



## THE ROOSTER, THE CAT, AND THE CLUB

Once upon a time, there was a humble cottage at the edge of the dark forest. In it, three brothers lived together with their father, who was very old. They were very happy for many years.

One day, the father died, and only left a rooster, a cat, and an old club. After their father's funeral, the brothers had to divide their inheritance. The eldest brother took the rooster, the middle one took the cat and the youngest had to get by with the old club. They started thinking about how to use their inherited things.

The eldest went to the market in town, wishing to sell the rooster for a few coins. But nobody wanted to buy it, and so, all upset, he returned home in the evening. He was just passing through a village, still quite far from the cottage by the forest where he and his brothers lived, when night came. Luckily, there were some nice people in the village who took pity on him and let him sleep in their barn on the straw with his rooster. He was happy to lie down and rest. It was still quite dark when he was woken up by the creaking of the gate. He looked around and saw the man of the house heading out.

"But where are you going so late at night? Sunrise is still very far!" called his guest in surprise.

## THE ROOSTER, THE CAT, AND THE CLUB

“It is true that sunrise hasn’t started yet. But I need to go over those hills and bring the morning into our village. We all take turns fetching it to get a morning every day,” replied the man and he was about to go toward the hills.

“Wait a moment, Mr. landlord!” called the eldest brother, “why, I have a bird with me that knows how to call the morning. So you don’t need to go anywhere.”

The landlord only shook his head in disbelief over this strange guest’s tales. But it did indeed happen. As soon as the rooster crowed loudly three times, he could see the sunrise starting beyond the hills. He ran to wake up the mayor to introduce him to his distinguished guest with the magic bird. The mayor did not hesitate for a minute and paid one thousand gold coins for the rooster. And so the brother went home very happy.

When the middle brother saw that the eldest came home with no rooster but a satchel full of coins, he went out and took his cat to try and sell it too.

But when he went from village to village, pushing his cat on anyone who would listen, nobody wanted to buy it. After some time, he reached an unknown village he had never been to before. He decided to get some rest in the local tavern. There, he saw a very strange scene. The hostess brought many delicious dishes to the table right next to him until it was creaking under all that weight. But then, all the people stepped away from the table as mice surrounded it. They started feasting on the delicious meals and only when they had had enough, did the people come back to the table to eat whatever the mice left.

Our traveller couldn’t believe his own eyes when he saw this. After some time he told them: “I would rather starve than finish the leftovers after mice.”

“And what are we to do?” cried the hostess, “there are so many mice here that we cannot fight them.” The middle brother pulled out his cat from his canvas bag. The cat was so famished after the long trip that he immediately started hunting down the mice one by one. When the people saw this, they were so excited they pulled out all the money from their pockets and gave the middle brother two thousand gold coins right on the table. The hostess brought him a plate of delicious food to boot, so that he had some strength before his journey.

And so, the second brother went home content, because he got more than enough

## THE ROOSTER, THE CAT, AND THE CLUB

money for the cat he inherited from his father.

When the youngest brother saw how well his older brothers sold their inheritance, he also went into the world. He walked around for days with his club, but he could not sell it at all. He had been travelling for two years, when he heard some strange sounds coming from a valley. It sounded as if somebody was banging pots on the ground. He ran down to the valley and he came to a village where they were building a big fence. He took a closer look and saw that the people were banging the fence poles with pots. He couldn't believe it, so he just stared at them while they were destroying their pots.

He came closer and said: "I cannot watch you damage your pots like that. Let me help!"

He took his club and hit the pole so strongly that it sank right into the ground at once. And then another one and another, until the fence was mended. The men around him just gasped in surprise, and when they realized how much this club could help them, they offered him three thousand gold coins for his club. And so, the youngest brother went home happily, because he had also managed to sell his inheritance well.

When the three brothers met at home, they had a good laugh about the deals they made with the humble inheritance they got from their old father. With the money they had gained, each one bought a nice farm and they lived and worked there happily ever after.