

Story 1997 (1984 Tape 7)

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Bolu

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Questionable Celebration of Donkeys

The sun was shining brightly on a warm spring day. A number of donkeys were grazing on the fresh green grass of a pasture. Most of them were young donkeys, but among them there was a lame old donkey. That older donkey observed that all of the young donkeys were unusually happy, as if they were celebrating some pleasant event. Curious about this, he asked one of the younger donkeys, “Why are you all so gleeful today?”

“Oh, haven’t you heard the good news? The maker of packsaddles died yesterday.”

“No, I had not heard that,” answered the lame old donkey, “but that is not news worthy of celebration.”

“Should we cry rather than celebrate?” asked the young donkey.

“You should do neither. Just because a maker of packsaddles dies, it does not mean that there are not other such craftsmen to replace him. Furthermore, his successor may be inexperienced and incompetent in his handiwork!”