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The Keloğlan and the Fatal Tasks

There was once a Keloğlan in the time of padişahs. They wanted to get rid of this Keloğlan. They applied to the padişah for this purpose. The padişah asked Keloğlan, "You will go and steal the horse of such-and-such a giant."

Keloğlan answered, "Let me think for two days, and then I shall let you know if I will or not."

Two days later, the padişah asked Keloğlan to come to his presence again. "Well, are you going to do it?" he asked.

"Yes, but you must give me a pick-axe and a long needle to sew sacks, and shall go and steal the giant's horse."

He was given these things, and the next day he went to the giant's house. He dug a pit in front of the door, covered the pit with grass, and hid in the pit. When the giant was asleep, Keloğlan made his horse neigh by shoving the long needle into its leg. The giant heard the neighing, and Keloğlan hid himself in the pit. The giant got up and looked at the horse, but could see nothing amiss, and he went back to bed. Keloğlan came out of the pit and stabbed the horse again, making it neigh. The giant got up again and went to the stable, but could see nothing wrong with the horse. The giant was finally tired of this, and did not go to look any more, no matter how loudly the horse neighed. Keloğlan knew that the giant would not come out any more, so he went into the stable, took the horse, and rode away.

When Keloğlan was riding away, the bells on the bags rang and the giant knew his horse was being stolen. He chased the thief, but could not catch Keloğlan. Keloğlan delivered the horse to the padişah

The padişah set for Keloğlan a more difficult task. "You must steal the giant's blanket," he said.

"Then you must give me a rope and a hoe."

He was given the rope and the hoe, and he went to the giant's house. He climbed on the roof. He lowered the hoe down the chimney with the rope and tried to hook the blanket. But the giant knew that something was going on. He pulled the rope, and Keloğlan fell through the chimney.

The giant shut Keloğlan in the house in the morning when he went to work. He said to his wife, "You heat the oven and roast him and hang him up by the testicles. When I come home, I shall cut this Keloğlan and eat him."

The giant's wife prepared the oven. When Keloğlan saw that the giant's wife was very busy, he said, "Let me help you. You are very busy."

The giant's wife agreed, and she let Keloğlan out and he helped her with the oven. Keloğlan asked the woman, "Will you show me how to get into this oven?"

While the woman was trying to show the way to get into the oven, Keloğlan shoved her in. Keloğlan roasted the wife, cut off her breasts, and hung them at the top of the stairs, where the giant had told his wife to hang Keloğlan

When the giant came home, he said, "All right, Keloğlan. Are you ready yet? Let me eat your testicles." And he ate his wife's breasts. He could not find his wife. Finally he opened the oven and found what he thought was Keloğlan there. But there was no sign of his wife.

Meanwhile, Keloğlan returned to the palace and brought the giant's blanket with him

The padişah set for Keloğlan a third task. "You must now bring the giant himself," he said.

"All right," said Keloğlan, "but you must first give me a good axe and forty mules.

There was a big sycamore tree in front of the giant's house. Keloğlan started to cut this tree down. The giant heard the blows of the axe and shouted, "Hey, who is that cutting down my tree?"

"Come! Come! The Keloğlan who bothered you so long is dead, and we are making him a coffin!"

The giant came out to where Keloğlan was cutting the tree, and the two made the coffin together. They used forty mule loads of nails.

Then Keloğlan said to the giant, "Keloğlan's height is about the same as yours. Let me measure you. He had the giant lie in the coffin to be measured and started driving in the nails. Then Keloğlan harnessed the mules to the coffin and had the giant dragged to the palace.

The padişah forgave the Keloğlan in the end, and as a reward gave him his own daughter. They had a wedding which lasted for forty days and forty nights. I was there, too. I had something given to me, too. There was a piece of bone in the pilav. I had my friend Dúmen Ahmet with me. He said, "Give me some of that," and when I threw him the bone, it got into his eye and blinded him.