

Story #226 (Milli Kütüphane Tape)

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Location: Sivas

Date: Collected in 1950's by student of P. N. Boratav; translated in April 1962 by Neriman Hızır and Barbara K. Walker

Keloğlan and the Three Magic Gifts

*magic gifts*

TK

Once there was and once there was not, when God's creatures were many, and to talk too much was a sin, there was a Keloğlan. One day he bought five paras' worth of leblebis [roasted chick peas] and he started toward the river eating his leblebis. When he got to the side of the river, he dropped his leblebis into the water, and, "Oh," he started crying, "Ooh, hoo, hoo, I dropped my leblebis! I dropped my leblebis! I dropped my leblebis! I dropped my leblebis!"

While he was crying there, and scratching his bald head at the same time, there appeared a great big Arap with one lip down on the ground and the other lip up in the sky, and said, "Hey, you! Why do you cry and whine like that?"

*ragged feature?*

And Keloğlan said, "Oh, Sir, I dropped my leblebis in the river and I cannot get them."

And the Arap said, "Stop that crying! Take this five paras and go get some more leblebis for yourself!"

So Keloğlan went and bought himself some more leblebis and came to the same place again. And while he was eating, he dropped them in the water again. He began to cry, scratching his bald head, "Ooh, hoo, hoo! I dropped my leblebis in the water!"

Then came that great big Arap again, and said, "Why do you whine again?"

And Keloğlan said, "Oh, Sir, I dropped my leblebis in the water again."

you, stop that!" said the Arap, "and take this board, and take it home with you. When you put it on the floor and say, 'Spread, my board. Spread!' it will be spread with all kinds of delicious food, and you can have as much as you want. And then when you say, 'Board, fold yourself,' it will fold itself. And you can keep it

Keloğlan brought the board home, and he called his mother and said, "Look, Mother, what I brought home." He put the board in the middle of the room, and he said, "Board, spread yourself. Spread!" And as soon as he said that, the board became filled with all kinds of delicious foods, and they both ate, and they were very happy. And then he said, "Board, fold yourself!" and the board folded itself and he put it against the wall.

The mother said, "Oh, Son, God be pleased with you!"

For a period of time, things went on like that. They ate and they drank, and they were so well fed that it attracted the attention of some of their neighbors, because life came into their faces and they looked happier. The neighbor wondered what might cause this, and one day when it was dinnertime he came and started very quietly watching what went on in Keloğlan's house.

Keloğlan took the board from the wall and put it on the floor, and he called his mother, and as he said, "Board, spread yourself! Spread!" oh, the board was spread so richly with all kinds of foods--baklavas and böreks and meats of all kinds and sweets of all kinds. They ate, and the neighbor saw all of this.

So once when Keloğlan and his mother were out of the house, their neighbor brought a board just like the other one, and took the original board and left the fake one in its place, and ran away with it.

When they came back they were hungry, so Keloğlan took the board from the wall and put it down and said, "Board, spread yourself! Spread!" but it did not

spread. He repeated again, "Spread, my board. Spread!" and it did not spread. And the third time, he shouted, "Spread, my board. Spread!" and the board did not spread. "Oh," said the boy, "our board is stolen. What shall we do now? What shall we eat now? We shall be hungry, and perish." So they went to bed without food, all hungry

In the morning, he got up and went to the river, crying again. As he was crying there, and scratching his bald head at the same time, the great big Arap came and said, "What is it again? Why do you cry? Why were you not careful enough? Why did you allow others to steal it? You fool!" In place of the board he gave him an ass, a donkey, and said, "When you say, 'Give gold, my ass Give gold!' it will drop gold. But be sure not to let anyone see it," said the great big Arap, with one lip down on the ground and the other up in the sky And he disappeared.

And Keloğlan came back home with the donkey, and he put the donkey in a stable inside the house. He called his mother, and when he told the donkey, "Give gold, my ass. Give gold!" the ass dropped gold, and dropped gold in such quantities that they got richer and richer every minute. What happened was that later they had beautiful houses built, and they lived richly, and they had all the splendor of a good life. They covered their floors with carpets and rugs, and they had beautiful clothes for his mother and himself, and they became important people--rich, important people.

The neighbor saw all this happening, and he said, "Now, how can this be? I stole their board, and instead of starving, they become richer and richer. I must find out about this." And he began to investigate.

He went 'round and 'round the house, and finally he found a hole to peep through. What he saw was a donkey. And as the boy said, "Drop gold, my ass Drop gold!" it dropped gold in such quantities that he could not believe his eyes.

And the neighbor said, "Well, I must do something about this." He went and got an ass just like the other one, and he found the right time to exchange his ass with the precious one, and he came home with the good one. And as he said, "Drop gold, my ass. Drop gold!" it dropped gold, and he went almost crazy with happiness.

And on the other hand, our Keloğlan, when he became short of money, went to his ass and asked for some gold. But as he said, "Drop gold, my ass. gold!" the ass just stood there. He repeated again, "Drop gold, my ass. gold!" and the ass did not drop any gold. And he understood that something had gone wrong again.

He went to the river again, and he began to whine and cry, scratching his bald head at the same time. And there came the great big Arap. And the great big Arap, with one lip down on the ground and the other up in the sky, said, "Oh, you fool! I gave you a board to feed you and you had it stolen, and I gave you an ass to give you gold and you had that stolen. Now I give you a stick of wisdom. This is how it works: 'Beat, my stick. Beat!'" and as he said that, the stick began to beat Keloğlan on his bald head, put-ta-kit-ta-put-ta-kit-ta-put-ta-kit-ta. And when he said, "Stop, my stick. Stop!" the stick stopped beating. After giving this stick to the boy, he said, "Now, you look at me. Do not ever come back here whining and crying again, or I shall finish you! Now take your stick and try to use it," he said. "You will use it in this way. Go to the person you suspect has stolen your board and your ass, and start the stick beating him, and let the stick beat him until he is dead. And then you will get your board and you will get your ass back. Now, off with you!"

And he came home and told his mother he had a magic something else. The next morning he went to the neighbor, and he said, "Neighbor, look at me! stole my board that gave me food. You stole my ass that gave me gold. Will

you return them to me as an honest person, or . . .?"

And the neighbor kept on saying, "No! What ass? and what board? I have not taken anything of yours."

And Keloğlan said, "You have not stolen them? Well, let us give it a try. Bring that board over here," he said. He got the board over there, and Keloğlan said, "Board, spread yourself. Spread!" And the board was spread with all kinds of delicious foods. And he called his mother and said, "Come, we have been almost dying with hunger." And they sat down and ate.

Then he said, "Now, let's hear you say, 'Drop gold, my ass. Drop gold!'" And as he said that, the ass began to drop gold. So Keloğlan said, "Now, haven't you stolen my goods? Beat, my stick, beat!" he said. As he said that, the stick began to beat him so that the poor neighbor could not last long. When he was done for, Keloğlan took the ass and the board and the precious stick, and they came back to their home and they lived happily ever after.