

MEXICAN FOLK TALES

The Smiling Rabbit

An old man and his wife lived in a little house made of straw. They were very poor and all they owned were a rabbit and a young jaguar. When the old couple used up their last ear of corn, they decided to eat the rabbit and started heating water to cook him. When he saw that, the jaguar said to the rabbit:

-You won't get out of this one. The old people are going to eat you and they will give me a piece.

-No, my jaguar friend, -said the rabbit- the old folk are heating water to make hot chocolate for breakfast.

-That's not true. They are heating the water to cook you.

-Not at all. What's more, I can prove it. Get into my cage and you'll see; they'll give you the first chocolate.

The trusting jaguar went into the cage, the rabbit closed it and ran off. A long time went by and the jaguar tired of waiting for the old people to bring him his chocolate. When he realized that the rabbit had tricked him, he broke the cage and went after him.

After walking and walking, he found him in a cave of the kind they call sahkaberas (caves where people mine white earth). He was very angry and he showed his teeth as he said:

-I caught you, rabbit! I'm going to eat you.

-What's the matter, my friend? What are you talking about? I don't know you. I have lived here for a long time. Now excuse me, can't you see I am very busy?

My house is falling down.

-Oh, so you are not the one who tricked me?

-Of course not! But, please help me. Lean against this wall while I go get a log to hold it up and keep it from falling. And don't let go or it might crush you. So the jaguar stood on his hind legs and held up the wall.

A long time went by and the jaguar was tired. When he saw that the wall didn't fall down, he realized that he had been tricked again. He took off after the deceitful rabbit, even angrier than before.

This time he found him hanging from an elastic vine that made him go up and down. The rabbit was so happy thinking of how he had fooled the jaguar that he didn't notice when the latter took a great leap, pulled on the vine with all his strength and then suddenly let go. The rabbit went up and up through the air holding his belly and laughing, and finally he reached the moon. That is why on nights when the moon is full and red you can still see the rabbit bending over holding his stomach with laughter.



Domingo Siete

(Sunday Seven)

Long ago there were two hunchbacks. One was kind but the other was mean and spiteful. The two hunchbacks could not work in the village because everybody made fun of them; therefore they went into the hills to cut wood. That is, the kind one cut all the wood since the mean and spiteful one was very lazy and was always telling his companion;

"Ay!, how sick I am today. It is better if you go and cut the wood this week." His partner, being kind-hearted, would go into the mountains and do all the work week after week.

One day, when the mean one had stayed at home as usual, the good woodcutter worked very hard and was very tired. Since his house was far away, he decided to camp near a small spring. About midnight, the woodcutter heard someone singing. At first he thought that somebody had camped near by but when he had listened to what was being sung, he realized that the voices he heard were not human.

Very cautiously he arose and silently walked to the place where the singing came from. Imagine his surprise when he saw a group of fairies singing and dancing around a blazing fire.

*Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday three,
Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday three.*

That was all the fairies sang, they repeated the same line over and over again. It seemed that it was the only song they knew. The woodcutter then decided that he would talk to them. Naturally, as soon as he heard them singing again, he went near the fire and the fairies saw him at once.

"What do you want, oh mortal?" asked the fairies. "Why do you come to bother us?"

"Because I can help you. Listen to me and you will see that your song will sound better this way." Then he sang:

*Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday three,
Thursday and Friday and Saturday six.*

Oh! The fairies were filled with joy. They noticed then that the good woodcutter was a hunchback. They told him to kneel down and with a magic wand touched his hump. Immediately it disappeared, leaving him strong and strong.

Suddenly the earth began to tremble; the rocks began to shake, all with a terrifying sound.

"It is the ogres who come!. Quickly!" the fairies told the woodcutter. "Climb that tree; otherwise the ogres will kill you." And the fairies disappeared.

Quick as the wink of an eye, the woodcutter climbed the tree and hid in its foliage. No sooner had the woodcutter settled himself than three ugly and huge ogres sat themselves at the base of the tree and began to chat.

"Well, *amigos*, what evil deeds have you performed during the year?" Thus they asked each other.

"Well," said one of the ogres, "I have blinded the entire village. And so blind are they, that not even the sun can they see."

They all laughed and poked each other in the ribs.

The second ogre then said:

"Ha! you think that was work? I have condemned the people of my kingdom to silence. And so dumb are they that even the children are unable to cry."

The ogres laughed louder than before.

"Well, *senores*," said the third, "I haven't been idle either. I have made my people so deaf that they cannot even hear the cries of the souls in purgatory."

And the ogres laughed more loudly than ever, rolling on the ground with merriment. They were so evil that all human miseries caused them joy. The poor woodcutter, hearing them speak thus, trembled with horror.

"However," said the ogre who had spoken first, "if you have done as I have, then everything proceeds well. Those poor unfortunates whom I have blinded don't know how easily they can be cured. Nevertheless, don't think I am going to cure, much less give them the remedy."

"Good," said the second ogre. "You are going to tell us, no? I also have a remedy to cure the deafness of my people and I am sure that our friend here has also a remedy for the dumbness of his people."

"You are right," answered the third ogre, "I also have a remedy."

"*Senores*," said the first, "to cure the blindness of my subjects all one has to do is to collect the dew during the first week of April. Then by rubbing a finger dipped in this dew over the eyes of the blind, they will be cured."

"You must guard you secret well; it is very ingenious." exclaimed the second ogre. "But listen to my remedy. As I have told you, I have deafened my subjects. Do you know how they can be cured? It is certainly more difficulty to cure this deafness than the blindness you spoke of. You have heard of the Hill of the Bells; all one has to do is take the person who is afflicted with dearness to this Hill, place him next to the rock, and then strike this rock with a hammer. The sound resulting from the blow will cure the deaf person."

"That is nothing," said the third ogre. "To cure the dumbness of my people, one must go into the fields and pick flowers from the cenizo plant, which blooms only after a good rain. These flowers are set to boil, and a tea is made from them. The afflicted is given this tea to drink. Then not only is he cured of dumbness, but of every known ailment."

The ogres were enjoying themselves a great deal, but since dawn was approaching, they agreed to meet again at the same place a year from that date.

As soon as the ogres left, the woodcutter clambered down from the tree saying to himself, "since the fairies have been kind to me, I will repay kindness with kindness. I will go and cure those poor afflicted persons the ogres talked about. However, since it is a long time until April, I will first go and cure the deaf and the dumb."

