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Folk-Tales from Different Lands

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Dodd's Supplementary Readers

FOLK-TALES FROM DIFFERENT LANDS

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Told by

E. F. DODD, B.A.



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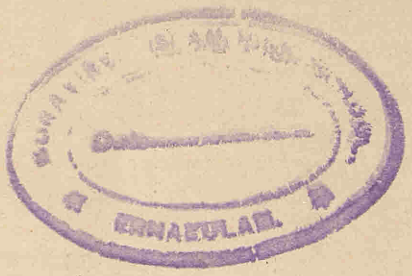

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This book is intended as a Supplementary Reader for those who have had one or two years of English. The stories contain no complex sentence structures, and are written within a carefully selected vocabulary of six hundred words.

Many of these folk-tales have their counterpart in other lands, but each story has been chosen as typical folk-lore of the country it represents.

E. F. D.

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1. GERMANY

The Fox and the Cat

All the animals in the forest came to the lion and said: 'You are our King. The fox is a bad animal and we want you to make him good.'

'Why is he bad?' said the lion.

'He laughs at us, and will not help us with our work,' said the other animals. 'He sits all day in the forest, and then he eats our food in the evening.'

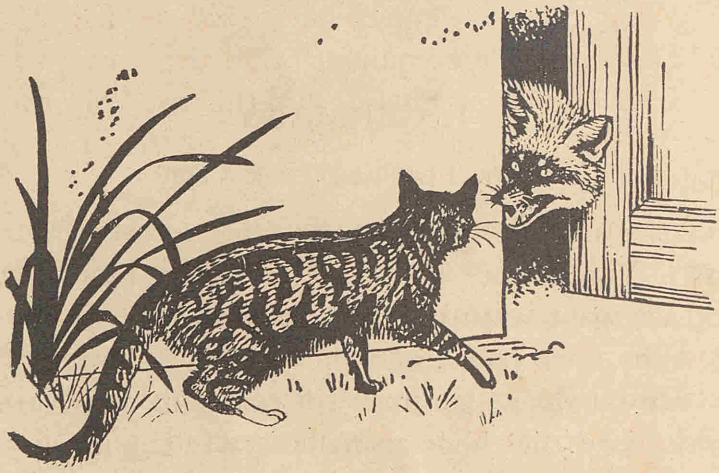
'Tell him to come to me,' said the lion, 'and I will speak to him.'

One after another the animals went to the fox and said: 'The lion wants to speak to you;' but the fox laughed and said: 'I will not go.'

Each animal went to the lion and said: 'The fox will not come.'

'Can no one bring the fox to me?' said the lion. He spoke to the cat. 'You go and bring him here,' he said.

The cat didn't want to go. He didn't like the fox. 'I am a small cat,' he said. 'I can't bring the fox to you.'



The fox saw him coming, and he came to the door of his house

But the lion was the king of animals and he said: 'You will do what I say!'

The cat went to the fox. The fox saw him coming, and he came to the door of his house. 'Good morning, my friend,' he said to the cat. 'What can I do for you? Come into my house and I'll give you some milk to drink.'

The cat was hot and thirsty and he said, 'Thank you,' and went into the fox's house. The fox gave him some milk to drink.

'Are you hungry?' said the fox.

'Yes, I am,' said the cat. 'I've walked a long way and I didn't have any breakfast.'

'What do you want to eat?' said the fox.

'Have you a nice mouse?' said the cat.

'I have no mouse here,' said the fox, 'but there's one in the next house. Come with me and we'll look for it.'

A man lived in the next house. He had a lot of hens, and the fox sometimes ate his hens at night.

'I'll make a trap for that bad fox,' the man said, and he put a trap in the hen-house. The fox had seen the trap, but he was never caught in it. Now he took the cat to the hen-house and said: 'Go in there. You will see a large mouse.'

The foolish cat went into the hen-house and was caught in the trap. The fox laughed and ran away. 'No one can make me go to the lion,' he said.

The cat got out of the trap the next morning, but he did not go to see the fox. He went to the lion and said: 'No one can catch that fox.'

And no one can! The fox is still bad, and he still eats the other animals' food. They will not speak to him and he has no friends, but he just laughs and goes his own way.

