

Story #21 (Tape #25)  
1961-1962

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Location: Karahamzalı, Balâ kaza, Province of Ankara

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The Kelođlan and the Kōse

sons -- three

Anger bargain --  
part of who become  
angry to  
forf sit skin  
from back

A man had three sons. The eldest son became a hired man on the farm of a kōse. Part of the agreement between them was that neither the employer nor his worker was to become angry with the other, no matter what happened. If either lost his temper over something that the other did, the angry man was to forfeit enough skin from his back to make the other a pair of sandals [çarıklar].

Eldest son -- breaks  
anger bargain  
and forfeits  
skin  
back

Right from the beginning, the kōse teased the boy in order to make him lose his temper, for he was a very mean kōse. He soon succeeded in his purpose, and took from the young man's back enough skin for a pair of sandals.

Older son -- oldest  
Same as above

The young man quit the job in his anger, and his next-oldest brother accepted it. The terms were the same, and the result was the same. The kōse annoyed the second brother day after day until he too finally lost his temper and had to forfeit a large piece of skin from his back. Finally, the youngest

Middle son --  
Same as above  
m -- middle  
Same as above

brother, Kelođlan, accepted the job after both his older brothers had lost skin from their backs and had quit the job on the farm. The Kelođlan and the Kōse agreed to the same terms: whichever lost his temper would provide the hide for a pair of sandals.

On the first day of his work on the farm, the kōse said to him, "You will do some plowing today. Take these oxen and this hound and go to that big field. Plow wherever this hound lies down." So the Kelođlan went to the field with the oxen and the hound, and he spent a long while following the hound around the field. Finally, the hound climbed up on a rocky slope and lay there to sleep. The Kelođlan went up to where the hound lay and he kicked the dog to death. Then he went back to the kōse without having

Kelođlan - kills dog of kōse -- in vain attempt  
to anger Kōse

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done any plowing at all. He explained to the köse what had happened, and he asked him, "Are you angry with me?"

The köse replied, "Oh, no, of course not!"

The young man put the oxen in the stable and went back to the köse to <sup>take</sup> take -- to <sup>take oxen to</sup> receive his next orders. This time the köse said, "Take the oxen to the <sup>fountain -- after</sup> fountain to water them, but lead them out of the stable through the little <sup>leading than</sup> window on the back wall." After receiving this order, the kelođlan went to <sup>through small</sup> the stable and he cut the heads off the oxen and threw these through the <sup>window in barn</sup> window at the back of the building. He took these heads to the fountain <sup>Kelođlan --</sup> where he dipped them in the watering trough, whistling all the while they <sup>decapitated</sup> were there. [NOTE: It is a general belief in Turkey among the peasants that <sup>Köse's oxen --</sup> farm animals can be encouraged to drink by whistling. Whenever cows, horses, <sup>effort to</sup> or donkeys are watered, their drinking is accompanied by constant whistling.] <sup>anger</sup> Köse.  
 The young man whistled for them while they were drinking, just as if they <sup>Kelođlan -- take</sup> had been alive. Then he took the heads of the oxen out of the trough and <sup>heads of oxen</sup> brought them back to the stable, where he poured a bagful of hay before <sup>to fountain to</sup> them. Afterwards, he went back to the köse, told him he had watered the oxen, <sup>water them.</sup> and invited him to come to the stable to see them. When the köse entered <sup>Kelođlan -- place</sup> the stable, he was astonished at what he saw. He asked the kelođlan, "What <sup>hay before</sup> did you do, man?" <sup>decapitated</sup> heads of oxen

"Well," said the kelođlan, "you asked me to take the oxen through the window to the fountain and there water them. This is what I did. Are you angry with me for what I have done?"

"No, no--nothing of the sort," answered the köse.

The next day the köse asked the young man to take a leg of one of the slaughtered oxen to the home of one of his daughters who lived in the neighbor-

hood. When the young man appeared at her front door carrying the huge she became very worried, because she feared that her father had lost an ox, and she began to cry. The keloğlan knocked her down with the leg of the ox and in doing so killed her. When he went back to the köse, he explained this to him and asked him, "Are you cross with me?"

*Keloğlan -- kills daughter of köse -- in vain attempt to engage him*

"No, no--nothing of the sort," said the köse.

The next day there was a wedding in the village and the köse was invited. Before he went, he asked the young man to watch the door of the house to see that nobody broke into it. But a short while after he had gone, the young man pulled the door off its hinges, strapped it to his back, and went to the wedding himself. When the köse saw the young man with a door on his back, he was amazed. He asked the keloğlan, "What is this?"

