

Story #66 (Tape 5,
1961-1962

Narrator: Suzan Koraltürk
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in Ankara
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(Ayşe Abla's dressmaker)

#66
How Keloğlan Came to Marry the Padisah's Daughter

Padisah -- daughter of
Daughter -- ot padisah

Teknik e

Once there was and once there wasn't, in the old days, when the sieve was in the straw and when the camel was the town crier and I was rocking my father's cradle, at such a time there was a Keloğlan.

brothers
three
when

This Keloğlan had two older brothers who always looked down on him and ordered him about. "Keloğlan, do this," they would say, and, "Keloğlan, do that." "Carry some water," one would order him. "Now carry the horses," the other would command. Keloğlan never objected to this treatment, and he always did just as he was ordered.

Amel.
+
ot

One day the brothers read an announcement in a ^{newspaper} paper¹ saying that the ^{newspaper} padisah's daughter would marry the man who could prove himself most ingenious in accomplishing the tasks she prescribed. The brothers were excited about this announcement, and when the day came for the girl to judge the ingenuity of her suitors, they decided to attend the celebration, and so they ordered Keloğlan to have their horses ready.

After saddling their horses, Keloğlan asked, "May I come with you, too?" "What would you do there?" they asked him as they rode away.

But Keloğlan decided to go anyway. He took from his pocket three hairs which had been given to him by a saint. He had been told that if he struck the white hair, a white horse would appear for him to ride, and with the white horse would be a white suit for him to wear. Keloğlan struck the white hair,

¹In the days of Padisahs people did not read such announcements in the newspapers. This is an indication of both modernization and urbanization in this tale. The narrator came from one large city--and lives now in another. In most villages and even towns, there are no regular deliveries of newspapers. In villages and towns now, as once in all of Turkey, such announcements would be made vocally by a crier.

magic hairs -- three -- given by saint
These magic hairs magic hair -- white -- when
hair -- magic -- white -- Sanca odu and white
? hairs - magic -- given by saint
clothes

Suitor test jump, on horse back, across wide ravine
Story #66 jumping -- on horseback -- across wide ravine -- a suitor test 132

put on the white suit, mounted the white horse, and rode swiftly to the padişah's palace, arriving there before his two brothers.

The padişah's daughter set the first task. "Whoever is to marry me must first of all jump over this wide ravine behind my father's palace." Many men tried to leap the ravine on horseback, but they all failed, and some of them lost their lives by falling so far. When it was Keloĝlan's turn to try, he crossed the ravine easily, almost flying on his white horse. padişah's daughter was surprised at this performance, but she was even more surprised when the white horseman did not appear to claim her. "He came to compete for my hand. Why does he not come now and ask for me?"

Keloĝlan returned home, took off the white suit, and dismissed the white horse. When his brothers returned, he took their horses and put them in the stable. Later, one of the brothers said to him, "If you had been at the palace with us you would have seen a fine gentleman on a beautiful white horse give an amazing performance by leaping across the ravine."

"I wish I had seen it," answered Keloĝlan. "Why didn't you take me with you?"

"Next time we shall take you," answered the brother. "The padişah's daughter has announced another trial of skill three days from now, for rider of the white horse disappeared after his feat."

On the third day, the brothers again started for the palace of the padişah. This time they allowed Keloĝlan to go with them, but they gave him a very lazy horse to ride, and before long, they had left him far behind them. As soon as they were out of sight, Keloĝlan took from his pocket the three hairs again, and this time he struck the brown hair. Immediately a fine brown horse appeared, and with it a brown suit. Keloĝlan mounted this brown horse and rode rapidly to the palace.

magic hair -- brown -- when struck, produces magic brown horse and brown suit
hair - magic -- brown -- same as above of color

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This time the padişah's daughter ordered that the contestants leap an even wider place over the ravine. Again, only Keloğlan was able to accomplish the task, and again, he disappeared after the contest. This time the padişah's daughter was even more upset when the horseman in brown did not come to claim her hand.

