

## The Pot

An honest man once borrowed a large pot from his neighbour. When he had finished using it he returned it, but in the meanwhile he had forgotten to remove from the strange pot his own smaller pot that was inside it. He returned the big pot and said, "Thank you for letting me use it." The neighbour looked inside and noticing the little pot said to the honest man, "Where did this come from?"

The man answered jokingly, "No doubt your pot had a little one."

The neighbour rejoiced, saying, "If that's the case, I'll take them both." And he took the two pots and carried them off. The honest man said nothing and went home.

A little later on he went again to borrow the big pot from his neighbour, who was pleased to lend it to him. "You are most welcome to borrow my pot," he said. "Here you are."

The honest man took the pot but did not return. A week passed by, and then a month, but still he hadn't returned the pot. Finally his neighbour said to him, "Please return my pot." The man replied, "Well, I would return it but your pot has died."

"What a laugh!" answered the neighbour. "Whoever heard of a pot dying?"

And the honest man replied, "Whoever heard of a pot having little ones? If a pot can have little ones, then it can die."

So the neighbour returned home and did not mention his pot again. After awhile the honest man sent back the neighbour's big pot and received his own little pot in exchange.