Variant of Story #18

**The Keloğlan in the Padişah's Household**

The sons of the padişah were hunting one day when they saw a deer in the forest. They followed this deer, but it finally disappeared into a well. The youngest son, who was a Keloğlan, jumped down the well after the deer, and when he landed at the bottom, he looked around and saw there a giant sitting asleep. Near the giant there were three beautiful girls, each more beautiful than the next [biri birinden daha güzel].

The girls told him that the village nearby drew its water from this well in which the giant lived. To be allowed to take water from his well, the giant required that every day he be given a beautiful girl.

Upon hearing this, Keloğlan pulled out his sword and began to strike the sleeping giant. When he thought that the giant was dead, the giant opened his eyes and said, "Strike once more!" But Keloğlan knew that if he struck again, the giant would be fully restored to life once more, and so he put his sword away.

The other sons of the padişah were waiting for their youngest brother at the entrance to the well. They let a rope down the well to let him climb up. First he let two of the girls climb to the top, and then he told the youngest, with whom he was falling in love, to climb up next. But she said, "You climb first and then pull me up, for if I go up without you, your brothers may steal me and leave you here." But he insisted that she go ahead of him, and when she arrived at the top, it happened as his two older brothers had warned her. She was abandoned in the well -- by her rescuers and her own brothers. The giant was also abandoned. She said that when it was Keloğlan's turn to climb up, one of the brothers cut the rope, and he fell back down the well, this time to a ledge seven fathoms lower than the one on which he had found the giant and the three girls.

**Story #19**

(Tape 10)

1941-1942

Location: Çavundur

Date: December 1961

Narrator: Hatice Demir, lady 25 years old
There he saw a large bird, a hababoglu bird, sitting on a large nest in which there was a snake. As soon as a young bird would hatch out from an egg, the snake would eat this bird. The young man killed the snake with his sword, and in gratitude the bird said to him, "Ask from me, oh gallant man, whatever you wish."

"I wish to be taken back up to the earth again," said Keloglan.

"Well," said the bird, "you will have to provide me with 40 kilos of meat and 40 skins of water, and when I say 'Luk!' you will feed me meat, and when I saw 'Loop!' you will give me water to drink."

Keloglan agreed to this, and placing 40 kilos of meat and 40 skins of water on the bird's back, he climbed on himself. The bird flew upward for a long time, and whenever it called "Luk!" Keloglan gave it a piece of meat, and whenever it called "Loop!" he gave it some water to drink. But when they were getting near the surface, the meat was all gone, and so when the bird said "Luk!" again, Keloglan cut a piece of flesh from his leg and gave it to the bird. When he reached the surface, Keloglan thanked the bird and started to walk away, but he limped because his leg was wounded. The bird saw this and said, "I did not eat the piece of meat which you gave me last, for I knew it was human flesh. I kept it under my tongue." The bird took the piece of Keloglan's leg from its mouth and pressed it back on his leg and it grew there again.

Keloglan was afraid to go home now, and so he got a job as an apprentice to a goldsmith. The youngest girl whom he had found in the well was now engaged, against her wishes, to be married to Keloglan's father, the padişah. To delay the wedding, she set a condition for her marriage. "I shall marry you if you will bring me a golden plate on which stands a golden rooster eating golden corn," she said to the young man.
padişah.

The padişah ordered his servants to search the land for an artist who could make such a wonderful object. It was reported to him that there was only one craftsman who could make such a thing, and he was an apprentice to a certain goldsmith. The padişah ordered him to make the golden plate with the golden rooster eating golden corn. It was finished and delivered to the palace in due time, and everyone marveled at this artwork. When the girl saw the beautiful object, she saw reflected in it the image of Keloğlan, and she knew then that he was still alive and had escaped from the well of the giant.

The padişah now set the date for the wedding, but the girl was even more determined to delay the ceremony, for she now knew that Keloğlan might come for her. She set another condition: "I want a gown that is so fine that it would take forty tailors forty days to make it." And so the padişah's servants searched for a tailor who could make such a gown. In the meantime Keloğlan had taken several other jobs, for he was unhappy that he had lost the girl. He became apprentice to a tailor, and when he heard about the gown that the padişah had ordered, he suggested to his master that they make this gown. "What do you think you are?" his master asked him. "How are you going to make this dress for the girl that the padişah is to marry when no other tailor dares to attempt it?"

"Don't worry, Master," answered Keloğlan, "I shall make it." Keloğlan accepted the job and made the dress and delivered it to the palace. When the girl looked at the craftsmanship of Keloğlan, she again saw the image of his face in the work, and so she decided to try again to delay the wedding once more.
This time she said to the padişah, "There is one thing more I must have before I shall marry you. I want the fastest horse in all the land. The padişah had many horses brought for her to examine, but she rejected them all. This went on for some time, and the padişah was beginning to become angry with the girl for delaying the marriage. In the meantime, Keloğlan had left the tailor shop and had taken several other jobs. At last he became a horse dealer."

One day Keloğlan was going past the palace with a pack of horses. The girl looked out the window of the palace and saw a great stallion among the horses in the pack, and she told the padişah, "There is the horse that I want!" When they tried to catch the horse, however, he ran away, and none of the servants were able to catch him. "I shall catch him myself," said the girl, "if you will saddle me a fine horse." She brought her a fine horse all saddled, and she started to chase the large stallion. But when she approached the pack, she saw Keloğlan, and they recognized each other immediately. They both rode off together before anyone could stop them, and when they were a safe distance from the palace, they gathered an army to fight the padişah. They returned in a short time and defeated the padişah's guards, and then they killed the padişah, Keloğlan's father. They also killed Keloğlan's elder brothers, and Keloğlan had the two older girls that he rescued from the giant married to two of his friends. He married the youngest girl himself and settled in the palace where he and his wife lived happily all their lives.