

Story 1713 (1993 Tape 6)

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reporter for  
Türkesi

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Province

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The Love of Temel<sup>1</sup> in Life and Death

There was a man named Temel who lived in a village not far from here. He became ill. The illness got more and more serious until he finally died

One day his wife went to his grave. She said, "Oh, my Temel, you were such a good man. Now that you have gone, I miss you very much." As she was speaking in this way, a shrub rubbed against her foot. She said, "Ah, Temel, even though you are dead, you are as mischievous as ever."

<sup>1</sup>Temel seems to be the most common male name among the Laz people. It certainly is the most frequent male name found in folktales about the Laz. It is, in fact, so common that it is for many Turks virtually a synonym for Laz. The word Laz refers to residents of the Turkish Black Sea coast. Some of them in the easternmost provinces of Giresun, Trabzon, Rize, and Artvin belong to an ethnic minority known as Lazi. Laz people are stereotyped as being stupid or inept, but in the tales which they tell about themselves they are often pictured as being clever.