Time within time, when the sieve was just a hoop, and
my mother and father were in their cradles, I was then a
keloğlan. 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 rooster 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 chil-
dren 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.
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 every-
where, the sickle kept cutting the wheat. In this way
the entire field of wheat was harvested in a very short
time