

Story 1482 (1992 Tape 7)

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Province

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The Laz and the Instant Bridge

There was a man from the Black Sea coast who worked in Istanbul as a tour guide. One day he was showing parts of the city to an American tourist. The American asked him questions about each one of the sites that they visited, and among these questions there was one that he repeated at each site: "How long did it take to build this?" When the Laz guide provided the answer for this question, the American always said, "Oho! If this had been built in my country, the construction would have taken far less time. We would have built it much rapidly.

Toward the end of their tour they came to the bridge which had been recently completed across the Bosphorus. By that time the Laz was disturbed about the attitude of the American tourist. As they approached the bridge, the American asked, as usual, "How long did it take to build that bridge?"

With a look of astonishment on his face, the Laz answered, "Oh, I don't know, sir. Last night when I passed this place it wasn't there!"