Keloğlan rode back to where he had left the ^{horse -- lazy} lazy horse. He took off the brown suit and dismissed the brown horse. Then he mounted the lazy horse again, and continued riding slowly toward the town. The brothers met him as they were returning, and one of them said to him, "You need not go any further. We were there to see the contest, and it is finished now."

"What happened today?" asked Keloğlan.

"A man wearing a brown suit and riding a fine brown horse just ¹ flew over the widest part of the ravine," said one of the brothers. "But he disappeared afterwards, just as the white horseman did before, and so I think that there will be still another contest."

The third contest was soon announced, and the brothers attended it as before. This time they gave Keloğlan a slightly better horse to ride, but again they left him behind along the road. Again he took from his pocket the three hairs, and this time he struck the black hair. He put on the black suit that appeared and mounted the black horse, and, just as before, he rode so fast that he arrived at the palace before his older brothers.

This time the padişah's daughter had arranged a high hurdle for the con-

Suitor test -- testants to jump. Behind the hurdle she had placed two women with stamps in keep on horse back -- their hands. These women had been ordered to mark the head of the man who over high succeeded in clearing the hurdle. The hurdle was so high that only Keloğlan hurdle on the black horse was able to jump over it. When he landed on the far side

keeping over high of the hurdle, the two women jumped on him and stamped him on either side of hurdle on horse back --

magic hair -- black -- when struck, produce magic black horse and black hair -- magic -- black Same on above suit of clothe

Keloğlan -- marked on both sides of forehead -- for subsequent
subsequent identification

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have -- same as above

the forehead. When Keloğlan escaped again, the padişah's daughter ordered that the next day all the men in the kingdom would come to the palace to be examined.

When the brothers reached home, they found Keloğlan there with his head bandaged. "What happened to you?" they asked him.

"I fell off my horse and struck my head on a stone, but I am all right now," he answered. men -- of Hingdan -- all required to pass before palace of padişah to be observed by daughter of padişah

On the following day, when all the men in the land were going to the palace to be examined, the three brothers also went. At first the two older brothers were going to leave Keloğlan behind, for, after all, he was only a Keloğlan. But then they changed their minds, fearing that if the padişah discovered this, he might be angry with them. So they took him along with them.

As all the men were passing before the padişah's daughter, Keloğlan, with his bandaged head, was walking along at the end of the line. The padişah's daughter noticed the man with the bandaged head and ordered her attendants, "Bring that man to me." When Keloğlan was brought and his head unwrapped, the two stamp marks on his forehead were revealed.

"Why did you hide after winning the right to marry me?" asked the padişah's daughter.

"I am just a Keloğlan and not worthy to be your husband. That is why I hid myself."

"We do not care whether or not you are a Keloğlan. What we do care about is that you are a man of such great skill. You will remain in the palace, and we shall find a cure for ~~your~~ baldness." baldness -- cure for

When Keloğlan's brothers realized that it was their younger brother who had been kept at the palace, they were greatly surprised. They wondered why Keloğlan had never revealed to them his great skills. They did not understand

*jealousy -- of older brothers -- of success of
youngest brother
brothers -- older -- jealousy of -- of success of youngest brother*

how, or where, or when he had acquired such remarkable abilities. They had insulted him and mistreated him, and now they were surprised and they were jealous. doctors

Physicians were invited to the palace to examine Kelođlan and cure his baldness.² They discovered that it was a very simple case of baldness and that it ~~can~~^{could} be cured quite easily. After he ~~is~~^{was} cured, Kelođlan ~~is~~^{was} taught good manners, and after a brief time, he ~~is~~^{was} made a vizier.

The longer Kelođlan served as a vezir, the more the padiřah liked him. One day the padiřah said to him, "You are not only my son-in-law and my vezir, but you are now also the heir to my throne." *heir -- to throne*

Kelođlan objected, saying, "Your majesty, I am much too young for such a responsibility."

But the padiřah said to him, "Your power, your skill, and your intelligence are enough to satisfy me."

A wedding was held that lasted forty days and forty nights, and thereafter Kelođlan lived in the palace. When the padiřah died, Kelođlan became the new padiřah and ruled the land with justice.

²The kind of baldness that makes a person a kelođlan is not curable.