Walking, walking, the woodcutter finally reached the land of the dumb. The good man picked the cenizo flowers, brewed the tea, and gave it to the dumb. Immediately their speech was restored. So grateful were all these people that they loaded the woodcutter's little donkey with bars of gold and silver. From the land of the dumb, the woodcutter traveled to the kingdom of the deaf. He took the deaf to the Hill of the Bells and cured them. *Dios mio!* what joy! These people also gave the woodcutter a donkey loaded with gold and silver bars. Since April was near, the woodcutter traveled to the country of the blind. Camping on a grass-covered prairie, he waited for the first week of April. When the proper time arrived, the good woodcutter collected the dew from the grass, entered the village of the blind, and cured all. As a reward, the previously blind loaded their benefactor with still more gold and silver.

At last he returned to his home, where his friend the envious hunchback, awaited him. The good woodcutter related his adventures but the evil one didn't care about the gold or the silver. He wanted to rid his back of its hump.

"*Compadre*," the evil one would ask his good friend, "why don't you tell me where this tree is? The ogres will be there soon; maybe I can also be rich like you. But above all, I hope the fairies will straighten my back."

The kind-hearted woodcutter took pity on his friend and agreed to do as he asked. On the morning of the day set for the meeting of the ogres, the good woodcutter took his friend to the tree. The mean hunchback, without even thanking his kind companion, climbed the tree and set himself to await the arrival of the ogres and the fairies.

Before the fairies arrived, the earth and the rocks trembled as in the previous occasion and the ogres met under the tree.

"*Amigos*", said the largest ogre, "there is a traitor amongst us. Someone has cured the blindness of my subjects. We were the only ones who know what was said here a year ago; it must be one of us."

"It wasn't I," said the second, "because in my kingdom the dumb can now talk."

"And my previously deaf people can now hear," called in anger the third. "A woodcutter came to my kingdom and cured everyone."

"He was the one that cured my subjects!" exclaimed the other two ogres.

The fairies appeared then, singing and dancing. Their fear of the ogres was forgotten.

*Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday three
Thursday and Friday and Saturday six.*

The hunchback, who had seen the fairies come out, was impatient to add to the song, hoping that his hump would be removed. When the fairies reached the word "six" the hunchback yelled the first thing that came to his mind:

"And Sunday seven!"

For an instant the ogres and the fairies stood as if carved from stone. Recovering their faculties in an instant, the fairies exclaimed, "Our song has been ruined!" Then they disappeared.

The ogres by this time had also looked around. Yelling "There is the traitor!" they reached into the tree and brought down the hunchback.

"And so it was you, insignificant spider, who revealed our secrets! Well, take this!" And the ogres decorated the back of the hunchback with another hump.



El Principe Oso

(The Bear Prince)

Once upon a time there was a very poor woodcutter who had three beautiful daughters. Of the three girls, the youngest was the most beautiful. One day the woodcutter went into the forest and was chopping down an oak tree when a very large and horrible bear wrenched the axe from his hands.

"Who gave you permission to cut the wood in my forest?" growled the bear. "You have been stealing my timber and now you must pay for it with your life."

"Please forgive me, Senor Oso," said the poor woodcutter, "I was only cutting the wood to sell it and thus support my three little daughters. If you kill me, my little girls will starve."

The Bear remained thoughtful and then said,

"There is only one way in which your life may be saved. You have to give me one of your daughters in marriage."

The woodcutter didn't know what to say or do. Finally the thought of dying and leaving his daughters destitute forced him to agree to the Bear's proposal.

The woodcutter returned home and told his daughters what had happened.

"Father," said the two eldest girls, "we would rather die than marry that Bear."

Ninfa, the youngest, said. "Father, I will marry the Bear."

Next day Ninfa and her father went into the forest where the Bear was waiting for them. After seeing the beautiful maiden, he was satisfied.

Ninfa, however, said to the Bear, "Senor Oso, my mother always taught me that in all things I should always follow God's law. If I must marry you, I want to be married according to the Catholic rites."

The Bear agreed, provided a priest could come to the forest. The woodcutter went in search of a priest and soon returned with one. Ninfa and the Bear were then married.

The Bear took Ninfa to his cave, and when it grew dark he chanted:

*"Bear so hairy, Bear so alarming,
Change into a prince handsome and charming."*

In an instant the Bear changed into a handsome prince. He then told Ninfa, "I am an enchanted prince, cursed by a witch into being a bear by day and a man by night. You do anything you want around here on one condition, that you never reveal that I am an enchanted prince."

Ninfa, happily promised that she would never reveal the secret.

The next morning they arose from bed, and the prince said:

*"Prince so handsome, prince so charming,
Change into a Bear, hairy and alarming."*

In an instant the prince had changed back into a bear.

Days followed days and Ninfa felt a desire to go and visit her family in the village. However, she didn't know how to ask the prince for permission. Finally she mustered enough courage and said to him.

"Aside from you, husband, I don't have anyone with whom to talk. I wish you would let me go to the village to see my father and sister. It isn't far, and if I leave early enough I will be back before it gets dark."

The prince did not want to let Ninfa go, but the girl insisted so much that he finally consented. However, he made her repeat her oath never to reveal the prince's secret.

Next day Ninfa got up early. She dressed herself richly and went to see her father and sisters, who welcomed her joyously. However, the devil, who never sleeps, soon filled the sisters with envy. They began to poke fun at Ninfa, jealous of the fact that she was wearing rich jewels and costly garments.

"You married a bear, what shame!" the sisters repeatedly told her.

So many times did the sisters repeat this, that finally Ninfa lost her temper and revealed her husband's secret. The sisters were deeply amazed to hear Ninfa's tale. The eldest one then said:

"Look, Ninfa, why don't you disenchant the prince? What you have to do is easy. Get him drunk tonight. When he goes to sleep, tie him up and gag him. As soon as day breaks and the prince wakes up, he will not be able to say the magic words and the enchantment will be broken. Then you will have a husband with a human form forever."

Ninfa returned to the bear's cave and that night did everything her sister had suggested. The prince awoke the next morning, and imagine his surprise at finding himself tied and gagged!

He could not say the magic rhyme and the enchantment was broken.

"Wife," the prince later said to Ninfa, "you have broken your promise; now you must bear the consequences. To break the enchantment and live happily ever after, we two had to live happily married a year and a day. Since you have disobeyed me, you are going to have to look for me. You will not find me until you locate the Castle of Faith."

