

The Old Man and His Grandson

A RUSSIAN FOLK STORY

The grandfather had become very old. His legs could not carry him very well, his eyes could not see as well, and others would have to repeat what they said, for his hearing was not as good. He also lost many of his teeth. This made it difficult to eat without appearing untidy. His son and his son's wife no longer allowed him to eat with them at the table and had him take his meals near the stove. They gave him food in a cup. One time he tried to move the cup closer to him and it fell to the floor and broke into many pieces. He tried to clean it up but it was difficult. The daughter-in-law scolded the old man, claiming that he damaged everything around the house telling him that from that day on she would give him his food in a wood dish bowl. The old man sighed and said nothing.



One day the old man's son and his wife were sitting in their little cabin resting. Their little boy was playing on the floor. He was trying to make something out of some small bits of wood. His father asked him, *"What are you making Misha?"* And Misha said: *"I am making a wooded dish bowl."* *"What is it for?"* The little boy replied, *"It's for when you and mommy get old. When you are old I will feed you out of this wooded dish bowl like grandpa has."*

The young peasant and his wife looked at each other and tears filled their eyes. They were ashamed to have treated the old man so unkindly and asked God to forgive them. From that day forward the little boy's grandpa was again welcome to sit with them at the table and took better care of him.

Lesson to be learned!

The way you treat your parents is how your children are learning to treat you!