QUESTIONS

1. Why didn't the other animals like the fox?
2. Whom did the lion send to get the fox?
3. What did the cat want to eat?
4. Why did the fox take the cat to the hen-house?
5. What did the cat say when he went to the lion?



2. FRANCE

The Little Red Hen

A little red hen lived in a small brown house. A young fox lived with his mother near the hen's house. Every morning the young fox said to his mother: 'I am hungry,' and his mother said to him: 'Then go and catch that little red hen.'

'I can't catch the little red hen,' said the fox. 'She shuts the door of her house and I can't open it.'

'Don't be foolish,' said his mother. 'You're a big fox and she is a little hen. You can think of some way to catch her.'

The next morning at six o'clock the fox went to the red hen's house. He took with him a large bag and a piece of string. He went to her door and sat there. At half past six the little red hen came out of her house to get some water from the pool. She didn't see the fox, and when she went to the pool the fox went into her house. He took the bag and the string with him.

The hen came to her house again. She shut the door, and then she saw the fox.

'Help! Help!' cried the little red hen, but no one came to help her. The time was half past six in the morning and everyone was still asleep.

'Good morning, red hen!' said the fox, laughing at her. 'I'm going to eat you for my breakfast.' He ran after her.

'Help! Help!' cried the little red hen, and she jumped on to a high cupboard in the room. 'You can't catch me now,' she said to the fox.



The little red hen sat on the cupboard and looked at the fox

'I'll bring you down,' said the fox. 'Look at me.'

The little red hen sat on the cupboard and looked at the fox. He was turning round and round and round. The little red hen's eyes were tired with looking at the fox, but he said again: 'Look at me!' and she could not turn her eyes away. The fox turned round and round and round and round; and the red hen's head turned round and round as she looked at him. And then she fell off the cupboard on to the floor, with her head still going round and round.

'Ha! Ha!' laughed the fox. He took the red hen and put her in his bag. He put the string round the bag and went out of the door, taking the bag with him. 'Ha! Ha!' he laughed. 'Now we shall have a good breakfast.'

The fox went home, but when he got to his house his mother had gone out and shut the door. 'I'll go and look for her,' said the fox, and he put down his bag. The little red hen was still in it. The fox went away to look for his mother.

The little red hen had some scissors with her. She also had a needle and some thread. They were all in her pocket. When the fox had gone she made a hole in the bag with her scissors, and then she

jumped out. She put a large stone in the bag and sewed up the bag again with her needle and thread. After that she ran home and shut her door.

At seven o'clock the fox came home with his mother. He thought the hen was still in the bag and he took it into the house. ' Mother, get some hot water and we will eat the little red hen for breakfast,' he said. ' She is in this bag.'

His mother got some hot water in a bowl and put it near the bag. The fox opened the bag and put the hen into the water. But it was not the hen, it was a large stone!

' What a foolish fox you are!' said his mother. ' This is not the little red hen, it is a large stone. Where is the red hen?'

The fox looked out of the window. He saw the little red hen's house. He also saw the little red hen. Her door was shut and she was sitting at her window. She laughed at the fox.

' Good morning, Foxy,' she said. ' What are you going to eat for your breakfast?'

The fox shut his window. He did not laugh, and he did not have anything to eat for breakfast.

QUESTIONS

1. Who lived near the little red hen?
2. How did the fox get into the red hen's house?
3. How did he make her come down from the cupboard?
4. How did the little red hen get out of the fox's bag? What did she put into the bag?
5. What did the fox eat for breakfast that morning?

3. INDIA

Gopala and the Goatherd

Gopala was a little boy. He was five years old. He lived with his mother at the end of a forest. He had no father. One day Gopala's mother said to him: 'Gopala, you are five years old now. It is time that you went to school.'

The next morning Gopala went to school. He had to walk through the forest, and he did not like it. There were many animals in the forest, and he was only a small boy of five years. All the other pupils lived near the school and he had no one to go with him.

It was not so bad in the morning, but in the evening Gopala was afraid. He ran fast all the way home. He did not like all the animals in the forest. He was afraid of them. When he got home he said to his mother: 'I can't go to school to-morrow. I have to go a long way in the forest and I am afraid. There are a lot of animals in the forest and they will kill me.'

