My dear wife, today I was made vice president of the company for which I work. Let us go out and celebrate this occasion.

But his wife was not very much impressed by this news. She said, "It is not really an important matter. Wherever you may go nowadays, you can always find a number of vice presidents. Even the large food store on the next corner has several vice presidents. There is one vice president who is in charge of nothing but

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

<sup>2</sup>In tales about the stereotyped Laz as numskull 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 story. The name Temel is

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the bagging of groceries that customers buy."

"Oh, no," answered Temel. "That is impossible! I shall telephone that store and prove to you that you are mistaken about the matter

He called the store and asked, "May I please speak to the vice president responsible for the bagging of customers' purchases?"

The person at the store who answered the phone said, "Do you wish to speak to the vice president in charge of paper bagging or the one in charge of plastic bagging?"

often extended by Turks to tag anyone as dummer, whether he happens to be a Laz or not.