

Story 1055 (Tape transcribed  
by Ahmet Ali Arslan;  
tape not in ATON)

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Location: Sarıkamaç village,  
kaza of Ardahan,  
Kars Province

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The Magic Bird, the Magic Fruit,  
and the Magic Stick

Once there was and once there, was not a man with two sons. One of these sons was a <sup>ALL</sup> keloğlan.<sup>1</sup> One day his mother, who had been cooking, placed the heart of a golden bird on the side of the stove and told her sons not to eat it. However, when she went to the river to get some water, the keloğlan ate the bird's heart. His mother was very angry when she discovered this.

A mouse came out of its hole and warned the boy, "Your mother is so angry at you that she intends to kill you." When the child heard this, he decided to run away from home. After he had traveled for some distance, he reached a city. There Keloğlan became a servant in a large house.

<sup>1</sup>Keloğlan means literally bald boy, but the baldness is not that acquired with age but that resulting from ring-worm infestation of the scalp. The disease is encouraged by uncleanliness and often infects younger children who, in large and poor families, often receive inadequate personal care. Although clearly unfortunate in real life, the keloğlan in the oral tradition is often thought to be lucky. Never mind the bald pate! He will end up successful and wealthy.

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magic  
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by  
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day when Keloğlan arose, he found near his bed a gold coin. Supposing that his master was testing him, he picked up the gold coin and gave it to the man. The next day he found another gold coin, and he took that to his master also. But then he began to think about what had happened. He thought, "If my master was testing me, he would do it only once. This gold must be coming from some other source.

day Keloğlan went to a mountain. Tired when he arrived there, the boy lay down to rest for a while. When he got up again, he found another piece of gold. He said to himself, "I think that this must be the work of God." <sup>Allah</sup> As time went on and he received a new gold coin every day, he became very rich.

One day he saw a crowd of people lined up by the palace of the padişah. He asked one of them, "What are you all waiting for?"

They said, "We are waiting to take a look at the face of the beautiful daughter of the padişah. She is showing her face today to anyone who will pay one gold lira."

Keloğlan joined those waiting, and when his turn came, he paid the lira and was permitted to see the girl's face. He was not satisfied with this, however. He said to the

Beauty, <sup>Queen</sup>  
or infant  
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girl's nurse, "I want to see the rest of the girl's body, I shall pay 100 liras for this."

After Keloğlan had paid the 100 liras, he was taken into the palace and shown the whole body of the girl. She had two beauty marks<sup>2</sup> on her breasts, and from these beauty marks grew light-colored hair. The princess did not mind showing herself to Keloğlan. She said, "A keloğlan will understand any of this."<sup>3</sup>

Not long after that the padişah decided that it was time to have his daughter married. He had criers announce, "I am going to give my daughter to any man who can guess where her beauty marks are." Those who wished to guess about this were invited to come and stay for the night at the palace. Keloğlan went to the padişah and said, "Your daughter's beauty marks are on her breasts, and from those beauty marks grow light-colored hairs." Because he was the only applicant to give the correct answer, Keloğlan was declared the winner of the girl's hand

<sup>2</sup>This is, of course, a euphemism for moles.

<sup>3</sup>This whole tale is so childishly crass that one could reasonably doubt its existence if it had not been recorded on magnetic tape by Dr. Ahmet Ali Arslan. This paragraph is quite out of keeping with both Turkish life and the Turkish folktale tradition. This tale is included in ATON, however, because, to its credit, it does contain some major motifs of international distribution, such as the gold-bearing entails of a magic bird.

*Contest*

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The girl herself was not at all pleased with this, for she was in love with the son of one of the viziers. Although the wedding ceremony started, the girl said that she would not want to go to Keloğlan's room when the marriage was completed. She said that keloğlans were not very clean people.

When Keloğlan heard this, he went to the market and made two purchases. He bought a bottle of cologne and a bag of over-ripe grapes. He sprinkled his own bed with cologne and then, going to the room of the vizier's son, put the overripe grapes in his bed. Servants reported to the padişah's daughter that the keloğlan's bed smelled sweet but that the bed of the vizier's son smelled foul. When she learned this, she decided to go to the nuptial chamber at the end of the wedding ceremony.

After several days of marriage, however, the girl decided to get rid of Keloğlan. She had seen him swallow the heart of the golden bird each night and then cough it out each morning. Taking the bird heart from where he kept it during the day, she ordered soldiers to take Keloğlan to the top of a distant mountain and leave him there.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup>This is a good example of the frequent narrative irrationality present in this tale which hopelessly scrambles three or four major folktale types. In the Aladdin type tale, the scheming wife deprives her husband of the magic gifts which give him power; she then uses these objects to acquire the power to oust him. Here the wife deprives the husband of the gold-producing heart of the magic bird (part of an entirely different tale type) which gives neither of them power; it is useless to the wife after she acquires it, for as princess, she already has all the gold she can possibly want.

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When Keloğlan finally got back to the city from the mountain, he became a servant again. One day when he was out walking, he saw a man selling some special apples. Keloğlan asked him, "Why are these apples special?"

The apple seller said, "I have two kinds of apples. If a person eats the first kind of apple, that person will have horns grow on his head. If that person then eats of the second kind of apple, the horns will disappear. Keloğlan bought some of each kind of apple.

Taking a basket of apples and pretending to be an apple seller, Keloğlan went to the palace and said to the servants, "I have brought some delicious apples for the padişah's daughter. I must return to my business right away, but you should give these to her as a present."

The servants took the apples to the princess. After she had eaten one, she immediately grew long horns on her head. Many people saw these horns, for when she was eating the apple, she was standing in the window in the front of the palace.

When the padişah learned that his daughter had grown long horns, he was astonished. He had a public announcement made about his daughter's condition: "Anyone who can cure my daughter of this illness may ask from me anything in this

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magu  
Apples magic?*

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world that he wishes."

*Physician, ~~Dr~~*  
Keloğlan dressed like a doctor and went to the palace. He said, "My padişah, I can cure your daughter." When he was shown into the girl's room, Keloğlan gave her one of the second kind of apple and told her to eat it. After the horns had disappeared, the padişah asked Keloğlan what he wanted as his reward. "I want to marry your daughter," said Keloğlan, and this wish was granted

Once again the princess decided to get rid of Keloğlan a few days after their second marriage. Again she ordered soldiers to take him to the top of a distant mountain and leave him there.

*Transference*  
When Keloğlan found his way back from the mountain, he met a man who was selling special sticks. The owner of such a stick could touch any living creature with it and transform that creature into any form he wished.<sup>5</sup>

*Magic object  
39-40*  
Buying one of these sticks, Keloğlan returned with it to the palace.

*Transference*  
The padişah was very embarrassed that his daughter was now a camel,

<sup>5</sup>Most magic objects dispensed in folktales are given to the respective protagonists by supernatural agencies of one kind or another. Those in this tale have no such supernatural origins. No source is mentioned for the magic bird; the magic apples and the magic stick are purchased from ordinary peddlers.

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*transformation*

so he gave her to Keloğlan again. Keloğlan touched her once more with the magic stick and this time turned her into a donkey. For several days after that he made the donkey carry heavy loads of wood.

The padişah went to Keloğlan and pleaded with him to restore his daughter to human form. Keloğlan answered, "After all the suffering she has caused me, she deserves her present condition!" Soon after that, however, he touched her again with the magic stick and returned her to her human shape. They were married for the third time, and Keloğlan then took her back with him to his father's country.