'Go to sleep, my son,' said his mother. 'To-

morrow you will not be afraid.' And when Gopala was asleep his mother said to the good god Krishna: 'O, Krishna, please help my little boy. He is very young, and he is afraid of the animals in the forest.'

The next morning Gopala still remembered the animals in the forest. He said to his mother: 'I'm afraid! I'm afraid! I don't want to go to school today.'

But his mother said: 'Don't be afraid, little Gopala. When you are in the forest, think to yourself: "I have a big brother in the forest. He is a goatherd." And then, when you are afraid you can say, "Brother Goatherd, come and help me!" '

Gopala laughed. 'How nice to have a brother who keeps goats in the forest!' he said, and he went off to school. He was not afraid now. And his mother stood at the door of her house and said to the good god Krishna: 'O, Krishna, please help my little boy.'

In the forest Gopala was afraid. He thought he saw some big animals behind the trees. He stopped and said: 'Brother Goatherd, come and help me!'

Someone said: 'Here I am, little Gopala, do not be afraid!' and a big boy came out from the trees and took Gopala's hand in his. 'Come!' the big



A big boy came out from the trees and took Gopala's hand in his

boy said. 'I'll take you to school, and in the evening I'll take you home again.'

Gopala was not afraid any more. Every morning and every evening the big boy took him through the forest. They talked and played together, and Gopala loved the goatherd very much.

One day the school teacher said: 'Tomorrow I

am having a feast at my house. I want all my pupils to come.'

All the pupils said they wanted to bring something for the feast. 'I will bring some fruit,' said one. 'I shall bring a little bread,' said another. 'My mother will give me some coffee to bring,' said a third.

Gopala went home to his mother. 'What can I take to the feast?' he said to her.

His mother said: 'Ah, Gopala, we have no food for ourselves. I have no rice or bread. I can't give you anything for the feast. Your teacher will understand.'

Gopala went to school the next morning. 'What can I do?' he said to himself. 'All the other pupils will be taking something for the feast and I have nothing.' Then he thought of his friend the goatherd. 'I will ask Brother Goatherd!' he said.

Gopala stopped walking and said: 'Brother Goatherd, come and help me!' and the big boy came out from the trees. He had a small bowl of milk in his hand. He gave it to Gopala. 'Take this to your teacher, Gopala,' he said, and then he went away.

Gopala took the milk to school. The teacher said: 'Thank you very much, Gopala. I have some

fruit and bread and coffee, but I have no milk.' Then all the pupils went to the teacher's house for the feast.

At his house the teacher took Gopala's bowl of milk and gave some milk to each pupil. Then he looked in the bowl. The milk was still in the bowl! He gave all the pupils some more milk and then he looked again at the bowl. None of the milk had gone!

'Gopala,' said the teacher, 'where did you get this milk?'

'I got it in the forest,' said Gopala. 'My big brother the goatherd gave it to me.'

Then the teacher said: 'Take me to see your big brother,' and he went into the forest with Gopala.

In the forest Gopala stopped walking and said: 'Brother Goatherd, come and see me and my teacher!' But no one came. They saw no one, but they heard someone say: 'It will be a long time before your teacher can see me, little Gopala. But I helped you and played with you. Do you know why? Few boys have a good mother like yours. Every day she said to me: "O, Krishna, help my little boy!" and I helped you.'

Gopala's Brother Goatherd was the good god Krishna.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Gopala not like to walk in the forest?
2. Whom did Gopala's mother ask to help her little son?
3. Who took Gopala through the forest every day?
4. Why did the teacher ask Gopala where he got the milk?
5. Who was the goatherd?

4. ENGLAND

Beauty and the Beast

Once there was a man who lived in a village with his three daughters. He loved them all, but he loved the youngest daughter best. She was good and she was beautiful and her name was Beauty.

One day the man was going away to the city, and he said to his daughters: 'I shall be away for a week. When I come back I will bring you something. What shall I bring?'

The eldest daughter said: 'Please buy me some shoes. All my shoes are old, and there are no nice ones in the village.'

The second daughter said: 'Please bring me a little cat. I want a little cat to play with.'

