



THE GOLDEN GOOSE, A TALE FROM GERMANY

Retold by Dianne de Las Casas

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There was once a man who had three sons. The youngest was named Simple Simon. One day, the oldest son had to go into the forest to chop wood. His mother gave him a tasty pancake and a jug of juice. When he reached the forest, he met an old dwarf.

The dwarf asked, “Will you please share your food and drink with me?”

The oldest son refused. Then he began chopping the wood.

Chippety, chop, chop, chop, chop, chop
Chippety, chop, chop, chop, chop, chop

Suddenly, the axe went flying and the oldest son hurt himself. He returned home with no wood.

The next day, the second oldest son had to go into the forest to chop wood. His mother gave him a tasty pancake and a jug of juice. When he reached the forest, he met an old dwarf.

The dwarf asked, “Will you please share your food and drink with me?”

The oldest son refused. Then he began chopping the wood.

Chippety, chop, chop, chop, chop, chop
Chippety, chop, chop, chop, chop, chop

Suddenly, the axe went flying and the second oldest son hurt himself. He returned home with no wood.

The very next day, Simple Simon asked to chop wood in the forest. His father agreed. His mother gave him a stale piece of bread and a jug of sour juice. When he reached the forest, Simple Simon met an old dwarf.

The dwarf asked, “Will you please share your food and drink with me?”

Simple Simon said, “Of course.” So they began to eat. The stale bread turned into a delicious cake and the sour juice turned into sweet nectar. The dwarf was so pleased he said to Simple

Simon, "Since you have been so kind, I have a gift for you. Chop this tree and inside you will find your treasure."

Then Simple Simon began chopping the wood.

Chippety, chop, chop, chop, chop, chop
Chippety, chop, chop, chop, chop, chop

Inside the tree, he found a golden goose! He began traveling towards town when a milkmaid spotted him. She said, "A golden goose. Surely one feather will make me rich!" She grabbed Simple Simon and became stuck! The milkmaid cried,

Let me loose! Let me loose!
I'm stuck to the man with the golden goose.

Simon and the milkmaid continued traveling to town. Once in town, the shoemaker looked out of his window to see the spectacle. He said, "A golden goose. Surely one feather will make me rich!" He grabbed the milkmaid and became stuck! The shoemaker cried,

Let me loose! Let me loose!
I'm stuck to the milkmaid who's stuck to the
man with the golden goose.

Simon, the shoemaker, and the milkmaid continued traveling through town. The baker looked out of his window to see the spectacle. He said, "A golden goose. Surely one feather will make me rich!" He grabbed the shoemaker and became stuck! The baker cried,

Let me loose! Let me loose!
I'm stuck to the shoemaker who's stuck to the
milkmaid who's stuck to the
man with the golden goose.

Simon, the baker, the shoemaker, and the milkmaid continued traveling through town. The tailor looked out of his window to see the spectacle. He said, "A golden goose. Surely one feather will make me rich!" He grabbed the baker and became stuck! The tailor cried,

Let me loose! Let me loose!
I'm stuck to the baker who's stuck to the
shoemaker who's stuck to the
milkmaid who's stuck to the
man with the golden goose.

Simon, the tailor, the baker, the shoemaker, and the milkmaid continued traveling through town. The chef looked out of his window to see the spectacle. He said, "A golden goose. Surely one feather will make me rich!" He grabbed the tailor and became stuck! The chef cried,

Let me loose! Let me loose!
I'm stuck to the tailor who's stuck to the
baker who's stuck to the
shoemaker who's stuck to the
milkmaid who's stuck to the
man with the golden goose.

Simon, the chef, the tailor, the baker, the shoemaker, and the milkmaid continued traveling. They happened to be traveling in front of a castle. A very sad princess, who had not laughed in years, looked out of her window to see the spectacle. The chef continued to cry,

Let me loose! Let me loose!
I'm stuck to the tailor who's stuck to the
baker who's stuck to the
shoemaker who's stuck to the
milkmaid who's stuck to the
man with the golden goose.

She began to laugh hysterically. The king was pleased to see his daughter laughing again. He asked to see the man with the golden goose. He said to Simple Simon, "You may marry my daughter if you can empty all of the barrels in my wine cellar by midnight."

So Simple Simon went to the old dwarf in the forest. He said, "Since you are always thirsty, I know where you can quench your thirst." Simon took the dwarf to the wine cellar and the dwarf emptied every last barrel.

The next day, the king said, "You may marry my daughter if you can find a man who can eat a mountain of bread by midnight."

So Simple Simon went to the old dwarf in the forest. He said, "Since you are always hungry, I know where you can fill your belly." Simon took the dwarf to the mountain of bread and the dwarf ate every last crumb.

Then the king said, "You may marry my daughter if you can give me a ship that can sail on land and on water."

So Simple Simon went to the old dwarf in the forest. He said, "Will you please give me a ship that can sail on land and on water?" Since Simple Simon was so kind to the dwarf, the dwarf gave him the ship. Then Simple Simon gave the ship to the king. The king had no choice but to give his daughter's hand in marriage to Simple Simon.

Simple Simon and the princess were married. Simon inherited the kingdom and ruled with his beautiful wife and his golden goose. They lived happily for the rest of their days.