

The Goldfish

Once upon a time, a poor fisherman was struggling all night to catch a fish but could not. When dawn was almost over, he threw his hook back into the sea and thought: "Oh! My God, misfortune! Today my children will die of hunger".

It seemed to him that, at that moment, a fish had bitten on his hook, so, he reeled in the line and what did he see! A little goldfish! He tried to take it off the hook and immediately he heard a voice saying to him: "Throw the goldfish back into the sea and this good deed will benefit thee!"

-Well, he thought, I'll throw it back in! One little goldfish won't do me any good.

So, he threw it back into the sea. He heard the voice again saying to him: "What would you like me to do for you?"

-Well, he said, I would like to go home and find bread and food.

When he arrived home, he saw that everything was as the voice had promised him. He then told his wife all that had happened.

-Oh, what did you do! She said. Instead of asking for something good, you asked for bread and food?

-Well, alright! He said. If I catch it again, what do you want me to ask for?

His wife told him to ask for palaces!

The poor fisherman went out to fish again and again he caught the goldfish. When he attempted to remove it from the hook he heard the same voice saying:” Throw the goldfish back into the sea and this good deed will benefit thee!”

The fisherman once more threw the goldfish back into the sea and heard the voice saying to him:” What would you like me to do for you?” The fisherman asked for palaces as his wife had requested.

He then returned home and what did he see! Instead of the old cabin he lived in, he saw the most beautiful palaces in its place!

However, his wife was still not pleased. “Oh! Go and catch the goldfish again and this time ask it to make you and I king and queen.

The fisherman once again went out to sea as he had done before and when he heard the voice, he asked for what his wife had requested. Unfortunately, this time, when he arrived home he saw his old cabin and his children as hungry as before.

Translated from Greek text by Stergiani Agiomamitou