The youngest daughter, Beauty, said: 'Please will you bring me a beautiful red flower? There are a lot of flowers in our garden, but there are no red ones.'

The man went to the city. He bought some nice blue shoes for his eldest daughter, and a little black

cat for his second daughter. But he did not buy the flower for Beauty. 'I will buy the flower on the day I go home,' he thought. 'It will die if I get it now.'

After a week he went home. He had the shoes and the cat with him, but he did not remember the flower. 'What a foolish man I am!' he said. 'I have come a long way from the city now, and I can't go all the way back there. But I can't go home without a red flower for Beauty. Where can I get it?'

Then the man remembered that there was a big house near his village. The house had a very beautiful garden round it. But no one went into the garden. A large animal lived in the house, and everyone was afraid of it. It walked and talked like a man, but its head was like a lion's. Everyone called the animal the Beast.

When the man came to the Beast's house he stopped and looked at the garden. There were some beautiful red flowers in it.

'I'll get over the wall and take one flower,' thought the man. 'The Beast will not see me.'

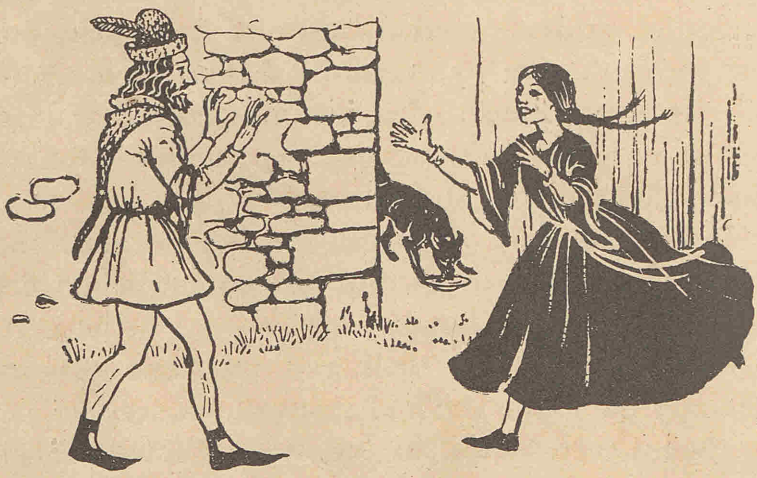
He got over the wall and took a red flower. Then he turned round and saw the Beast.

'What are you doing here?' said the Beast. 'No one can come into my garden. I shall shut you in my house and you will be killed.'

The man was very much afraid of the Beast. 'Please don't kill me!' he said. 'I will give you anything you ask for.'

'Very well,' said the Beast. 'Give me the first living thing you see when you get home. If you do this, I will not shut you up and kill you, but if you don't, I will come and take you away tomorrow.'

'My dog always runs to me when it sees me



Beauty ran out of the house to him

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coming home,' thought the man, and he said to the Beast: 'I will give you the first living thing I see.'

The Beast said: 'Very well, you can go home now,' and the man went to his village.

When he came to his house he looked for his dog, but the dog did not come. It was having a drink of milk and did not see him. But Beauty was sitting at a window looking for her father, and when she saw him she ran out of the house to him.

'Oh, Beauty!' said her father sadly. 'Why did you come out of the house? What can I do? What can I do?' He told Beauty about the Beast and said: 'I'll go back to the Beast and tell him to kill me. I can't give you to him. I thought I should see my little dog first when I came home.'

But Beauty would not let him go back to the Beast. 'I will go and live with the Beast,' she said. 'He shall not kill you.'

Beauty went to live with the Beast. At first she was afraid of him, but he was always very kind to her. He had a nice house and garden, and he gave her good food to eat. But sometimes Beauty wanted to go home to see her father and her sisters. One day she said to the Beast: 'Can I go

home for a few days? I will come back to you, but I do want to see my father and my sisters again.'

'You can go home as soon as you want to,' said the Beast sadly. 'I see that you will never love me.'

He looked very sad. Beauty put her hand in his and said: 'Beast, I *do* love you. You are always nice to me. You are a kind Beast, and I do love you.'