Saying this, the prince vanished and Ninfa was left alone. She cried and was sorry, for she truly loved the prince. Then, determined to be reunited with her husband, Ninfa decided to go and look for the Castle of Faith. Tying a few belongings together, she slung them on her back and left on her search.

She walked and walked and finally arrived at a forest where a wizard lived.

"Nina," said the wizard, "what do you want here in this forest?"

"I am looking for the Castle of Faith," answered Ninfa, "do you happen to know where it is?"

"I don't know where that castle is located," said the wizard, "but follow this road until you reach my father's house. He may know where the castle is. Take this nut and if you ever find yourself in trouble break it."

Ninfa thanked the old man, and left, finally reaching the house where the wizard's father lived. She asked him if he knew where the Castle of Father was. The old man didn't know but said:

"Look, walk along this road until you come to the house of my eldest brother. He has traveled much, perhaps he can tell you where the castle is. I am going to give you another nut just as my son did. If you find yourself in trouble, break it and it will help you.

Ninfa walked and walked and finally came to the house of the third wizard. He also didn't know here the castle was. However, he told her what to do:

"The Moon probably knows. Follow this road and soon you will come to her house. But be careful, the Moon may be angry. I am also going to give you a nut. If you find yourself in trouble, break it."

Ninfa left. The poor girl was very, very tired, but at last that night she arrived at the moon's house. She knocked on the door and a little old lady, who was the moon's housekeeper, came out.

"Merciful God! Daughter, what are you doing here?" asked the old lady. "Don't you know that if the Moon finds you here she will eat you?"

Ninfa tearfully told the old woman all that had happened.

"Look," said the old one, "you hide behind the stove. When the moon comes, I will carelessly ask her if she know where the castle is."

At dawn the moon came in, angry because she had stuck in her finger a thorn from a prickly pear.*

The moon came into the kitchen and said, "Human flesh I smell here. Give it to me or on you I will feast."

"Go on," said the old woman, "you're crazy. Just because there is a roast in the oven, you think it's human flesh. Sit down and eat so that you can go to bed. You are very tired.

The moon sat down to eat and the old lady began to talk. "The other day an owl went by, and I got to talking with her. She told me she had heard talk about the Castle of Faith. You, who know so many things, surely know where this castle is."

"To tell you the truth," said the Moon, "I don't know." The one who probably knows is the Sun."

The moon went to bed and the little old lady whispered to Ninfa, "Quickly, leave before the Moon wakes up. Go along this road and soon you will arrive at the house of the Sun."

Ninfa left and she walked and walked, until finally she came to the Sun's house. She knocked on the door and another little old lady answered.

"Valgame Dios, nina!" she exclaimed, "What are you doing here?" Don't you know that if the Sun finds you here he will burn you?"

Ninfa began to cry, and between sobs told her story to the little old lady. They were both gloomily taking when the house suddenly filled with light and the Sun came in. Poor Ninfa. She crossed herself and prepared to die. But the little old lady yelled.

"Wait, Sun! Wait! this poor child is looking for the Castle of Faith."

"Ah!" exclaimed the Sun, "so you are looking for the Castle of Faith."

Tearfully Ninfa told the Sun what had happened to her.

"I know where the castle is," said the Sun. "But it is very far from here. I could take you, but it is getting late and you know that I am not allowed to go out after dark. But look! Near here lives my good friend, El Aire, the Wind. He can take you. You walk along this path and when you get to El Aire's home, you tell him that it was I who sent you."

Ninfa left and, after walking a good while, arrived at the Wind's house. She knocked and the Wind screamed, "Come in whoever it is!"

Ninfa entered and told El Aire that the Sun had sent her with a request.

"Granted," said El Aire, "no matter what it may be."

She told Senor Aire all that had adversely happened to her and that she wanted to go to the Castle of Faith.

"Do not worry," said El Aire, "I myself, will take you."

Ninfa straddled El Aire's back, and in less time than it takes to wink an eye, they arrived at the castle.

"Look," said El Aire, "it seems that there is a fiesta in the castle."

The whole castle was brilliantly lit and the sound of violins and guitars could be heard everywhere.

"I have to leave," he told Ninfa. "With the help of God, everything will come out all right."

And turning into a whirlwind, he rushed away.

Ninfa knocked on the door of the castle, and a servant come out.

"In what may I serve you?" asked the servant.

"I would like to see the prince."

"Senora," answered the servant, "you cannot see him at this moment. He just got married and now is dancing with the new princess."

"Well, if that is the case, Senor, at least let me come in and see this *baile*. I have never seen such a magnificent *baile*."

The servant told Ninfa, "I am going to let you come in, but one condition, that you be careful and not let the bride see you. Since you have not been invited, the bride would be angry at seeing you here."

Ninfa entered the castle and saw her husband, the prince, eating at a table and surrounded by his guests.

She flattened herself against the wall. From there she began trying to attract the prince's attention. He kept on taking; he had not seen the poor girl.

Ninfa tried so hard to get the prince's attention that the bride saw her. She was an evil witch who with her magic had blinded the prince and made him marry her.

The prince then saw Ninfa and recognized her immediately. He yelled at the servants, telling them to bring Ninfa to him, but with the noise nobody heard him.

The witch screamed at her servants, "Run that beggar out!"

The servants were about to lay their hands on Ninfa when the girl broke one of the magic nuts the wizards had given her. In an instant Ninfa turned into a little rat which ran hither and yon. When the witch saw this, she turned into a huge cat which began to chase the rat. The rat sprang atop the prince's table, and onto his plate. There Ninfa broke another nut and turned into a grain of rice which became lost among many on the prince's plate. The cat also jumped on the table, turning instantly into a chicken which began to eat the rice.

Ninfa then broke the other nut and turned into a coyote which ate the chicken in one bite.

Ninfa then was transformed back into human form to be reunited with the prince and both lived happily ever after.



Blanca Flor

(White Flower)

Long ago there lived a queen who was as beautiful as she was vain. This queen had a little daughter named Blanca Flor who was also very beautiful, and grew more so every day.

The queen, to satisfy her vanity, had a magic mirror which she consulted daily, asking it always, "Who is the most beautiful woman in the world?"

And the mirror would answer. "You, and you alone."

As the years went by, Blanca Flor's beauty increased daily. One day, the queen asked her mirror the usual question, but it answered, "Blanca Flor."

The queen, amazed at the mirror's answer, asked again, "Mirror, who is the most beautiful woman in the world?"

