**AUNTY NACİYE’S MILK**

Once upon a time, in a far away village of Anatolia, there was a woman called Aunty Naciye. She earnt her living by selling milk from her only cow. One morning, she milked her cow and left the bucket near her garden gate. Then, she went inside her home to have some breakfast, but when she came back the bucket was empty. She was surprised and wondered: “My goodness, there is nobody around, what has happened to my milk?”

\*\*\*

The following day the same thing happened. The poor woman wanted to know what had happened to her milk. On the third morning, she left the bucket at the same spot and waited. After some time, a fox appeared and put its head into the bucket and drank all the milk. Aunty Naciye was furious. She crept up behind the fox and grabbed the fox by it’s tail.

\*\*\*

As the fox tried to escape its tail became detached from it’s body. The fox screamed and begged Aunty Naciye to give the tail back: “Please, give my tail back. My friends will make fun of me.” But Aunty Naciye was angry. She shouted at the fox “You should bring back the milk first, then you can have your tail back.”

\*\*\*

The fox ran to the cow and pleaded, “Please give me some milk. I need to give it to Aunty Naciye so I can get my tail back.” The cow replied, “Oh dear, I can’t give you milk unless you bring me some grass. Bring me my food, so I can give you milk”

\*\*\*

Then the fox went to the meadow, “Please can you give me some grass. I will give the grass to the cow and it will give me milk. I will give the milk to Naciye and then I will be able to get my tail back.” The meadow replied: “Only if you bring me some children to play. Then you can take the grass.” So the fox went to the children and told them the story. They replied, “If you bring us some beads then we can play on the meadow.” The fox thought what am I going to do now?

\*\*\*

The fox ran to the market of the village and told the story to the stall holder. The stall holder said, “if you bring me an egg, I will give you some beads.” Next, the fox went to the farm and gently asked the hen for an egg, “Dear hen, I know you don’t like me, but please give me an egg so I can get my tail back.” But the hen replied: “If you bring me some feed grain then you can take your egg”. The fox left the farm and went to the grain field and told his story. However, the field wanted the fox to bring it some water.

\*\*\*

After a long jkourney and exhausted the fox soon arrived a very wide river. Again the fox told his story: “Please river, give me some water.

I will bring water to the grain field so it will give me feed grain.

I will give feed grain to the hen, so she will give me an egg.

I will give the egg to the stall holder so he will give me some beads

I will give beads to the children so they will play on the meadow and it will give me grass.

I will give grass to the cow so she will give me some milk.

I will give the milk to Aunty Naciye and she will give me my tail back.”

\*\*\*

The river was generous. Without waiting for something in return it said: “You can take as much water you need.” Happily, the fox got the water and gave it to the field, then the grain to hen, then the egg to stall holder, then the beads to children, then the children played on the meadow, then the grass to cow, and finally the milk to Aunty Naciye.

At the end of this tiring journey, Aunty Naciye gave the fox his tail back and he learned his lesson...

(Turkish Story);

The World of Fairy Tales-Emel İPEK