And then Beauty looked at him. He was not a Beast now, he was a beautiful young man. 'Who are you?' Beauty said.

'I am the king's son,' said the young man. 'One day a bad old woman changed me into a Beast. "When a beautiful girl says she loves you, then you will change into a young man again," the old woman said to me. But how could anyone love a Beast? Everyone was afraid of me. I thought I should always have to be a Beast, and I was very sad. And then you came, Beauty, and you said you loved me. Thank you very much. I love you, too. Will you marry me?'

So Beauty and the young man were married and lived together happily in his nice house.

QUESTIONS

1. What did Beauty ask her father to bring her from the city?
2. Did her father remember to get it in the city? Where did he get it?
3. What did Beauty's father say he would give to the Beast?
4. Why did Beauty go to live with the Beast?
5. Why did the Beast change into a young man?

5. RUSSIA

Sonia and King December

Sonia was a little girl. She lived in Russia. Her mother was dead and her father was married again to a woman called Nadia. Sonia lived with them. Nadia did not like Sonia. She made the little girl work very hard and she did not give her much food. She did not want Sonia to live with them.

One day Nadia said to Sonia: 'We are having a feast and I want some flowers. Go into the forest and get me some flowers.'

'But it is December!' said Sonia. 'There are no flowers in December.'

Russia is a very cold country, and from November to March there are no flowers. They have all died. The trees have no leaves, and there is no fruit anywhere. In March the sun is warmer and the flowers come again. But Nadia laughed at Sonia.

'I want some flowers,' she said. 'Go into the forest and look for some. Do not come back if you cannot find any. I shall shut the door of the house. If you can't find any flowers you can stay in the forest, and the wolves will kill you.'

Sonia was very sad. She was also very much

afraid. 'I can't find any flowers in December,' she said sadly. 'I shall die in the cold, or the wolves will kill me.' She walked a long way in the forest.

In the evening, when it was dark and cold, Sonia saw some men sitting by a fire. She went to speak to them. 'I am very cold,' she said. 'Please can I sit by your fire and get warm?'

There were twelve men sitting by the fire. One was very old. His hair was white. He looked like a king. 'Who are you?' he said to Sonia.

Sonia told him that she had been sent to the forest by Nadia. 'She says she wants some flowers,' said Sonia. 'But where can I find any flowers in December?'

The old man put his cold hand on her head. 'I am King December,' he said, 'and these other men are the months. We will help you.' The king spoke to a young man with black hair and laughing eyes. 'Come, Brother March,' he said to the young man. 'Sit in my place.'

March got up and sat in December's place. At once Sonia was warmer. She saw the green leaves on the trees, and she looked down. There were some beautiful flowers near her feet.

'Take the flowers to Nadia, little Sonia,' said



There were some beautiful flowers near her feet

March. Sonia took them, and then December changed places with March and everything was cold again.

Sonia went home and gave the flowers to Nadia. 'Where did you get them?' said Nadia, but Sonia did not tell her.

The next day Nadia said to Sonia: 'I want some nice fruit. Go to the forest and get me some, and do not come back if you can't find any.'

'Sonia cannot find fruit in December!' thought Nadia. 'She will die in the forest, and the wolves will eat her.'

Sonia ran into the forest. It was very dark and

cold. 'Oh, where are the months?' said Sonia. And then she saw them sitting by their fire.

'Please can I sit by your fire and get warm?' Sonia said to King December; and then she told him that Nadia wanted some fruit. 'Where can I find fruit in December?' said Sonia.

The king spoke to a young man with blue eyes and a laughing mouth. 'Come, Brother June,' he said to the young man. 'Sit in my place.'

June got up and sat in December's place. At once Sonia was hot. She saw flowers and fruit everywhere, and the birds sang in the trees.

'Take some fruit to Nadia, little Sonia,' said June. Sonia took some, and then December changed places with June and everything was cold again.

Sonia went home and gave the fruit to Nadia. 'Where did you get it?' said Nadia, but Sonia did not tell her.

The next morning Nadia thought: 'I will go into the forest and find some flowers and fruit. I can find it if Sonia can.' Nadia went into the forest.

She walked a long way looking for flowers and fruit. Then she saw the twelve months sitting by the fire. 'What are you looking for?' King December said to her.