And the mirror answered again, "Your daughter, Blanca Flor."

The queen, who was cruel and spiteful, was angry, and decided to have Blanca Flor killed.

She called a trusted servant who had oftentimes carried out her evil orders, and she said to him, "Juan, Blanca Flor must be killed."

"But your Majesty...", said the servant in surprise.

"Not a word more!" exclaimed the queen. "Tomorrow, early, I want you to take Blanca Flor into the forest and there kill her. I also want proof of your obedience."

The next day Juan invited Blanca Flor to cut flowers in the forest. While they walked, Juan was filled with pity for the maiden and, unable to bear the thought of what he had to do to her, he told Blanca Flor all.

"My princess, your mother has ordered me to kill you. Since you have always been good and kind to me, I can't harm you. Nevertheless, if I return to the palace without proof of your death, the queen will order my execution. However, I have thought of a way in which we may fool the queen. Give me some of your garments; I will kill a rabbit and with its blood stain them. Then I will take them to the queen."

When he had done all this, Juan told Blanca Flor, "Now, go with God."

Blanca Flor thanked Juan; then she walked deeper into the forest. As the day came to an end, she began to hear the night creatures stirring. With each step she took, the fear of these beasts increased. Suddenly, she saw a light. Blanca Flor ran towards it and soon came to a grass-thatched hut. The princess knocked on the door but nobody answered. she knocked again; nobody answered. Fear made her open the door and go into the hut, and there in the middle of the room was a table set with food and drink. Blanca Flor was so hungry that, sitting down at the table, she first ate; then gave thanks to God. The food made her drowsy, so she stretched out near the stove and went to sleep.

The hut which Blanca Flor had found belonged to a band of robbers. At dawn the highwaymen arrived, and imagine their surprise on finding a young and beautiful girl asleep near the stove in their house.

The noise the bandits made awoke Blanca Flor.

"Don't be afraid, girl," said the robber-chief. "We won't harm you."

The chief meant this. The highwaymen were kind-hearted and stole only from the rich to give to the poor.

When Blanca Flor saw that the thieves were good and kind-hearted, she told them of her mother's cruelty.

"You can stay here with us," said the robber-chief. "We already know how cruel the queen is. But be careful, for if she finds out that you are alive, she will again try to kill you."

Meanwhile, Juan had returned to the palace. There he showed the queen the blood-stained garments. Oh! the queen was so happy with this proof of Blanca Flor's death. She rewarded Juan lavishly.

That night in her bedroom the queen consulted her magic mirror.

"Magic mirror, who is the most beautiful woman in the world?"

And the mirror answered, "Your daughter Blanca Flor."

Pale with anger, the queen called the guards and ordered them to bring Juan immediately.

"Juan," said the queen, "You have lied to me. Blanca Flor is alive."

"But your majesty..." began Juan. Before he could continue, the queen launched herself on the poor man and stabbed him to death on the spot.

That night the queen couldn't sleep, thinking of how she could find Blanca Flor and kill her.

The following day the queen disguised herself as a peasant, altering her face with magic creams and so changing her looks that nobody recognized her. Then, in a cunningly carved silver coffer, she placed an enchanted golden necklace. Anyone who wore this necklace would immediately fall into a death-like sleep.

The queen left the palace and soon came to the forest. She walked into the woods and at last arrived at the hut where Blanca Flor was living.

The girl was alone in the hut when she heard a knock at the door. She looked out of the window and saw a sweet old lady. Thinking the old woman was harmless, she opened the door.

"Child," said the old queen, "I wish you would be kind enough to give me a glass of water. I'm very tired and very thirsty."

"Come in, Señora," answered Blanca Flor, and running into the kitchen she brought the glass of water.

The queen drank the water, thanked Blanca Flor, and said:

"Niña, I have to go now, but since you have been so kind, I am going to give you this golden necklace."

"Thank you, Señora," said Blanca Flor, taking the necklace and placing it around her throat. As soon as Blanca Flor fastened the clasp, she fell to the floor as if dead.

Leaving her daughter right where she had fallen, the evil queen fled back to her palace.

That evening when the thieves returned they found Blanca Flor seemingly dead. They did all they could to revive the girl, but all their attempts were useless.

The bandits loved Blanca Flor so much that they decided to build a crystal coffin for her. This the robbers then placed in a cave that was near the hut so that they could go and see Blanca Flor every day.

Time passed and one very rainy day a prince took refuge from the weather in the cave where Blanca Flor was lying. When the prince's servants lit torches, they saw Blanca Flor in her crystal coffin. Immediately the prince fell in love with her. He thought that the beautiful girl was dead, but ordered that the coffin be taken to his kingdom. There he built a beautiful chapel and in it placed Blanca Flor.

One day the sexton in charge of Blanca Flor's chapel fell sick and another took his place. The new one liked to steal things, and seeing the magic necklace, he decided to take it.

Very carefully the new sexton removed the necklace from Blanca Flor. A thunderclap was heard and she awoke. The sexton, terrified, ran out screaming. Hearing all this noise, the prince ran to the chapel, where he found Blanca Flor sitting in her coffin. The girl, when she saw the prince, fell in love with him.

Blanca Flor told the prince all that happened to her. The prince then raised an army and went and punished Blanca Flor's mother.

Then Blanca Flor and the prince were married and lived happily ever after.



El Conejito Verde

(The Little Green Rabbit)

Long ago there was a very rich king who had three sons - three very handsome sons whom he loved very much. The king, however, desired to have his orders obeyed implicitly. One day the three princes went visiting without their father's permission and the king became so angry that he punished them by enchanting them and transforming them into little rabbits. The eldest was changed into a pinto rabbit, the second into a white rabbit, and the youngest into a very pretty little green rabbit.

Furthermore, the king told them, "For an entire year you will not leave the palace and will only assume your human form at night."

Time passed. One day when the three rabbits were nibbling grass in the palace garden, the green rabbit said, "Hermanos, I can't bear this life any longer. Let us crawl through the water pipe and see what surrounds this prison."

The other two rabbits were loath to go. They were afraid of the king. However, the green rabbit insisted so much that finally the brothers agreed. All that afternoon the rabbits ran over the hill and dale. returning to the palace, they heard the beautiful voice of someone singing a happy song.

"Let us go and see who is singing," said the green rabbit.