"Well, don't you remember? You asked me to take care of the door so I have brought it with me, lest thieves steal it. Don't say that you are angry with me, Master."

*Keloğlan -- strap door to back and carries it with him everywhere -- when told to guard front door*

"No, no, my son. I am not angry with you." But in fact, the köse was seriously concerned by now. He said to his wife, "This young man is going to kill me sooner or later. Let us run away before he does so. Bake a bagful of çörek [a pastry kneaded with butter, ground nuts and yeast] and let us escape secretly tonight."

But the young man had overheard their conversation, and he thus discovered the köse's plans. He got into the bag which the wife had placed by the oven for the çörek and hid himself in the bottom. The bag was then filled with the freshly baked pastry and loaded on a cart. The köse and his wife departed quietly at midnight. After the cart had gone for some distance, the keloğlan had to urinate, and he couldn't wait any longer. When the köse noticed the

*Door -- torn from hinges and carried elsewhere he goes by here told to guard door*

*Köse -- and wife -- attempt to flee from Keloğlan*

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wet spot in the cart, he said to his wife, "You must have put too much butter in those çöreks. It is oozing out

"Well, of course, I did. I did not want to leave any of the butter for that keloğlan," she said.

A little farther on they were beset by a number of fierce dogs which surrounded their cart and barked loudly at them. Quite frightened by these keloğlan -- drive off dogs which beset Köse dogs, the köse said, "Now I wish the keloğlan were here, because he would protect us from these beasts."

Overhearing this, the keloğlan cried out, "I am here, Uncle Köse." They helped him out of the bag in which he had been hiding, and he drove off the dogs in no time. wife -- of Köse thrown in river and drowned

After getting rid of the dogs, they drove to the bank of a river where they decided to spend the night. The köse and his wife planned to make the keloğlan's bed very close to the edge of the river bank, so that they could later roll him, bed and all, into the river. When they had all gone to bed, keloğlan slept for a short while, and then he got up. He picked up the köse's wife and put her in his own bed, and then he went and lay down beside the köse himself. He shook the köse's arm and, imitating the voice of the köse's wife, said, "Come on. Get up. It is time to throw that keloğlan into the water." Half asleep, the köse got up, and the two of them picked up the keloğlan's bed and threw it into the river with the köse's wife in it. It was only after his wife was lost in the waters of the river that the köse realized what had actually happened. The keloğlan asked the köse, "Well, are you angry with me?" keloğlan -- has wife of Köse thrown into river and drowned -- in vain effort to anger Köse

"No, no," answered the köse.

The keloğlan left the köse and went to a village where he found a shepherd to whom he said, "They are running after me because I refused to marry the Köse -- wife of -- thrown into river and drowned -- by Köse (unwittingly) and keloğlan (deliberately)"

Keloğlan -- escapes pursuers -- by persuading shepherd to exchange clothes with him 63

daughter of the padişah. If you put on my clothes and let me wear your shepherd's clothes and your heavy felt coat, [the very heavy felt coat is a distinctive feature of the shepherd's attire; it is both coat and sleeping bag into which he huddles on cold, rainy, and snowy days], they may catch you and force you to marry her." The shepherd agreed to this and so they changed clothes.

Shortly after this the köse arrived on the scene with a couple of men whom he had hired to catch and punish the keloğlan. The three of them saw the shepherd and thought it was the keloğlan. They beat the shepherd and threw him into the river. Soon after this, they came upon the keloğlan in the shepherd's clothes. They were amazed to see him and even more amazed to see him with a large flock of sheep. The köse said to him, "Where did you get all the sheep?" Keloğlan -- pretends his flock of sheep was caught in river -- in order to trick enemies into drowning selves trying to catch similar flock in river

"Well," said the keloğlan, "I found this flock where you dumped me in the river. If you would throw your men into the river, they could each get forty sheep in this same way."

Upon hearing this, the köse threw his men, one after the other, into the river. As they were drowning, they made a gurgling noise in their throats that sounded like "Kirk! Kirk! Kirk!" [this is the Turkish word for forty].

The keloğlan said to the köse, "You see, your friends say that there are forty. Why don't you help them pull the sheep out of the water?" Then all three of them were drowned, and the keloğlan happily drove away his flock of sheep.

Trickster -- same as above

Sheep -- in the river (or sea) -- allegation of tricks enemies to drown selves in pursuit of such a flock