But Nadia did not speak to him nicely. 'Go away, you foolish old man!' she said.

King December put his cold hand on Nadia's head, and she fell down on the ground. She was very cold and she could not get up again. She got colder and colder and colder, and at last she died. No one ever found her. Sonia and her father looked everywhere in the forest, but they did not find Nadia, and Sonia did not see the twelve months. She never saw them again. They had helped her and she always remembered them. When there were green leaves on the trees again, and the flowers came, Sonia looked out of her window and said: 'Good morning, Brother March, I am glad you have remembered to come to Russia!'

QUESTIONS

1. Why do no flowers grow in Russia from November to March?
2. Who sent Sonia into the forest to find flowers and fruit?
3. Whom did Sonia see sitting by a fire in the forest?
4. With whom did King December change places to give Sonia (a) flowers, and (b) fruit?
5. Why didn't King December help Nadia?

9. ITALY

The Poor Old Horse

Antonetto was a rich Italian. He had an old horse. The horse worked for him for many years, and the man was very good to it. He gave it food to eat and water to drink, and it lived in a small house in his garden.

But now the horse was old. It could not work. 'This horse is no good now,' said Antonetto. 'I don't want it. I won't give it any food and water. I'll buy another younger horse to live in the small house in my garden.'

He sent the poor old horse out of his garden. It walked in the streets of the town, looking for food. It ate grass and leaves, but it did not have enough to eat. The poor old horse was always hungry.

The King of Italy lived in the town. He had a very large house with a big garden. There was a gate at the end of the garden, and there was a big bell on the gate. The bell had a long rope. When people wanted the king to help them, they pulled the rope and the bell rang. Then the servant at

the gate took the people to the king, and the king helped them.

No one had rung the bell for a long time, and the rope was very old. One day the king said to the servant at the gate: 'The rope is very old. It will break. You must get another rope.'

'No one rings the bell now,' said the servant. 'Shall I take it away?'

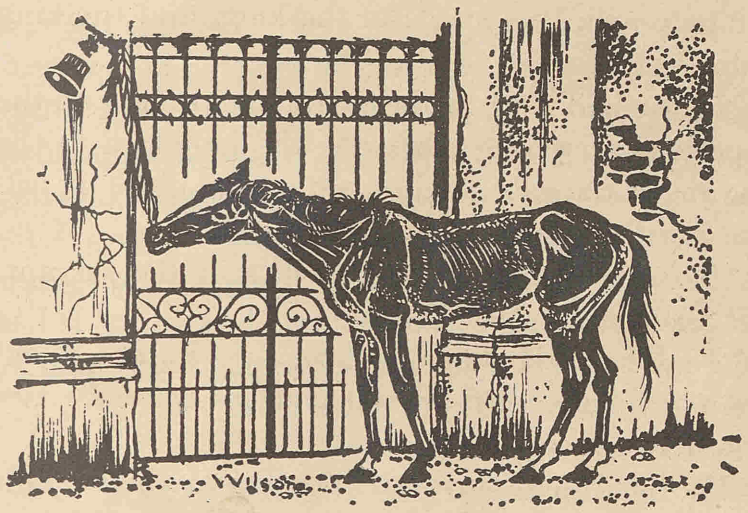
'No,' said the king. 'One day someone will want my help. Do not take the bell away. Get another rope for it.'

The king went into his house, and the servant took the old rope off the bell. Then he went into the town to buy another rope. But it was Sunday. He couldn't get a rope that day. He came back to the bell.

'Today I'll make a rope of grass,' he said, 'and tomorrow I'll buy another rope.'

He got some long pieces of grass and made a rope for the bell. Then he went into his house.

The poor old horse was walking down the street. It was very hungry, and it was looking for something to eat. It saw the long pieces of grass on the bell. 'There is something to eat,' thought the poor hungry horse.



The horse took the grass in its mouth and ate it

It took the grass in its mouth and ate it. The horse pulled the grass and the grass pulled the bell. 'Ding! Dong!' went the bell.

The servant ran out of his house to see who was ringing the bell. He laughed when he saw the old horse eating the grass rope. 'Go away, old horse!' he said, and he went into his house. The horse stood in the street. It had nowhere to go.

