

ALPAY ULKU
Compensation

What did the twin towers stand for?

This is a week after 9/11, at the Middle Eastern grocery store. The proprietor tenses. *I don't know.*

The cop is standing at the counter. He drops a bag of cashews on the scale, his hand on the bag, weighing it down. He asks again. *You don't know what the twin towers stood for?*

I don't know.

It is silent for a good long while. The proprietor looks away. *No charge for the cashews.*

That must have been the answer, the cop is pleased. That bag of cashews is something to behold.