

OLD SULTAN

There once was a farmer who had a faithful dog named Sultan. However, he had grown so old he had lost all his teeth and could no longer carry anything. One day the farmer told his wife “Old Sultan is no longer of any use. I intend to shoot him tomorrow.”

His wife was saddened and felt pity for the animal. “He has been so faithful and served us so long. He has earned his keep for a little longer.”

“What?!? Since he has no teeth left, no thief is afraid of him. He has served us well, but it is his time to go.”

The dog was laying in the sun in the next room and had heard every single word. Since tomorrow was to be his last day, he snuck out that night to see his good friend the wolf. He told him the bad news.

“Hmmm. I have a plan to help you out, friend,” the wolf said to comfort Old Sultan. “Tomorrow morning when your master and his wife start working in the barn, they will take their child with them. And when they work, they will set the child down in the shade. You will be right next to that child to guard it. I will sneak out of the woods and snatch that child up! You will chase after me, but I will drop the baby so you can pick it up and bring it back to its parents. You will be a hero! They will spoil you! They certainly won’t shoot you after that!”

The plan went smoothly. When Old Sultan returned with the child, the farmer was delighted. He told the dog “You have nothing to worry about now, old friend. You shall live as long as you please.”

To his wife he said, “Go make this beautiful dog some bread soup since he has no teeth. And give him my pillow.”

The wolf returned. “Since I helped you out, how about you close your eyes and let me carry off one of your master’s big, fat, meaty sheep?”

“No, sir. I cannot allow that,” the dog replied.

The wolf thought he was joking, so he returned that night for the sheep he felt he was owed. However, Old Sultan had informed the farmer of the plan and he was waiting for the wolf. He quickly fled, but not before crying out to the dog “How dare you! You will regret this!”

The following morning, the wolf and a boar came out of the woods to challenge the dog and settle the whole thing. Old Sultan saw them and looked around for help, but could only find the 3-legged barn cat. He joined the dog, but each time he limped, his tail stretched outward and he screamed in pain.

The wolf and boar were waiting, but when they saw the cat's outstretched tail they were sure he was carrying a sword. And with each uneven limp, the pair swore they saw this enemy picking up rocks to hurl at them. The boar slowly backed into the woods while the wolf ran up a tree.

The dog and cat arrived for the battle, but saw no one. The boar's ears and snout were sticking out of a bush. The cat mistook it for a mouse and pounced, clawing and biting the boar's face. The boar screamed out "The guilty one is in the tree!"

The wolf climbed down and made peace with his friend, Old Sultan.