

Story 1511 (1970 Tape 19)

Narrator: İshak Kemali

Location: Erzurum, capital city
of Erzurum Province

Date: 1970

King Loise¹ and the One-Eyed Giant

There was once a king whose name was Loise. One day he a ship built, and when the ship was all equipped, he and a crew set sail in it. After they had sailed for a long day, they came alongside an island. They anchored their ship and ashore on this island.

After they had explored the island for a while, they observed many people working near the mouth of a cave which was occupied by a one-eyed giant. All of the people there were servants of that giant. Presenting himself to the giant, King Loise said, "I came here with my men to offer our services to you."

The giant accepted this offer and permitted the strangers to remain on the island. After they had been there for a few days, King Loise called together all of the giant's servants said, "There will come a day when this giant will devour of us. Before he can do that, we should find some way to destroy him."

¹This seems clearly to be a greatly telescoped and badly corrupted version of the Polyphemus story in the Odyssey. The one-eyed giant, his cave, his being blinded with a hot rod--these basic motifs are here. Loise cannot be a Turkish name. Can it possibly be an attempt to say Ulysses?

Story

King Loise had his men collect a great quantity of wild grapes. Putting these grapes in a large cauldron, he trod upon them long enough to squeeze all of the juice out of them. After a number of days had passed, the grape juice became wine. The king then ordered his men, "Build a fire and heat a skewer in that fire until it glows

While his men were doing this, the king himself took a quantity of the wine and went to the giant's cave. He offered the giant a cup of the wine. The giant liked the wine and asked for more. This continued until the giant had consumed a great amount of wine and then collapsed on the ground. He was drunk.

By this time the skewer in the fire had become red-hot. Picking this up with a pair of tongs, King Loise plunged it into the one eye of the giant. In great pain and furious, the giant began throwing rocks around in every direction trying to kill those who had injured him. But because he was blind, he could not see where to cast the rocks ²

After King Loise and his men had gathered some fruits, they returned to their ship and escaped from that island.

²In the Odyssey, Polyphemus does not begin hurling rocks until the strangers have reboarded their ship, moved away from the shore a short distance, and then indiscreetly taunted the blinded giant.