

Story 1703 (1993 Tape 6)

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The Tall-Tale Teller and His Accomplice

There was once a tall-tale teller whose best friend was his accomplice. Whenever the tall-tale teller would tell such a large lie that no one was at first willing to believe it, the accomplice would rescue him. One day, however, these two friends had an argument, and in their anger they parted company. As he was leaving, the accomplice said, "Liar, no matter what you may think now, you will always need my help."

I do not need you at all," retorted the tall-tale teller.

After some time had passed, the liar was one day back in the coffeehouse telling tall tales about his adventures. "Once when I was hunting," he said, "I was able to demonstrate a very unusual piece of marksmanship I fired my rifle in such a unique way that I shot a rabbit in the ear and in its left rear foot with the same bul-

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let.

Everyone in the coffeehouse laughed loudly. They refused to believe that such a shot was possible.

Luckily for the tall-tale teller, his former accomplice just happened to be present at the coffeehouse at time. Once again he came to the aid of his old friend. He spoke up and said, "Yes, it is true! I was there and I saw it happen!"

"But how is such a thing possible?" someone asked

"How could a rabbit be shot in the ear and in its rear foot with the same bullet?"

"Well, it happened in this way," explained the accomplice. "Just as my friend aimed at the rabbit's head, the rabbit scratched its ear with its left rear foot. The bullet went through both the foot and the ear."