

March, April and May

In the month of March it sometimes happens that the weather is very changeable: the sun shines, it warms up, then it thaws. It grows still warmer and there is mud. Then once more it turns cold, the mud freezes and it begins to snow again. That is why people say old folks have the same kind of health as March has good weather.

Listen, then, to the following incident that old folks say happened long, long ago.

One day April set out to pay March a visit. He started out in a sleigh because there was still snow on the ground. March found out about April's intended visit and wasn't pleased a bit, so he had the Sun warm things up a bit by shining. The snow melted and April had to return home because a sleigh is useless without snow.

Another year April remembered the trick played on him, so he set out to visit March with a wagon as there wasn't much snow. March, however, found out and sent snow. Then soon the sun began to shine and everything everywhere turned into water, so one couldn't use a wagon. Again April turned back, and March just laughed at the mischief he was doing.

The third year April saw that there was a little water everywhere so he set out in a boat. But as soon as March found out he immediately froze the water and also sent snow, so once more April was not able to arrive.

Then one day April encountered May and complained to him. "Do you know, brother, I have been wanting to make March a visit, but somehow I can't make it. March has been sending invitations to me through friends to visit him. I just don't know what to do."

And May replied, “If you wish to pay March a visit, do as I tell you. Take a sleigh, a wagon and a boat with you.” So April took May’s advice. He put a wagon and a boat on his sleigh and rode off.

March warmed up with the Sun and the snow began to melt. So April put the sleigh and the boat on the wagon and set out in it. When more snow began to melt, April put the wagon and sleigh on his boat and set off in it. Many times he changed to the wagon, then to the sleigh, and at long last he arrived!

March was surprised to see him and asked, “How ever did you get here in this weather?”

“My neighbour May advised me how to get here and so I arrived!”

March did not reply. But every year he holds a grudge against May: at night when May sleeps, March sends out a little frost so that he might do a bit of mischief for him in the garden and in the fields.