His brothers refused, even though the green rabbit begged and begged. The green rabbit went alone. He went in the direction the singing came from and found a beautiful palace. Hoping to find a way to get in, he hopped around the garden walls and finally found a crack through which he crawled. Silently he crept into the garden. There he saw that the singer was a beautiful princess with sun-gold hair and sea-blue eyes. Her name was Marisol. The little rabbit fell in love with her at first sight. Unconsciously, he got nearer and nearer to her. The princess, seeing the rabbit, with a single motion captured him. She ran into the palace to show her parents the pretty little green rabbit she had captured. Her parents loved Marisol very much. Besides being

good and kind, Marisol was their only daughter. The princess then took the rabbit to her bedroom and imagine her surprise when she heard the rabbit speak!

"Beautiful princess, I am not a rabbit. I am a prince enchanted as punishment for disobeying my father. If you do not let me go, my father the king will kill me tonight. Release me and I promise that as soon as my penalty is over, I will return and marry you. In token of my word, take this ring."

The princess was astonished to hear the rabbit's words, but because she was kind and because she had fallen in love with the rabbit, she took him to the garden and let him go.

Months passed and the rabbit didn't come back to see Marisol! More time went by and Marisol began to pine. To such an extent did her heartbreak increase that her parents became alarmed. They decided that in order to cheer her, a great fiesta would be given in her honor. They ordered musicians and artists to be brought from all over. Perhaps they would cheer her.

In a nearby village there lived an old man who had a daughter. The girl could play the guitar and sing gay and beautiful songs. When he heard the king's proclamation, the old man decided to take Rosita, his daughter, to sing before the princess. The girl and her father, astride their little donkey, set out for the palace. They had to pass through the city where the rabbits lived. When they arrived there, Rosita and her father were very hungry. She went to a bakery near to the palace to buy some bread. The baker was very angry because his bread had burnt, so he hurled the flat loaf of bread at Rosita. She tried to catch it but could not. The round, flat loaf fell to the floor and rolled out of the door. Rosita ran after it, but the bread kept on rolling and rolling. Finally, it rolled through a crack in the palace wall and lodged near the door of a beautiful bedroom in which there were three beautiful beds. Rosita heard a noise and perforce had to hide. She took cover behind the arras in the room, and peeping around it saw three rabbits come in. One was a pinto rabbit, the other a white rabbit and the third a green rabbit. The pinto rabbit jumped on the bed, flipped himself over, and became a handsome prince. The white one did the same and changed into another very handsome prince. Soon, both went to sleep. Finally, the green rabbit jumped on the bed, flipped over, and was changed into a very, very handsome prince. But this last prince did not go to sleep right away; he began to cry. The other two princes awoke and began to talk to him saying, "Forget the Princess Marisol. Our father will never let you marry her."

At last all three princes went to sleep and Rosita managed to make her way out of the palace by the same route she had used in entering.

Dawn was near, so Rosita and her father left for Marisol's village.

Rosita and her father arrived at the palace and went to see the king. Rosita sang and danced but could make no impression on Marisol. At length, Rosita said, "Look Princess, I am going to tell you a tale."

Then Rosita related all that had happened and how she had seen the little green rabbit. Marisol was filled with joy and asked her parents for permission to go and see the green rabbit. Marisol's

parents did not want to let her go, but she insisted so much that the king and queen finally agreed.

Rosita and Marisol journeyed to the city where the rabbit lived. When they were near the crack in the wall of the palace, Rosita told Marisol, "Look, my princess, we are going into the palace through this crack in the wall. Do not make any noise, for if the king hears us he will kill us."

Marisol agreed and they entered the prince's bedroom. After some time the pinto rabbit came in, jumped on the bed, flipped over and became a handsome prince. Then a white rabbit came in, did the same, and became another handsome prince. At last the little green rabbit came in, and when he had jumped on the bed and flopped over, Marisol could not stand it any longer. She cried and ran towards the prince.

The king, who had been strolling near the hall, heard Marisol cry and immediately rushed to the bedroom. When the king saw her, he was greatly angered, so much that he wanted to kill her. But then the youngest prince told his father, "My liege and my King, this maiden is my fiancée and we are going to be married."

The king's rage knew no bounds but, controlling himself he said, "So you want to get married, eh? And so you have seen each other without my consent, eh? Well, now, before I agree to your wedding you two must do as I say."

"You," he told the prince, "will continue to be a rabbit for seven more years. And you," the king told Marisol, "will not be able to marry the prince until you fill seven barrels with your tears and wear out these seven pairs of iron shoes."

The poor prince and the poor princess had to say yes. They could not do anything else. The prince knelt down and prayed and Marisol tearfully bade him good-bye as she went out into the world to wear out her iron shoes.

After walking and crying a long, long time, Marisol finally arrived at the house where the moon lived. Marisol had already filled the barrels with her tears and worn out the seven pairs of iron shoes. However, the poor girl was so tired and so far from the green rabbit's palace that she had to rest some place. Marisol knocked on the door of the moon's house and the moon came out.

"Niña," said the moon, "what are you doing here?"

Marisol told the moon her story and asked aid in reaching the green rabbit's home.

"Look," said the moon, "at present I cannot travel through that particular part of the world. I am not due on that side of the earth for many more days. But do you see that hill? My compadre, the Sun, lives over there. Go to him, he probably will be able to help you."

Marisol walked and walked and finally arrived at the sun's house. She knocked on the door and the sun came out. "What are you doing around here, niña?" asked the sun.

"I am the green rabbit's fiancée," said Marisol. "I am wondering if you could aid me in getting back to his palace."

The sun stared at Marisol and said, "Do you say you are the green rabbit's fiancée? That is impossible. The green rabbit is going to be married within three days. His fiancée was picked out by the king himself. All the people are praying for me to be in a good humor. They really want me to shine that day."

"Señor Sol," begged Marisol, "please take me to the palace." And the girl told the sun all that had happened to her.

"Look, niña," answered the sun, "I cannot take you because if I held you in my arms I would burn you. But listen! Yonder, on the other side of that hill, lives my compadre, the Wind. Tell him to take you where you are going."

Marisol walked and walked until finally reaching the hill, went to the house where the wind lived. The girl knocked on the door and señora Aire, the wind's wife, came out.

"Come in, hijita," señora Aire said, "what are you doing around here?"

Marisol told señora Aire all that had happened. Suddenly the señor Aire came in, laughing so hard that he shook all over. Señora Aire asked him the reason for his laughter and señor Aire answered that it was because he had destroyed all the preparations for the wedding of the green rabbit and his fiancée. The wind saw Marisol then, and asked her what she was doing there. Marisol told him what had befallen her.

