

Story 1682 (1993 Tape 5)

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Two Lazes¹ Discover the Danger of Eating Bananas

There were once two Lazes named Dursun and Temel² who went on a trip in an automobile. Before they left, they bought some bananas to take along with them. Neither of them had ever seen bananas before, but they were curious about what this new fruit was like

As Temel was driving along, Dursun decided to find out what a banana tasted like. He peeled the banana and took a bite. At that very moment the car entered a dark tunnel. Dursun shouted, "Beware, Temel! Don't eat any of these bananas. I just ate one, and it has made me blind."

¹The Laz people constitute an ethnic minority who live principally in extreme northeastern Turkey in the Rize and Trabzon provinces. They are allegedly stupid or inept, but this is just a stereotype; they are no different from others. There are endless comic anecdotes told about this stereotype.

²Temel is the most popular name among the Lazes. Although other Turks are also called Temel, the name when used in folktales automatically signals Laz. Dursun is the second most-popular name for the male Laz in folktales.