

story #109 (Tape #19, 1961-1962)

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One Köse Against Three

Trickery

There were once four köses, one of whom lived alone and the others lived together. The lone köse asked his son to go and sell an ox he had to the three köses. The son took the ox to one of the three köses and offered to sell it to him. He said, "I shall buy it if you will cut off one of the ears of the ox."

The son had the ear cut off, but the köse refused to buy it. He then went to the second köse and offered it to him. "I shall buy it if you will have one of its horns cut off," he said

He had the horn cut off, but the second köse still refused to buy it. He then went to the third köse, who said, "I shall buy it if you will have its tail cut off." The son of the single kose had the tail cut off, but when he took the ox to the third köse who said he would buy it, he too refused to buy it, just as the other two had done.

When the son of the single köse returned to his father with the ox, he said, "They had me cut off an ear, a horn, and the tail, promising that they would buy it, but they went back on their word and did not buy it."

"All right, son. Never mind," said the father.

The lone köse mounted his donkey and went to the house of the three köses as their guest and stayed for the night. In the morning, after breakfast, he went to the barn and threw gold in the donkey

manure and stuffed some gold pieces in the donkey's rectum. When he mounted his donkey and started climbing the hill near the house, the donkey farted and produced gold. The kóse dismounted and began to collect the gold from the ground.

The three kóses ran to the single kóse's side and asked him, "What is going on?"

"Well, my donkey defecates gold," he said.

"Why do you not sell it to us?"

The kóse agreed to sell it to the three kóses for a very good price and gave them the following instructions: "Take this donkey and tie it in a stable. Put a cauldron of water and a cauldron of barley in front of it. Shut the door and then come back a week later and look in. You will find the stable filled with gold."

The three kóses did as they were instructed by the single kóse. They came back a week later, but could not open the stable door. One of them looked through the keyhole and saw the turned-up legs of the donkey, and, as the shoes were glittering, he reported to his friends, "There is also some silver with the gold." But when they finally managed to open the door, they were surprised to see that the donkey was dead and swollen like a drum.

The three kóses, after making this discovery, went to the lone kóse. They found him at work in the field. Before the three kóses came, the lone kóse had prepared a trick on them. He gave his wife a rabbit with instructions that she would bring him some food as well as the rabbit. He took another rabbit to the field. When the three kóses came to see him about the donkey deal, he said to the rabbit, "Go and tell my wife to bring some food." He then let the rabbit go. Shortly afterwards, his wife appeared with some food as well as the rabbit he

had left with her. The three köses, who had observed what had happened, with great interest asked the köse if he would sell the rabbit to them. He said he would, and he sold them the rabbit at a high price. The three köses took it away gladly

Before they reached home, one of them said, "Let us try the rabbit. He said to it, "Go and tell my wife to cook such-and-such dishes and bring them over here," and released the rabbit. They waited and waited, but no food came from the village and the rabbit did not return.

The three köses again went to see the single köse. This time they were determined to kill the köse. Before they arrived, the single köse had a piece of sheep intestine filled with blood and coiled around his wife's neck. While the three köses were entering the room, he threw his wife down on the floor and cut her throat. The three köses watched this in amazement. But shortly after, the köse blew a ^Swhistle and his wife stood up immediately. Quite surprised, the three köses asked, "What is this all about?"

The single köse said, "You see, when I get angry with my wife, I always cut her throat. But when my anger passes, I blow this whistle and she comes back to life."

The three köses said to the lone köse, "Will you sell that whistle to us? Our wives are very bad tempered."

"If you pay me a good price, I shall sell it to you," he said. He got a very good price for it, and the three köses went to their houses with the whistle.

That evening one of them became angry with his wife. He got up, threw his wife to the floor, and cut her throat. After a while, he blew the whistle, but she would not get up again. She remained lying

there. Without telling the others, he took the whistle to the second köse, who also cut his wife's throat in the same way. He kept blowing the whistle, but his wife would not get up. Without saying anything about it, the second köse took the whistle to the third köse, who also in a fit of anger cut his wife's throat, thinking the whistle would restore her. But when he blew the whistle, she never got up.

After the three köses had killed their wives in the same manner, they got together and decided definitely to get rid of the single köse.

The lone köse had a grave dug for himself with a breathing hole left in the top. He also took a spindle to stick into their eyes. When the three köses came to the lone köse's village, they asked, "Where is the köse?"

"Dead and buried."

"Where is his grave?"

They were shown the köse's grave. They went there. When one went to look into the hole in the grave, the lone köse pushed the spindle up and put out one of the köse's eyes. He jumped up, screaming and saying, "We suffered from him when he was alive and now we suffer from him when he is dead, too. His corpse is as dangerous to us as his live body was." They then ran away.