

Story 1714 (1993 Tape 6)

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Türkesi

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Province

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Collected by Jo Ann Conrad

A Laz¹ Returns a Clerk's Pretence

One day a Laz went to the bus terminal to buy a bus ticket. He went to the window and asked the clerk there a ticket. The clerk was reading a newspaper, and he did not even look up at the Laz. He just said, "Go and in line!"

The Laz looked to his right and looked to his left, he could see no line. In fact, there was no one else there. Going to the window again, he said to the clerk, "Brother, I need a ticket."

The clerk again said to him, "Get in line!"

¹The 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 the 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.

Story 1714

Laz lost his patience and punched the clerk
He struck the clerk so hard that the man fell from his
chair to the floor. After he came to himself again, the
clerk stood up and asked, "Who punched me?"

Laz looked to his right and looked to his left.
Then he said, "Brother, how can I tell who it was in this
crowd of people who punched you?"