"Oh," said señor Aire, "that's probably the reason the green rabbit has been praying so much in the chapel lately. I think he is asking for your return. take hold of my waist and quicker than you can wink your eye we will be at the palace."

And with whirlwind speed señor Aire took Marisol to the palace where the green rabbit lived.

The king was there also and he asked, "Who is this beggar?"

But the green rabbit recognized Marisol and ran to her, crying at the same time, "My fiancée is here! My true fiancée has come at last!"

Marisol then produced the seven barrels filled with her tears and a handkerchief where the remains of the seven pairs of iron shoes were tied. She gave them to the king.

And since the king had given his word, Marisol and the prince were married and lived happily ever after.



Clemencia y Jose

(Clemencia and Jose)

Very long ago there lived a couple who had a daughter named Clemencia.

The mother, who was a witch, did not like Clemencia because she said the girl was a fool who was always going to church.

One day, the crops were more abundant than usual and Clemencia's father was forced to hire a youth named José to help with the harvesting. In a short time, José and Clemencia fell in love and wanted to marry as soon as possible.

When they asked for her parents' approval, the father gave his permission, but the witch denied it.

Nevertheless, Clemencia and José fell more and more in love with each other, thus increasing the anger the witch bore them.

One day when José was in the corral taking care of the mules, the mother decided to kill him, hoping to end the love affair and make Clemencia suffer. The witch went in search of her husband and said to him, "Old man, tell José to go to the pasture and bring back the black mule that is grazing there."

Clemencia, when she heard her mother say this, guessed that the witch was trying to kill her loved one.

"Look, José, shortly my father will come to tell you to bring a black mule from the pasture and put it in the corral. That black mule is my mother. If you ride her, she will buck; and if she unseats you, she will kill you. So listen closely to what I am going to tell you. When you mount the mule and she starts to buck, bend over and bite her right ear. This will render her powerless. Bring the mule and put it in the corral but be careful not to tell anybody anything."

Everything happened exactly as Clemencia had predicted. José rendered the mule powerless and brought her safely to the corral. When it was time for supper, José noticed that the old woman was wearing a bandage on her right ear.

That night Clemencia and José decided to elope. They agreed that at eleven Clemencia would wake José and both would flee.

At eleven Clemencia went to José's bedroom. She shook him awake and said, "Spit on your bed, I have already spat on mine." Then they left.

Soon after, the old witch awoke and began calling Clemencia, but the spittle the daughter had left on her bed answered, "Mother?"

The old woman, hearing Clemencia's voice, went back to sleep. A long time went by and Clemencia's mother woke again. She called Clemencia again but this time there was no answer. The spittle had dried. The angered witch got up and went to Clemencia's bedroom. Not finding the girl there, she ran toward José's bedroom. She didn't find him either. Guessing what had happened, the witch waited for daylight, then turned herself into an eagle and flew in search of the youths. After flying a long while, the witch saw them. Clemencia also saw the eagle and knew it was her mother. Clemencia, who had learned a good deal of magic from her mother, dropped a comb on the ground, whereupon in a moment a huge forest sprang up. The eagle could not fly over it so she came down to earth and changed back into the witch. With counter-magic she made the forest disappear. Then she turned into an eagle once more and continued her pursuit of the lovers.

José and Clemencia had gained some ground but soon noticed that the eagle was almost upon them again. The girl then threw down a mirror which became a lake so broad that the eagle could not fly over it.

Seeing the huge size of the lake, the eagle landed, became a witch again, and caused the lake to disappear. Trying her magic again, she turned back into an eagle and flew in pursuit. again the eagle saw the couple, but Clemencia threw a handful of ashes in the air. The ashes turned into a dense fog which the eagle could not cross. as it was getting dark, the witch could not follow the lovers any more. The witch lost her powers with the setting of the sun.

Before flying home, however, the witch cursed the lovers saying, "Bad daughter, remember that your lover will leave you as soon as you arrive at the first village."

Clemencia and José did not pay attention but kept on without stopping to rest. At last they came to a village. As they neared the outskirts of the town, Clemencia sat down to rest because she was very tired and because her shoes were torn from walking so much.

"Wait here for me while I go into the village and buy you a pair of shoes and something to eat," said José.

Clemencia did not want José to leave her, but he insisted so much that she let him go.

It grew dark and José did not return. Another day went by and he still did not return. Finally, remembering her mother's curse, Clemencia went into the village, crying all the way.

Failing to find her lover, Clemencia had to go to work. One day when she was feeling more sad than usual two doves flew down to her window. It seemed that they were trying to cheer Clemencia as they cooed and cooed.

Clemencia captured the doves and patiently taught them many tricks.

Thus several weeks went by, and when the doves had learned their tricks well, Clemencia took them to the city square where they began to perform.

Many people came to see and admire the clever stunts the doves could do. Clemencia meanwhile kept a sharp eye out for José, always trying to locate him in the crowd. Finally, one day she saw José, always trying to locate him in the crowd. Finally, one day she saw José, but he did not recognize her. She then touched the female dove with a wand and the bird began walking in circles around the male, saying all the while: "Currucutucu, currucutucu, do you remember when you used to tell me that you loved me?"

"No!" the male would answer.

"Do you remember," the little dove asked, "that we left my home? Do you remember that you left me by the road?"

"No!" the pigeon would answer.

"Do you remember that you left me by the road, because you went for some shoes that I could wear when we entered the village?"

The pigeon exclaimed, "Yes! I remember now."

At the same time José, who had been watching, said, "I also remember now. You are my Clemencia, my love." And taking Clemencia in his arms, José told her that they would never part. So they were married and lived happily for many, many years.



La Reina Mora

(The Gypsy Queen)

There was a king who had one son. When the prince reached a marriageable age, he told his parents, "I want to marry the most beautiful woman in the whole world. Therefore, I am going to journey all over the world until I find her."

The prince left the palace and traveled until he came to a fountain where he stopped to take a drink. As the youth bent over to drink, he saw reflected in the water three oranges. Looking up, he saw three large and beautiful fruits on the branch of an orange tree.

"How tasty they look," said the prince. Climbing the tree, he removed the oranges from the branch.

The prince cut the first orange in half and from its interior a beautiful maiden appeared.

"Give me bread," said the maiden to the prince.

"I can't," answered he, "because I don't have any."

