

Story #647 (1974, Tape #50)

Narrator: Bayram Şahin

Location: Limonlu village, kaza of
Mersin, Province of İçel

Date: January 8, 1974

#647

#647

The Keloğlan¹ and the Köse²

Once there were a köse and a keloğlan. Keloğlan asked the köse to take him along on a journey with him, but the köse told him he could not do that. But in spite of his refusal, he finally did take Keloğlan with him. On their way to a village they came across a hoca. The hoca asked them where they were going, and they told him their destination. The hoca asked to go along with them, and the three continued on their way. In a little while they met a camel owner. He asked where they were all going, and then asked to join them. So the four continued on their way.

They finally arrived at the village they had set out for. They looked for a place where they could spend the night, and asked a woman of the village if she would take them in as guests. The woman said they were welcome to spend the night, but warned them that the sea came up from her house. The four men said they did not mind, and that they would still like to spend the night at her house. So, the woman took them to her house, showed them into a

¹A keloğlan, literally, is a bald boy, but he is also a trickster in Turkish folklore.

²The köse is also a trickster but a very unsympathetic one. He seems to have a physical type: short-legged, beardless. People are wary of him, and in retribution for his cruel tricks often exact severe punishment.

Story #647

bedroom brought them a jug of water, and retired to her own room for the night.

The kōse told the others that he understood what the woman meant when she said the sea came out of the house. So, they decided that whoever heard the sea coming out would wake the rest and they would all run from the house. Since the kōse knew what to anticipate, he tied a pumpkin to his waist so that he would not drown when the sea came out. He lay down on a trunk and fell asleep.

Later on the kōse woke up and very slowly and noiselessly went to the woman's room and stood at the door. He heard a light knock and cracked the door slightly. A man was standing there. The kōse whispered that there was company at home that night and that he should go. The man did not want to go. So the kōse told him to come back a bit later. The man at the door said he had brought a present, and slipped a handkerchief through the door. After walking around a while, the man came back and again softly knocked on the woman's door. The kōse whispered that she was not feeling well that day and that he should go away. But the man refused to go. The kōse told him there was a hole in the door, and that he could do his business with the woman through the hole. When the man had penetrated the hole, the kōse chopped his penis off and set it aside.

The man left the house howling in pain.

Meanwhile, Keloğlan woke up, and when he saw that the kōse was not in the room, he realized he must have gone to the woman's room, and he immediately went there himself. He knocked softly and asked the kōse to let him in too. The kōse said he could not do that, and that the woman was sleeping. Keloğlan asked him what he was eating, and the kōse told him he had found something to munch on there but that it was not much of anything. When Keloğlan insisted that he also wanted something to munch on, the kōse handed him the penis stub which he had just cut off. Keloğlan chewed on it, but could not eat it, nor could he tell what it was he was trying to eat. He asked the kōse what he had just handed him, and the kōse replied, "Pastırma,"³ (salted and cured with spices--beef). Keloğlan decided to put the beef in his belt, and eat it in the morning when he could see what he was eating. When he went back to the room, he fumbled around to find his bedding and overturned the jug of water which was standing by the hoca's head. The hoca woke up and cried out, "The sea just broke over my head!"

Immediately they all rushed to get out. The kōse heard the commotion and came out to ask what had happened. The hoca told him the sea had burst out over his head. So all of them took to the road once again. Keloğlan approached the kōse and asked him if

³Pasırma is a kind of spiced meat

Story #647

they should share whatever it was he had given him earlier to eat. But the köse said they could have it later and that they should continue on their way for the time being. The hoca overheard part of their conversation and said, "What are you two whispering about? If you have something to eat, bring it out. We are all hungry."

So they all sat down by the side of the road, and the köse said, "There is the sea. This is the reason the woman did not want to lodge us." [i.e. she had a lover calling]

[Ahmet Uysal: "There was no hoca at the beginning of the story. Did he come in later on?"]

Narrator: "Yes, he was. He had joined them along the way."

Uysal: "Oh, yes, now I remember."]