

Story 1697 (1993 Tape 5)

Narrator: Sabit Uzun

Location: Trabzon, Trabzon
Province (at bakery
that was a front
for arrangement of
call-girl appoint-
ments)

Date: June 1993

Collected by Jo Ann Conrad

The Laz¹ Biologist and the Deaf Flea

day a Laz biology professor announced to his class that they were going to witness an important scientific experiment that day. The professor placed on a laboratory table a flea. He then said, "Jump!" Of course the flea jumped.

professor then removed one of the flea's legs. Again he said, "Jump!" but this time the flea did not move at all. "And what have we discovered from this experiment, students?" asked the professor. "We have discovered that when a flea is deprived of a leg, it loses its hearing.

¹The Laz people are an ethnic minority who live principally in Rize and Trabzon provinces in extreme north-eastern Turkey. They are stereotyped as being stupid or inept, but in fact they are no different from other people.