The king also heard the bell ringing, but the servant at the gate did not bring anyone to see him.

'Who is ringing the bell?' the king said to another servant. 'Go to the gate and see who wants my help.'

The servant went to the gate. He saw the old horse and he came back to the king. 'It is an old horse,' he said. 'It is Antonetto's horse, but Antonetto doesn't want it. He says it cannot work now, and he won't give it any food. It is very hungry, and it ate the grass rope on the bell.'

The king was very angry. 'Bring the horse into my garden and give it some food,' he said. 'It has rung my bell and asked for my help. I will help it. Go and tell Antonetto to come here.'

Antonetto came to the king.

'Is this your horse?' the king said to him.

'Yes, it is,' said Antonetto.

'Why have you sent it away?' said the king. 'Why don't you give it any food? The poor animal is very hungry.'

'It is very old and it cannot work,' said Antonetto. 'I don't want it now.'

The king was very angry with the rich Antonetto.

'When you are old your children will take care of you,' he said. 'They will not send you out into the streets to look for food. This horse has worked for you for many years. Now he is old and you shall take care of him.'

Antonetto said: 'Yes, I am sorry. I didn't think

that the poor horse would be cold and hungry. It has always been a good worker. Now I'll take care of it.'

And he took the horse back to his house and took care of it always. And for many years the king liked to tell the story of the poor old horse who rang his bell and asked for his help.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Antonetto send the poor old horse out of his garden?
2. Why did the king's servant make a rope of grass for the bell?
3. Who rang the king's bell?
4. Why was the king angry with Antonetto? What did he say to him?
5. Who looked after the old horse in the end?

7. NORWAY

The End of the Fox's Tail is White

The fox is a brown animal, but the end of his tail is white. In Norway they tell this story of why it is white.

An old woman had some animals. She had six pigs and ten hens. One day she said: 'I'm growing old. I can't take care of all these animals. I want someone to help me.'

She went to a man and said: 'Will you help me to take care of my pigs and hens? I am growing old.'

But the man said: 'I have other work to do. I can't help you.'

'I'll ask one of the big animals to help me,' said the old woman. She went to the big brown bear 'Will you help me to take care of my pigs and hens?' she said to the bear.

Bears eat pigs and hens, and the bear thought: 'I can take care of the animals, and sometimes I can eat one for my supper,' and he said to the old woman: 'Yes, I will help you.'

'Will you speak to them nicely?' said the old woman.

'Yes,' said the bear. 'I'll say *Grrr*!'

'Oh!' said the old woman. 'They will all be afraid. I'll ask some other animal to help me,' and she went away.

She went to the wolf. 'Will you help me to take care of my pigs and hens?' she said.

Wolves also eat pigs and hens, and the wolf thought: 'I can take care of the pigs and hens, and sometimes I can eat one for my supper,' and he said to the old woman: 'Yes, I will help you.'

'Will you speak to them nicely?' said the old woman.

'Yes,' said the wolf. 'I'll say *Ow-ow-ow*!'

'Oh!' said the old woman. 'They will all be afraid. I'll ask some other animal to help me,' and she went away.

She went to the fox. 'Will you help me to take care of my pigs and hens?' she said, and the fox said: 'Yes, I will help you.'

'Will you speak to them nicely?' said the old woman.

'Yes,' said the fox. 'I'll say *Come, come, little ones*!'

'That is very nice,' said the old woman. 'They won't be afraid of you.'

The fox came to live in her house and he took care of the pigs and hens. Every day he gave them their food. He always remembered to give them water to drink. He shut the hens into their hen-house at night.

'The fox is a very good worker,' said the old woman. 'He is a great help to me.'

But one day she looked for her small black pig. It wasn't there.

'Where is my small black pig?' she said to the fox.

'He has gone into the forest,' said the fox. 'He will come home soon.'

But the small black pig didn't come home.

The next day the old woman looked for her big white hen. It wasn't there.

'Where is my big white hen?' she said to the fox.

'She has gone to the pool,' said the fox. 'She will come home soon.'

But the big white hen didn't come home.