"Then to my orange I will return," said the maiden, and the orange became whole again.

The prince cut the second orange, and from this fruit also sprang a maiden, much more beautiful than the first.

"Give me bread," the second maiden told the youth.

"I can't," said the prince, "because I don't have any."

"Then to my orange I will return," said the maiden, and the orange became whole again.

The prince thoughtfully considered the situation. He decided to get some bread in case another maiden should appear asking for it.

As the prince was making his plans, a gypsy went by in a cart.

"Amigo," cried the prince, "I will give you a golden coin for a piece of bread."

Hurriedly the gypsy left his cart, hastening to give the prince some bread.

The prince, now happy and satisfied, cut the third orange. And from the orange sprang a maiden, much more beautiful than the other two.

"Give me bread," the third maiden said.

The prince, joyously, gave her bread. The lady of the orange then exclaimed, "I am now yours. You can do as you please with me."

"I will marry you," answered the prince.

The maiden was utterly naked, and since the prince wanted to take her back to the palace he could not let her go as she was. He examined the gypsy's clothes but they were dirty. The prince then told the maiden, "Remain here with this gypsy while I go and bring some garments for you."

The gypsy had a daughter who had been asleep in the cart and who had not witnessed what had taken place. The daughter awoke when the prince was riding away, and at sight of him, she fell in love.

The gypsy's daughter jumped from the cart and asked her father what had taken place. He told her all that had happened.

The gypsy girl saw the beautiful maiden and said to her, "Let me comb your hair so that you will be much more beautiful when the prince returns."

The maiden agreed. As the gypsy girl began combing, she suddenly stuck a pin in the lady's head. Immediately the maiden turned into a dove. The gypsy girl then took her clothes off and sat where the maiden had been.

Soon the prince returned and, seeing the gypsy witch, exclaimed, "Señora, how dark you have become!"

"The sun has burnt my skin," the witch answered.

The prince, believing the witch was the maiden from the orange, took the gypsy woman to his palace and there married her.

One day a dove arrived at the garden of the king and asked the gardener, "Gardener to the king, how are the princess and his wife?"

"Sometimes he sings, but more often does he cry," answered the gardener.

From then on the little dove would come to the garden and ask the same question again and again. Finally, the gardener told the prince about the dove.

The prince then ordered him to capture the bird next time it came to the garden. The gardener limed the tree where the dove always rested. The next day, when it tried to fly away, it could not and the gardener captured it and took it to the prince.

The prince fell in love with the little dove. He took the bird in his hands and began stroking its head. Feeling the pin in the dove's head, he jerked it out. Immediately the dove changed back into the maiden of the orange.

The beautiful maide told the prince all that had happened and the prince told the king the maiden's story.

The king became greatly angered and ordered that the gpsy witch be burned at the stake. And the prince and the maiden married and lived happily ever after.



El Saco de Piojo

(The Louse-Skin Coat)

Once there was a king who had a daughter. One day when the queen was combing her daughter's hair, the mother found a louse.

"Look, Father," said the princess, "at the louse Mother found in my hair."

"Don't kill it!" exclaimed the king. "Let us put it in a jar. I am curious to find how large a louse can grow when it feeds on royal blood."

The king placed the louse in a jar and every day he would let the louse feed on the royal blood of the princess. He would let the louse suck on the skin of the girl for several hours.

The louse grew so large that the king had to place it in a bigger jar. It kept on growing until finally the king placed it in a barrel. The princess kept on feeding it until it became so large that the king placed it in a tun. When the louse could not be kept in the tun, the king killed it. Then he had the louse skin tanned and ordered the royal tailor to make a coat from it.

When the coat was made, the king put it on and asked everybody the same question:

"Can you guess the name of the animal from which the skin of my coat was taken?"

Some said it was from a steet, others from a deer, but none could guess rightly.

Finally, the king proclaimed throughout his kingdom that any one solving the riddle of the coat would be wed to the princess.

From everywhere people came to try to solve the riddle, but none could guess correctly.

One day a pastor came with his flock to the city. He was going to market to sell his sheep, but decided that he might do well to go and see the sights. After walking a long while, he arrived at the outskirts of the king's palace. Being tired, the pastor rolled a cigarette and had just leaned against the wall of the king's garden to smoke when he heard voices. It was the king talking to his wife:

"I don't think anybody is going to guess that my coat is made from a louse-skin."

As soon as he heard this, the shepherd left, thinking, "Now I will be able to marry the princess."

Next day, the pastor went to the palace and asked for an audience with the king. When he was before the king, the shepherd said, "Señor, I have come to see if I can solve the riddle of your coat."

"Guess," said the king.

"Señor," said the pastor, "the coat is made from a louse-skin."

"You have guessed!" cried the king.

So the king ordered that the marriage of the shepherd and the princess take place without delay.



La Camara Prohibida

(The Forbidden Chamber)

Once there was an evil wizard who, dressed as a beggar, would go from house to house asking for alms and would steal the prettiest girls he could find. None of them could ever return home.

One day he knocked on the door of a house where lived a man with three beautiful daughters. The eldest opened the door and gave him a piece of bread.

When she gave it to him he touched her arm and hypnotized her. Then he made her enter the basket that he always carried on his back and took her to his house which was situated in the midst of the woods. Everything there was magnificent, and she had everything she could wish for.

After a few days the wizard told her that he had to go on a journey, that he would leave her the keys to all the house, and that she could enter every room except one. If she should enter that room she would surely die. Also, he gave her an egg and asked her to take good care of it.

As soon as the wizard was out of sight, the girl looked into every room and found beautiful things that delighted her. At last she approached the prohibited chamber and after a moment's indecision, her curiosity won and she entered the room.

What she saw made her tremble. There were hundreds of girls that had been kidnapped and all looked as if they had fallen asleep. The girl, frightened at the sight, went running out of the room as fast as she could.

In her haste she dropped the egg that she carried in her hand, but it did not break. When she picked it up she noticed that the egg had turned red, and although she tried to clean it, the egg stayed red.

After some time the wizard came back. He noticed what had happened to the egg, struck the girl, and dragged her into the prohibited chamber, where he left her with the others.

The wizard then went back to the same house and stole the second sister and the same thing happened to her.

He went back a third time and kidnapped the younger sister, but this sister was very wise. When the wizard gave her the keys and the egg, she took the egg and deposited it in the cupboard. Then she took the keys and went into the prohibited chamber. She was amazed at seeing so many girls lying as if in a profound sleep. Amongst them she recognized her two sisters.

