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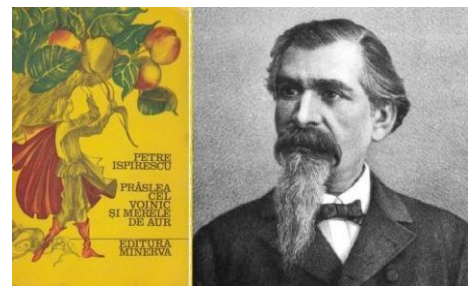
"TRAVELLING AROUND TALES AND STORIES"

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THE CHARMING PRINCE AND THE GOLDEN APPLES

Petre Ispirescu was a Romanian editor, folklorist, printer and publicist. He is best known for his work as a gatherer of Romanian folk tales, recounting them with a remarkable talent.





ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A MIGHTY and great emperor and he had three sons.

Beside the palace there was a beautiful garden, rich in flowers and at the bottom of the garden there was an apple with golden apples, unique in the kingdom. Everyone loved the beautiful garden.

The emperor was very proud of it and loved it very much but he could never eat any apple, because when the fruit were ripe, in the night someone came and stole all of them.



All the guards from all over the kingdom and the most chosen soldiers tried to catch the thieves but they couldn't. The first two sons of the king also tried but they couldn't catch the thief because during the night, when the thief came, something happened and they were sleeping very early as some steam surrounded the guardian and he couldn't help sleeping.



One day, the youngest son of the emperor, Charming Prince, came and said:

“Dad, I grew up in these palaces. I know how much you love this apple tree .Allow me to keep an eye these nights and I will catch the robber.”

-“My dear “said the emperor” so many loyal men guarded and could not do anything ;your older brothers tried too, but if you insist I’ll let you try too”

So , the emperor’s son sat a full week to watch. The first nights he felt asleep and the last day he thought: “I will be more attentive.I will make myself some very pointed sticks and put one in front and the other back to keep me awake. And I will also take my bow and the arrows with me.”

During the night he felt the smell of the steam and also felt he was ready to sleep but the sticks didn’t let him and he saw someone in the garden. He took his bow and the arrows and he shoot. In that moment a groan comes out of the tree and then a silence of death. The prince went to see the thief but he ran away.



The Charming prince wanted to catch the thief as he saw on the trunk some blood . He thought the thief was wounded.

First he gave his father the apples and the emperor was so happy to eat for the first time of his apples..."**You are the smartest and the bravest of all.Ask me anything you want.**" " I want to go and find the thieves .
Let me go with my brothers to find him."

"OK my son , but take with you the best of my horses and take care.Be always a good person as you are very brave and smart!"



They went far away following the traces of blood,and at the bottom of the world they found a big fountain. His brothers were afraid but he wanted to catch the thief because he loved his father so much and wanted him to be happy.So , he went down the fountain and...

He arrived on the other land.

He found some babies of a big bird who were kept by an ogre. He saved them as they were afraid.



He went on and found a very big castle .Inside he found three beautiful girls.

“Who are you?”-said the young prince.

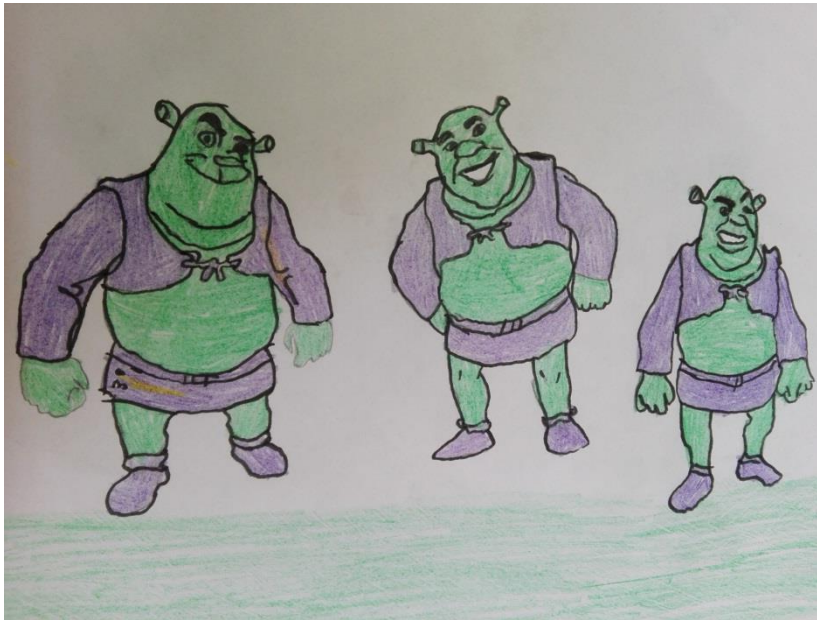
“We are princesses of your world” We have been kidnaped by three big and horrible ogres.

“They are the ones who steal golden apples and keep them here to have more and more powers.”

One of the princess said “I know that only the big bird with her little babies know how to defeat the ogres.”



The prince went and found the big and dangerous bird.



She knew he saved her babies and told him how to defeat the ogres “ You have to catch and hide their maces as they have their powers in the maces. Then you can defeat them.” And so he did with all three ogres and saved the princesses



In the same time she also helped him to go back on his world together with the princesses.

The emperor was very happy to have his son back The three sons married the three beautiful princesses and lived happy ever after .

THE END



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