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Five Lazes¹ Milk a Cow

Five Lazes once decided to buy a milk cow. They went to the marketplace, and after the usual haggling over any sale, they bought a very good cow. None of these Lazes was a farmer and so after they got the cow to the home of one of them, they talked about how to milk their cow.

Finally, the smartest of the five presented his plan. He said to the others, "Each of you hold one of the cow's legs firmly." After his friends had done this, the smartest Laz took hold of two of the cow's udders and said, "Now move the cow up and down!"

¹The Laz people constitute one of the larger ethnic minorities in Turkey. Their exact origins are not definitely known. The largest concentrations of Lazes are in extreme north-eastern Turkey along the Black Sea coast. Reputedly stupid, they are made fun of in numerous folk anecdotes about fools. The frequent success of Lazes who move to Istanbul belies the folk image.