

29

The Miller Who Outsmarted Himself

A miller said to his apprentice one day, "Go and turn the water away from the mill wheel and stop the mill. I want to make love to a woman who will bring some wheat to be ground this evening." The apprentice did as he was told.

When the woman came that evening, the miller explained to her that it was too late to have her wheat ground that night because the water had been turned off and the mill wheel had stopped. "You go home and come back again in the morning with your wheat and I shall grind your wheat very fine then."

"It is a long trip," said the woman, "and I do not want to make it twice."

"Well," said the miller, "stay with us for the night. I shall ask my wife to give you a bed."

The woman agreed to do this, and the miller took her to his house. He asked his wife to make up a bed for her, and he said to his wife, "You will make the guest's bed at the top of the stairs in the hall." The wife made a bed there on the top of the stairs in the hall, but she was suspicious of her husband, so she put the guest in her own bed and she herself slept in the bed in the hall.

The miller had told the apprentice about this, and when it was midnight, he said to the apprentice, "I am going to lie with that woman now, but I shall come back later."

The miller went home, entered the house quietly, and slipped into the bed in the hall in the dark. When he was satisfied, he dressed and went back to the mill and said to his apprentice, "That woman is a hot wench. Why don't you go and make love to her too?" So the apprentice did this

In the morning the miller sent his apprentice to tell the woman to come for her flour. After she had come for the flour and departed, he went to his house for breakfast. When he arrived home, his wife said to the miller, "What was the matter with you last night? You came into my bed twice and made love to me."

"Was that you?" the miller gasped.

"Yes it was I!" the woman said angrily. Then she started to laugh, "But the second time it wasn't you," she said, "It was your apprentice."

The miller was very angry but he had only himself to blame.