

Story # 131 (Tape #14, 1961-62)

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15

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How Keloglan Came to Marry the Padisah's Daughter

Once there was a family of five, a mother, a father, and three sons. They were very poor. The youngest son was most unfortunate, for the older boys always called him "Stupid." They would say, "Come here, Stupid," or "Go there, Stupid."

This family had a small garden near their home. It provided them with food and what was more than that they sold for income. They were alarmed, therefore, when they awoke one morning to find the garden trampled. They set the garden to rights again, but morning after morning, for several weeks, they found it destroyed in the morning. Finally, the father asked the oldest son to watch all night in the garden to see if he could discover who or what it was that caused such damage there. The young man stayed awake until midnight and then he fell asleep. When he awakened in the morning, once again the garden was trampled down. When his father asked him what had done this, he said that he had seen nothing at all.

They set the garden to rights again, and then the father told the middle son to guard it that next night. Like his brother, he too watched until midnight and then fell asleep.

While he slept, something again trampled the garden. Now the father gave up all hope of discovering what it was that kept ruining their garden. Then the youngest son went to his father and said, "My dear father, permit me to take my turn watching for the destroyer of our garden."

As he was known as "Stupid," he was not taken very seriously, and no one expected any positive result from his efforts. But he begged so much to be allowed to watch that night that his father finally consented. He searched through

garden all night and never once fell asleep. Along toward morning a horse entered the garden and started trampling about vegetables. The young man ran up, caught the horse, and started pulling him by the head. At that moment the horse began to speak: "Let me go and I shall do for you whatever you wish."

*Amazed to hear a horse speak,* the young man asked, "Are you a devil or a jinn?"

"Neither. I am a horse, but I am the horse of the Prince of Fairies." He then asked the young man to pull two hairs from his body and told him that he would appear to do his bidding whenever the young man rubbed those hairs together.

In the morning, the youngest son told his father that he too had failed to see anything during the night in the garden.

father had not expected any results from Stupid's watching, but now he gave up all hope of finding the offender.

One day, some time later, the king of that land announced that he was going to arrange a contest, the winner of which would receive as his reward the hand of the princess. The two older brothers found horses for themselves and prepared to take part in the contest. The feat to be accomplished was the removal of a ring from the finger of the princess as she sat in a balcony. Who could make his horse leap high enough to enable him to take the ring? All of the people of the city were gathered to watch the young men try to perform this difficult trick of horsemanship.

The youngest son who was known by the nickname "Stupid" had not been invited to the contest, and he was very disconsolate about this, but then he remembered the horse which had appeared in the garden and the hairs that he had from that horse. He rubbed those two hairs together and the horse again appeared. He told the horse that he wanted to participate in the contest for the hand of the princess. The horse disappeared and then returned with a fine suit of clothes, and after putting on this suit, the young man mounted the magic horse and went to the square before the palace where the contest was being held. Everyone looked at the young man and marveled at his fine clothes, but no one knew who he was.

During the first day of the contest, none of the other participants was able to come even near to touching the hand of the princess, but the young man with the magic horse touched the balcony on which she sat. That night when he returned home,

he told his two elder brothers that it was he who had touched balcony that day, but the brothers just laughed in disbelief. next day the young man managed to touch the hand of the princess, and then on the third day he actually removed the ring from her hand.

The next day the king gave a feast for all the young men of the town. Through the help of the magic horse, the youngest son, Stupid, also managed to attend this feast. When the princess passed along the table, offering food and drink to the guests, the young man showed her the ring which he had taken from her finger. The princess then ran to her father, pointing out the young man who had succeeded in removing the ring from her finger and thus winning the contest. Then the king called the young man to him and told him that the princess was his.

A wedding of forty days was held. During these ceremonies, father and brothers of the young man came and begged his forgiveness.