

Story #259 (Tape #42, 1961-1962) Narrator: Hatice Genç

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The Keloğlan Who Guarded the Door

There was once a very poor woman who had a son called Keloğlan. One day Keloğlan's mother decided to go on a visiting trip. Before she left the house, she said to Keloğlan, "Watch the door and the chimney [a proverbial expression for "Take care of the place"] because there are thieves around and they might break into the house. You should never neglect the door and the chimney."

While his mother visited friends, Keloğlan sat before the house for hours, but he finally tired of this and he wanted to take a walk. As his mother had told him not to leave the door and the chimney, however, he shouldered the door and began to walk with it. As it was a very warm day, Keloğlan decided to climb up a tall tree to get some cool breeze. He took the door up into the tree with him, and slept in the tree. Shortly afterwards, he heard some noises coming from below. He looked and saw some thieves quarreling about the division of some money they had stolen. When Keloğlan saw that money was being divided, he felt strange and very much excited, and he felt like urinating, and in fact he did so. The thieves below thought it was raining. Then he defecated, and the thieves thought it was raining stones now. Then Keloğlan accidentally dropped the door, and the thieves were terrified and so they ran away, leaving all the money behind. Keloğlan came down, filled his pockets with the money left by the thieves, shouldered the door, and started walking home. But his mother reached home before him and

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discovered that thieves had entered the place and ransacked it.

time later, Kelođlan was seen walking toward town with the door on his back. When he got home, his mother asked, "Where have you been all this time?"

"Did you not tell me not to leave the door? Well, I never left it," he said. "I had it with me all the time."

His mother said, "We have lost everything we had. We have neither a chair to sit on nor a bed to sleep in. Everything we had has been carried away by thieves."

"Do not worry, Mother," he said. "I can buy better things for us." He took out a lot of money from his pockets and showed it to his mother

"Where did you get all that money?"

"Well, Mother," he said, "I got tired of sitting and watching the door, and I wanted to go for a walk. But I remembered what you had said about watching the door, so I took the door with me on my back. I grew hot, and I climbed a tall tree so I could feel the cool breeze. But I took the door up into the tree with me, Mother. Below, I saw some thieves dividing some money they had stolen. First I urinated and then I defecated, but they did not see me in the tree. Then I dropped the door, and this frightened them away. I came down out of the tree and picked up all the money they had left and put it in my pockets. Then I put the door on my back and came along home."