She left the room and closed the door. When she heard the wizard returning, she took the egg and the keys and went to meet him.

"You shall be my wife because you have resisted curiosity," he exclaimed.

As the girl had broken the spell, the wizard had lost his power and she could do with him as she pleased, so she went to the prohibited chamber and awoke all the girls. Then she went to the wizard and told him.

"Before I marry you, you must go and take a basket full of gold to my parents."

She took a great big basket and in it she hid her two sisters covering them with pieces of gold. Then she told the wizard to take the basket but not to stop on the road because she would be watching him from the window. The man took the basket and started walking but soon was worn out by fatigue. He sat down to rest, but immediately heard a voice which said "I am watching you from my window." Thinking it was the voice of his future wife, he got up and walked a while longer. Everytime he tried to rest, the same thing happened, until finally he reached the house where his fiancée's parents lived. There he left the basket.

In the meantime, his future wife took a piece of cardboard and made a head which she placed on the window sill of the second floor, making it look as if someone was watching from the window. Then she went and let out the other victims and invited them all to her wedding. Finally, she covered her whole body with feathers, disguising herself as a rare bird so that no one could recognize her, and left the house. Soon she met some of the guests that she had invited to the wedding and they asked her:

"From where do you come beautiful bird?"

"From the house where the wizard is being wedded."

"And please tell, what does the beautiful bride do?"

"After being all dressed up in her beautiful wedding gown she leans out of the window looking down."

When the wizard returned home, the window of the second floor was open, he looked towards it and saw the head there. He thought it was his future wife and he ran excitedly into the house, but

upon entering he encountered all the family and sisters of the girl, who dragged him into the chamber, locked the door and set fire to the house.

And this was the end of the wizard and his prohibited chamber.



El Secreto del Gigante

(The Giant's Secret)

Long ago there was a king who had a very brave son. One day the son told his father, "Father, I am going to roam the world in search of adventures."

The king did not want to grant his son permission to do so, but the prince insisted so much that the king finally consented.

The prince mounted a beautiful horse and journeyed seeking adventures. After travelling a long long way, he came to a forest which he had to cross. Penetrating the deep woods, he suddenly heard a hound bay and a lion roar. Then he saw four animals: a lion, a hound, an eagle and an ant, all of them arguing over the carcass of a deer.

Seeing the prince approach, the lion roared, "One moment, hombre. As you see, all of us argue because we cannot decide which part of this dead deer belongs to each. If you make a satisfactory division of the carcass amongst us, we will reward you."

The prince agreed and divided the deer into four parts. To the lion he gave the haunches, to the hound the ribs, to the eagle the entrails, and to the ant the head.

The animals agreed to the division as the lion said to the prince, "We promised to reward you and we will keep that promise." Pulling a hair from its mane and giving it to the prince, the lion continued, "Take this hair. Whenever you want to become a lion just say 'God and Lion' and you will be transformed into a lion. To become a man again, all you have to say is 'God and Man.'"

The hound also gave the prince a hair from its body and told him to effect his transformation into a hound, he had only to change the wording of the phrase to "God and Hound," then "God and Man."

The eagle then gave the prince a feather and told him to say, "God and Eagle," in order to become an eagle. The ant also gave the prince one of its antennae, telling the youth to say "God and Ant" to become an ant.

The prince thanked the animals and went on his way, until one day he came to a castle which appeared to be deserted. The prince desired to see the interior of this castle, but it seemed impossible as the place was completely surrounded by a high wall. He then remembered the gifts he had received from the animals in the forest. Pulling out the feather, the prince said, "God and Eagle." He turned into an eagle and flew over the castle. In the highest tower of the castle he saw an open window, to which he flew and stopped on the sill. He looked into a bedroom and there saw a beautiful maiden asleep.

The prince then said, "God and Man," and turning into a man again, entered the bedroom the better to see the sleeping maiden. The maiden awoke and, seeing the prince bending over her, asked, "Señor, what do you want here? If the giant, owner of this castle, finds you, he will kill you without mercy."

"Señora," answered the prince, "I do not fear the giant, since I seek adventure. As far as I can see, you seem to be a prisoner in this huge castle. If I can be of service, please order me to do what I can."

"True," said the maid, "I am a prisoner of the giant. But it is hopeless to ask for your aid. The giant conquers all who fight against him."

Suddenly a thundering voice was heard echoing through the castle. The maiden exclaimed, "We are lost! The giant will be here any moment and there is no place where you can hide."

"Do not be afraid, señora," and holding the little ant's antenna the prince said the magic words which made him an ant.

At that instant the giant came in saying, "Señora, I am sure that you were talking to someone." The giant searched everywhere but did not see the ant. Satisfied, he left.

The prince then said, "God and Man," and became a man again.

The maiden was so appy she couldn't even talk, but finally she spoke to the prince.

"Señor, perhaps you can save me. But to do so, you have to slay the giant, and to slay the giant you must first break the egg in which the giant's life is kept. That egg is very well hidden. Nobody has ever been able to find it."

The following day the giant came to the maiden's bedroom and the girl said, "Señor, last night I dreamt that your life was in danger. A man was breaking the egg which hides your secret."

"Do not worry, señora, that egg is very well hidden," he replied.

The giant left, but nevertheless he worried. Perhaps his life was really in danger. Quick as the win of an eye, the giant became a pigeon which flew out of the window.

The prince, who had been watching the giant all this time, said, "God and Eagle" and began to fly in pursuit of the pigeon.

The pigeon landed at a cave from which it took a little box containing an egg. At this particular moment the eagle arrived. The pigeon, seeing the eagle, changed into a coyote who swallowed the egg. The coyote started to run. The prince said "God and Lion," and turned into a lion and gave chase. The coyote then turned into a hare, which hid in the underbrush where the lion was unable to follow it.

The prince said "God and Hound," became a hound and began to chase the hare. The hare, finding itself in danger of being captured, quickly changed itself back into a pigeon. The eagle caught the pigeon, flew to earth with the dead pigeon in its claws, opened up the dead bird and with a single blow of its beak broke the egg. Then instead of a dead pigeon there was a dead giant in its place.

The eagle flew back to the castle and entered the maiden's bedroom. There he said "God and Man," assumed his human form, and took into his arms the beautiful maiden. Forgetting their fear of the giant, they were married and changed the gloomy castle into a nest of love and happiness