

Story #111 (Tape #41, 1961-1962) Narrator: Hatice Genç

Location: Iskenderun

Date: February 1962

The Keloğlan Who Loses the Magic Hair

There was once a very poor woman and her son. One day the mother said to her son, "Why do you just sit and do nothing? Go and find some work for yourself and earn some money."

"Mother, wherever I go, they refuse me work, saying I am bald."

"Well," she said, "go and try a little longer. You may find someone who will give you a little work."

He tried several other places and was refused and insulted at each with, "Go away, you Keloğlan! Get out of here!" He finally came to the seaside, where an old fisherman was preparing his nets and loading them on his boat.

"Where are you going, father?" asked Keloğlan.

"I am going to try my luck," the fisherman answered.

"Will you let me come with you?" asked Keloğlan.

"What would you like me to pay you?" the fisherman said.

"Oh," said Keloğlan, "just give me enough to buy our daily bread. That will be enough."

"For several days, I have not caught anything," the old man said. "My wife and daughter quarrel with me when I come home without any fish in the evening."

"Well, we may be lucky this time," said Keloğlan. "Let us go, father."

They went out in the boat and cast their nets into the sea and not after, they caught a fish. They were very pleased to catch this fish. They cast the net again and this time they caught more fish. They landed and sold their catch and each returned to his house with quite some money.

Story #111

On the way home, Kelođlan bought a pide, some grapes, and some cheese for his mother, who was very pleased to see that her son had finally gotten some work to do.

When they went fishing the next day, they caught more fish, which they sold for a very good price. That evening Kelođlan took a big fish with him when he went home. When his mother was about to cut it, the fish cried, "Do not cut me!"

"What is the matter over there?" asked Kelođlan.

"It said, 'Do not cut me,'" said his mother.

The fish jumped up and Kelođlan caught it by the tail and said to it, "I am not going to cut you." When he shook it, the fish turned into a handsome young man.

He said to Kelođlan, "Since you did not kill me, I am going to do you a good turn." This young man pulled a hair from his head and gave it to Kelođlan. "Whenever you are in distress, just rub this hair against your nose and I shall be there to help you." The young man turned into his fish shape again and Kelođlan took ^{it} and threw it back into the sea.

When Kelođlan was trying to sleep one night, he thought of trying the hair. He took it from his pocket, rubbed it against his nose, and the handsome young man appeared before him and said, "You may ask from me whatever you wish."

"Well, I want a large house from you filled with beautiful women."

Kelođlan was surprised to see that a magnificent palace was brought with all its splendor. And when the padiđah of that land woke up that morning, he was also surprised to see a more magnificent place than his own.

He ordered his vizier to find out who had that palace built. Soon it was found out that the palace belonged to Kelođlan. One morning the padiđah's daughter was looking from her window and saw Kelođlan, who

was about to leave in a magnificent carriage. He did not notice the girl at all that time, but he saw the girl the next morning when again she was looking at him through the window. And immediately after he saw her, he fell in love with her. That night when he went to bed, he took the hair from his pocket and rubbed it against his nose. When the young man came, he asked him to make it possible for him to marry the padişah's daughter.

"Yes, but this will not be easy," the young man said. "The padişah will not give you his daughter easily."

The young man sent one of the women from Keloğlan's palace as a go-between [dünür] to the court of the padişah. She explained to the padişah's daughter that Keloğlan was very much in love with her and wanted to marry her. The padişah's daughter said she was also in love with Keloğlan, and if Keloğlan wanted to marry her he should ask her father.

Keloğlan went to the padişah and said he wanted to marry the padişah's daughter. The padişah told Keloğlan he had some conditions. "I have only one daughter, and I will not let you marry her unless you can fulfill these conditions. My first condition is that you will have a palace built for me in India, but with a tunnel extending from here to that palace."

"All right, your majesty," said Keloğlan. "There is nothing easier than that." When Keloğlan came home, he took the hair from his pocket, rubbed it against his nose, and asked the young man to build the palace the padişah wanted in India with a tunnel leading to it. The young man warned Keloğlan that in the end he would lose the magic hair because the padişah would give him his daughter merely because he wanted to possess the magic hair. He told Keloğlan that in the end he would be reduced to his former poverty.

Story #111

Kelođlan said, "No, no, not even my mother knows that I have the magic hair."

"All right. As it is your last wish, I shall help you," said the young man. "But do not expect me to help you again." He disappeared.

A few days later they received a report that a magnificent palace had been built in India. A road [informant said "tunnel" earlier] from it led to the padişah's palace. When the padişah saw the magnificent palace built near his, he was amazed and concluded that this young man had the magic hair that he had once heard about. He decided to go to India and visit the palace built for him, and there he could not find any fault with it. It was perfect in every detail.

When he returned to his own palace, he gathered his council of viziers and explained to them that there was only one person in the world who could possibly get the magic hair from Kelođlan and that one person was his own daughter. "When we have it," said the padişah, "we shall conquer the whole world."

After a wedding celebration lasting forty days and forty nights, the padişah's daughter and Kelođlan were married. Just before the couple entered the bedroom, the padişah asked his daughter to talk privately with her. He said to her, "Your husband has a magic hair. I want you to get the magic hair from your husband. This is my last request of you."

After the wedding, the girl started searching for the magic hair, but she was unable to find it. She tried for several months to obtain this magic hair, but she failed to locate it. Winter came and she was pregnant and she thought out a plan to get the hair from her husband. She said to him, "I wish that I had some melons and some grapes. How nice it would be to have them at this time of the year."

"If that is what you want, I can get them for you right away," said Keloğlan. "Just turn around and close your eyes." He bandaged her eyes and, taking the magic hair from inside his shoe, he rubbed it against his nose. "Now unbandage your eyes," he said. When she did, she saw everything she wanted--melons and grapes--spread before her. But although the padişah's daughter's eyes had been bandaged, she had managed to see where Keloğlan had hidden the hair.

They ate and drank, and when the time came to go to bed, Keloğlan refused to take off his clothes. He went to bed fully dressed. When he was fast asleep, his wife pulled the magic hair quietly from his shoe and rubbed it gently across her nose and the young man appeared before her. "Take me to my father--quickly!" she said. She found herself immediately in the presence of her father and she said to him, "Father, here is the magic hair you want. But how shall I get back to my husband, whom I left asleep? Maybe you should rub the hair on your nose and when the young man comes, ask him to return me to my husband."

The padişah did as he was requested by his daughter. The young man appeared out of nowhere, and the padişah asked him to take his daughter back to where she had come from.

When the padişah's daughter woke up, she found herself lying by her husband, but there was no sign of the magnificent palace. They were back in Keloğlan's old cottage. When Keloğlan woke up, he realized that his wife must have stolen the magic hair from him. She had to explain to her husband that her father was a very ambitious man and he had given her to him with no other purpose than to possess the magic hair he had.

Keloğlan was now the poor Keloğlan he had been formerly. He had nothing left in the world, and he decided to return to his old fisherman friend and work for him, hoping he would give him enough money to buy his daily bread.

Story #11

One day Kelođlan brought home a couple of fish and when
about a gut one of them it began to talk "Do not kill me! Do
kill

Keloglan grabbed the fish and shook it in the air a few times and
what should he see! There was the same young man who had appeared
earlier and given him the magic hair. The young man said Kelođlan
"Do not ask anything from me, I am now a prisoner in the hands of the
padişah who has the magic hair. Only call my name and you will live
just as you used to do in the past just like poor Keloglan.