

Story 1061 (1976--Transcribed
from tape by Tuncer
Gülensoy; tape not
in ATON.)

Narrator: Duralı Akkaya
Location: Gölbaşı village,
Köyceğiz kaza,
Muğla Province

Date: 1976

Tekerleme¹

Time within time, when the sieve was just a hoop, and my mother and father were in their cradles, I was then a keloğlan.² One day my father became ill, and I carried him to a doctor. The doctor suggested this and that. He gave me an egg to break over my father, but I dropped the egg and a rooster came out of it.

I put a harness on the rooster⁷⁸⁻⁷⁹ and made him carry heavy loads. The harness rubbed the rooster's back and made it sore. I broke an egg over the sore place and wrapped it with a pecan leaf. Soon a pecan tree grew from

¹A tekerleme is a nonsensical jingle used ordinarily as the introduction to a folktale. Its ridiculous rimes--totally lost in translation--delight audiences and sharpen their wits for the subsequent tales. Some longer forms of the tekerleme have sufficient substance to stand alone, as this one does. See similar tekerlemes in ATON.

²The word keloğlan means literally bald boy, but the baldness is not of the kind caused by aging. It is caused by ringworm infestation of the scalp. This disease most often strikes the younger and often poorly attended children of large peasant families. Ringworm infestation is encouraged by uncleanliness. Besides the actual keloğlan here described, there is a folktale type of character based upon the keloğlan figure.

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that leaf, and after a while there were many pecans on the tree. People passing by threw dirt clods and stones at the pecans to knock them down. First there was a heap of dirt clods and stones around the pecan tree, and after a while this heap grew into a large field

planted wheat in that field. Soon it had grown to the height of an ant's knee. When harvest time came I took a sickle and went to the field. As I got there, I saw a boar running about in the wheat field. I threw my sickle at that boar, and the handle of the sickle stuck in the boar's anus. This frightened the boar, and he began running around the field even faster than he had been running before. As he ran here and there and everywhere, the sickle kept cutting the wheat. In this way the entire field of wheat was harvested in a very short time