In the evening the old woman went to the hen-house to look for the big white hen. She had a bowl of milk in her hand. When she got to the hen-house she heard all the hens saying: 'Cluck,



She threw the bowl of milk at the fox

cluck, cluckety-cluck.' They were all running round and round the hen-house, and they were very much afraid.

And then, what do you think the old woman saw? She saw the fox coming out of the hen-house with a hen in his mouth!

'You bad fox!' said the old woman. 'You've eaten my small black pig and my big white hen.

Now you are taking another hen. But you shall not eat it!'

She was very angry. She threw the bowl of milk at the fox. The fox said 'Ow!' and the hen fell out of his mouth. He ran away into the forest. Then he sat down and looked at his tail. The milk had gone all over his tail. It made the end of his tail white.

The end of the fox's tail is still white. Everyone looks at him and says: 'Look at the fox! He is a bad animal. He takes pigs and hens. The old woman saw him taking her hens and she threw some milk at him. That is why his tail is white.'

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the old woman want someone to help her with her pigs and hens?
2. Whom did she first ask to help her? What did he say?
3. What did the wolf say he would say to the animals?
4. Where did the fox say the small black pig had gone?
5. Why is the end of the fox's tail white?

8. GREECE

The Shepherd Boy and the Wolf

Toni was a Greek boy. He was twelve years old. His father was a shepherd and had many sheep. One day Toni's father said to him: 'I am going away for one night. I want you to look after my sheep. Take them up the hillside, but don't go near the forest. There is a wolf in the forest and it will kill the sheep.'

Toni took the sheep up the hillside. He had a dog with him. Toni and the dog looked after the sheep all day. It was nice on the hillside. Toni could see all the people in the village, and some of his friends came to play with him. But at six o'clock in the evening his friends went home. It was dark and cold and Toni could not see the village now.

'I'm tired of looking after the sheep,' said Toni. 'There is nothing to do and no one to speak to. Everyone is in the village now.' And then he laughed. 'I'll make them come up the hillside,' he said. He stood up and shouted: 'Help! Help! The wolf is here!'

All the people ran out of their houses in the village. They had big sticks in their hands, and they ran up the hillside. 'Where is the wolf?' they said to Toni.

Toni laughed. 'There is no wolf,' he said. 'I wanted to talk to someone. Please stay and talk to me.'

But the villagers were very angry. 'We have work to do in our houses,' they said, and they went back to the village. Toni's dog was hungry and it went with them.

Toni sat on the hillside with the sheep. But at eight o'clock he said: 'All the work in the village will be done now. I want to talk to someone,' and he stood up and shouted again: 'Help! Help! The wolf is here!'

He heard the people open the doors of their houses. They had big sticks in their hands and they ran up the hillside. 'Where is the wolf?' they said to Toni, and Toni laughed again.

'There is no wolf,' he said.

The people were very angry. 'We are tired and we want to go to sleep,' they said, and they went back to the village.

Toni was also tired, and he went to sleep. At



Toni ran to catch his sheep and he saw the wolf

twelve o'clock he heard a noise. All the sheep were saying: 'Baa! Baa!' They were running round and round and they were very much afraid.

'Oh!' said Toni. 'Where is my dog?' And then he remembered that the dog had gone back to the village with the villagers. Toni ran to catch his sheep and he saw the wolf. It had a sheep in its mouth!

'Oh, help! Help!' Toni shouted. 'Please come. The wolf is here!'

But the villagers did not come. 'That bad Toni!' they said. 'He is laughing at us again.' And they stayed in their houses.

The wolf killed five sheep that night. Toni was very sad. His father came home the next day and he was very angry.

'You're a bad boy!' he said to Toni. 'You shouted *Wolf* twice, but there was no wolf. Then when the wolf came, no one believed you. Now the wolf has killed five of my sheep. I am very angry with you.'

'I am very sorry, Father,' said Toni. 'I won't be foolish again. I will always tell the truth.' And he did.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Toni's father ask him to look after his sheep?
2. Why did Toni shout 'The wolf is here!'?
3. Why were the villagers angry with him?
4. What did the villagers say when Toni shouted 'The wolf is here!' for the third time?
5. Why was Toni's father angry with him?

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