

Story 1448 (1992 Tape 5)

Narrator: Mukaddes Darwish

Location: İzmir, İzmir Province;
taped at Lubbock, Texas

Date: May 1992

Temel's¹ Lengthy Silence

Temel and his wife had been married for some time, but they were not getting along very well with each other. As a result of this difficulty, they finally decided to get a divorce.

One day Temel took his petition for divorce to a judge. The judge read through the petition carefully, and then he spoke to Temel about it. He said, "Son, I accept your petition for a divorce, but I am puzzled by one of the statements that you make in it."

"What is that, Your Honor?" asked Temel

"Well, at one point you make a declaration that you have not spoken a single word to your wife for a whole year. Why is that so?"

"I did not want to interrupt my wife, Your Honor.

¹In the comic jokes about the stereotyped Laz dummer or fool, the male characters usually have one or another of five or six common Laz names. The most frequently used of these is Temel, with Dursun in second place. Thus in Turkish folktales when either of those names appears, the audience knows at once that the narrative is going to be about one or more Laz people.