

(003) Father, Son and the Donkey (From an Aesop fable)

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This is an old and funny ^{故事} tale. It is set in the days before engines ^{引擎 (n.)} and shopping malls. A father and his son were travelling with their ^驢 donkey to the market. They were walking along by its side and a man ^{經過} passed them. He said, "You fools, why don't you ride on the donkey?" ^{傻子}

So the man put the boy on the donkey and they went on their way. Soon they passed a group of men. They were talking amongst themselves. They were saying that the young boy was lazy, making his father walk. So the man ordered his son to get off, and got on himself.

They had not gone far ^{舉止粗野的人} when they passed two women. One said to the other, "That lazy lout should be ashamed of himself. He lets his poor weak son ^{步履沉重地走} trudge along." ^{羞恥的/慚愧的}

The man did not know what to do. Finally, he placed his son in front of him on the donkey. By this time they had come to the town. Passers-by began to ^{嘲笑} jeer and point at them. The man stopped and asked why they were laughing at them. "You and your big, fat son are ^{超重} overloading that poor weak donkey," one of them told him.

The man ^竿 and his son tried to think what to do. At last, they cut down a pole. They tied the donkey to the pole by its feet. Then they carried the donkey, upside down, on their ^{肩膀} shoulders. The people along the road roared with laughter. ^{笑聲} ^{吼叫}

They came to Market Bridge where the donkey got one of his feet ^鬆 loose. He kicked out at the boy. He dropped his end of the pole. In the ^{掙扎} struggle, the donkey fell over the bridge. He was still tied to the pole and so he was ^{遇溺} drowned.

An old man had been following them. "That will teach you," he said. "Try and please everybody and you will please nobody." ^{使...滿意}