

Story 2154 (Dictated)

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Location: Karaağaç village, Şav-
şat kaza, Artvin, Prov-
ince

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The Impassive Laz¹ Passenger

There were many passengers aboard a large airliner. After the flight had been in the air for half an hour, the pilot announced that the plane was experiencing engine trouble. He indicated that they might have to make a forced landing.

Most of the passengers began to pray and to cry. There was a Laz aboard, however, who did not seem disturbed. He sat quietly, showing no emotion at

The seatmate of that Laz turned to him, saying, "How can you remain so calm when all of the other passengers are praying and weeping?"

The Laz asked, "Does this plane belong to your father or some other member of your family? Is it the property of one of your relatives? If not, then why are you so upset?"

¹The term Laz originally referred to an ethnic group which lived on the extreme eastern end of the Turkish Black Sea coast, largely in Rize and Trabzon provinces. In recent times, however, Laz has come to designate any Turkish resident of the entire Turkish Black Sea coast. The Laz is often stereotyped as being stupid or inept, but the stereotype, like many others, has little validity. Laz are, in fact, similar to other people.