

Dalya



## The Animals and the Devil

Once upon a time there was an old man who had three animals: a cat, a cock and an ox. Once, while sitting at supper, the landlord said to the servant: "Tomorrow morning you have to kill the cat."

But after dinner the servant gave the cat the advice: "Flee, otherwise you will be slaughtered tomorrow morning." The cat took the warning to heart, and when they wanted to kill it in the early morning, the victim was gone.

The landlord said again the following evening: "Tomorrow morning you have to slaughter our cock." This command of the master of the house, the servant also told the cock, who hastily left the homestead. The turn also came at the ox, and all three found themselves together again in the forest.

They wandered under the trees when a wolf came towards them. "Where are you going?" they asked him. "I go to the herd there," the wolf replied; "I want to see if I can not catch a lamb for a snack." "Do not go!" the others warned. "They will kill you there, you better come with us." The wolf agreed and they went four men up.

Then a bear came towards them. "Where are you going?" they asked again. "Near the village there, I want to eat oats," the bear answered. "Do not go, you might get hurt," said the others, "come with us." The bear then went with them, and when they had moved on a fives a bit, they met a hare. They also talked to him, and they won him as a companion, too, whereupon they went to a village and prepared to heat the bath-room.





In front of the room lay a dog, who received the others with the warning: "Do not go in there, there live evil spirits." But the others went inside. The bear lay down at the threshold, the wolf between the doorposts, the ox went to the cattle corner, the cock flew to the chicken-bed, the cat lay down on the stove, the rabbit under the bench and the dog in the middle of the room.

Then the devil came to the bathroom and opened the door. In no time the wolf bites him in the calf, the bear beats him with his paw, the ox pushes him with the horns, the cock starts to crow and the cat to meow, the hare jumps under the bank and the dog runs around the room.

Terrified by this confusion, the devil fell backwards; but scarcely had he risen and freed himself from the clutches of his enemies, when he also flew out of the door and ran in a hurry to the forest, where he told his companions the story by saying:

"A stranger stabbed me right on the threshold with his needles, a shaggy-haired man grabbed me with his fists on his chest, a cobbler hit me with his grooming bag, that I fell on my back, one on the stove struck fire, the apprentices ran around in the room, jumped from one corner to the other with glowing eyes, and tried to beat me, but could not find myself, and one (the cock) even yelled to the others, as I fled: "Take the guy! Take the guy! "

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