

Moe and the Thieves

After many years of hard service, Moe's donkey died. He decided to go to the market to buy a new one. He walked through the mountains to the market in town. When he got there he bought a fresh faced grey donkey with huge ears and long teeth. He set off home again with the donkey behind him on a rope.

Two thieves were watching him as he came up to the mountains. They smiled. 'It will be easy to steal this donkey,' they said to each other.

As Moe came round a corner, one of the thieves quickly ran behind him, took the rope off the donkey and put it round his own neck. The second thief led the donkey away.

After a few minutes, Moe turned to look at his donkey. There was no donkey, just a young, scruffy man with a rope around his neck. "Who are you?" Cried Moe.

"Please do not hurt me master," said the thief.

"Where is my donkey?"

"Please master, do not hurt me! When I was younger I was such a naughty boy that my mother put a curse on me and changed me into a donkey. Now, by the grace of God, you have bought me and the curse has been lifted."

Moe thought for a minute. The thief did have the same fresh face and long teeth as his donkey. He let the boy go and travelled home.

The next week, Moe went back to the market to get another donkey. He could not believe his eyes when he saw the same animal he had bought the week before. He moved close and whispered in its ear.

"So you have been a naughty boy again?"

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