

Story 1326 1981 Tape 3)

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Keloğlan's¹ Revenge

There was once a keloğlan who had only ^{all} one possession in this world, and that possession was a ^{goat} kid. One day when he was wandering through the marketplace with that animal, he was observed by a grocer and the grocer's son. The son said, "Father, Father! Buy that kid for me!"

"Come here, Keloğlan!" called the grocer. "How much do you want for your kid?"

"I don't want money. All I want is something to eat. Saying that, Keloğlan took a bar of soap and began washing in a pail of water in the shop

"My boy, what are you doing?" asked the grocer

"First I shall wash and then I shall eat," replied Keloğlan.

"Get out of here!" said the grocer and drove Keloğlan

¹The word keloğlan means bald boy, but the baldness is not that caused by aging. It is caused by ringworm infestation of the scalp. This disease often strikes the younger and perhaps improperly tended younger children of large peasant families. It is encouraged by uncleanliness. In folktales the keloğlan is a definite personality type, a winner, and a sympathetic figure. In tales the keloğlan image is often used as a disguise. Disguisers hide their hair by covering it either with a sheepskin turned inside out or with the cleaned lining of a sheep's stomach.

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away

From there Keloğlan went to a restaurant, where he to the cook, "Give me some bread." But without waiting the bread, he began eating some of the choice food in the restaurant.

"What are you doing?" asked the cook

"Well, the time to eat bread is after you have eaten other foods, and so I am getting ready for the bread," answered Keloğlan. He was then driven away from the restaurant too. After receiving the same treatment at a bakery and several other shops, Keloğlan left the marketplace and began walking along one of the streets of that town. As he was going past one house, two women by the window saw him and his goat. One of these women was the lady of the house, and the other was her servant. The servant said, "Look, my lady! There is a keloğlan with a kid. Let us buy that kid from him."

"Ask him how much he wants for it," said the lady.

The servant called out, "Keloğlan, will you sell us that kid?"

"Yes, I shall."

"What do you want for it?"

Looking at the two women, Keloğlan answered, "Let me

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sleep with the two of you for one night, and after that the kid will be yours."

"You ill-mannered boy! How dare you say such a thing?" said the lady.

Turning to the lady, the servant said, "My lady, let us get that kid. He can sleep with me.

The lady agreed to this, and so Keloğlan and the kid entered the house. After they had been there for a short while, the lady said, "Well, since he is now our guest, he can sleep with me too."

After a while there was a knock on the door, and the lady exclaimed, "Oh, that must be my husband!"

"Where can I go to hide?" asked Keloğlan.

"Go upstairs!"

Keloğlan took his kid and went upstairs, but the person who knocked on the door was not the lady's husband but the grocer, who had come to visit her. When the door was knocked upon again, the woman thought that the new arrival was her husband, and so she sent the grocer upstairs too. But this time it was the cook from the restaurant who had come. Very soon after that, the baker knocked on the door and the cook was sent upstairs. Finally the husband himself did return,

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but before the door was opened for him, the baker was sent upstairs too.

The men upstairs talked for a while. They talked quietly with each other and wondered what to do. Keloğlan soon grew tired of this, and so he stood up and said, "I am going to leave

"Where are you going?" the others asked. "The lady's husband is downstairs." Dropping the kid out of the window, Keloğlan pulled a flute from his pocket. Playing his flute loudly, he marched downstairs to the tune of its music.

The husband of the lady was astonished when this happened, and he suspected that Keloğlan was someone who had come from the other world. Staring at him, the husband asked, "Are you a fairy or a human being?"²

"That is none of your business.

"Where did you come from?"

"I came from the upper market and I am going to the er market."

²In Turkish the husband asked, "İnmisin cinmisin?" This is now usually interpreted to mean "Are you a jinn or some other supernatural being?" When it is so interpreted, the response is "I am neither a jinn nor other supernatural being but a creature of Allah like you." In earlier times in often meant human being, not a supernatural being. The question was then "Are you a human being or a jinn?" And the response was

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How low
Fairy

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"What is the upper market?" asked the husband.

"You can find the upper market upstairs. Up there you will find the grocer, the cook from the restaurant, the baker and perhaps even a butcher and some other merchant. There is everything upstairs except the shops themselves!"

Keloğlan escaped, and the men upstairs were all arrested by the police. In this way Keloğlan got even with the grocer the cook, and the baker for the way they had treated him.

Revenge

"I am not a jinn but a creature of Allah like you." Inmisiin cinmisiin? is a very common expression used when a person is startled by the sudden appearance of someone in a very unlikely place. In such a situation a person might quite understandably be wary of the intruder.