



THE RECKLESS MAN AND THE SWALLOW

There was once a man who lived a humble life in a cottage at the edge of the village. He had one cup for his water, one bowl for his porridge and a wooden bed. Then one day, he was lucky enough to inherit a fortune from a distant relative. Suddenly, he could have anything he wanted and everything he ever dreamed of. And this changed him a lot. He started spending as if the money could never run out. He was alone, but he still moved into a big, fancy house. He bought expensive furniture and he lived like royalty. Every day he spent faster and faster. He wanted to have everything that caught his eye without even considering whether he needed it.

But one day, he noticed that his money was running out. He thought about getting some more, but he didn't feel like going to work. And so, he started to play cards and gamble, hoping to win more money and live on comfortably. But quite the opposite happened. He gambled everything away. The last of his savings and even his beautiful house with all the furniture. He was left with only one winter coat. He didn't worry, though. He believed that it would get fixed and his luck would come back again.

The long, difficult winter was over, and spring arrived. The man went out for a walk with the sun warming up his face. There were birds flying above his head

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and when he saw that there were also swallows among them, he thought that the summer would come soon.

“It will be summer, and this coat will soon be useless. If I sell it, I will get some money and live a good life again,” he said hopefully.

And so, he did. He went to the merchant and sold him his winter coat for some spare change. But the spring was still too young, and so the weather changed the next day. It started freezing, a strong wind started blowing and the rain was lashing his face. As the reckless man went back to his hut all skinny and numb from the cold, he saw a frozen swallow lying on the ground. He smiled bitterly and muttered: “You fooled me. When I saw you, I thought you would bring the summer and I wouldn’t need my coat. But now, both of us will freeze to death.”