

## The Wagon

Once upon a time there lived a man who had a very old father. He was so old that all day long he did nothing but sleep on the warm hearth. One day the man and his wife decided to get rid of the old man, saying to each other, "Why should we feed the old man and allow him to clutter up the hearth? Let's just take him out in the wagon and dump him into the snow. Maybe that way he'll croak all the sooner."

So they decided to get rid of the poor, helpless soul. The man harnessed his nag to a shabby wagon, seated the father and drove him to a field where he left him in the snow with the wagon. "Let the old one croak there," he said to himself.

But when he brought the nag home his wife said, "What did you do with the wagon?"

"I left it with the old one," said the man. "What do I want with such a shabby wagon anyhow?"

Their little son, who had been listening, then asked, "Why father, what kind of manager are you, leaving the wagon in the field? When you become old, in what am I going to drive you to the field? Why didn't you think of that?"

The man was so moved at the words of his little son that he began to weep. "Hey, wife, what are we going to do? We have children, too, and some day we are also going to be old."

He quickly rode back to the field and rescued his father: he brought him back home so that the old man could spend the rest of his days before the warm hearth.