

The stone with a beard

Comparison: Folk Italian fairy tale

The rooster and the spider had been friends for a long time, they lived in a village near the forest and were also neighbours. They also loved spending time together. Every morning they said good morning and inquired about the mutual state of health and happiness of the previous hours. Every evening they sipped together a glass of water with ginger, watching the sun which was going to sleep. One day the rooster gave its friend an interesting proposal: "our neighbour, the porcupine, is sick and can no longer work. We rent its field and cultivate it. We could sow interesting plants. It seems like a good idea. What do you say about it?" the spider immediately liked the idea enthusiastically, and suggested to ask, without losing time, to the goat, another neighbour in old age, spade and hoe. The morning after the rooster showed up early at spider's hut with his tools on his shoulder. "Come on, quick, today we have to hoe the soil". From the inside of the hut there was a faint voice; it was the spider that said: "my friend, I feel bad, I have a terrible backache! You go alone, I'll help you tomorrow". The rooster walked towards the field with great difficulty and under a burning sun. It worked to break the clods and prepare the soil to sowing. While the rooster worked, the spider took the liberty of sleeping until late, then lying down on the mat in front of the house and singing all cheerful and satisfied with its deception. "It's almost none, nobody is around here. They are all working, I just sing here." The day after the rooster appeared again and soon at the spider hut. "Soon, We have to work", and the spider, once again: "ouch, ouch! My head bursts, I can't walk. But I promise you I'll help you tomorrow". The rooster spent another day sowing and protecting the seeds with straw and palm leaves against the birds. Meanwhile the spider sang loudly under the mango tree: "It's almost none, the earth is really an oven. They are all there to sweat, and I'm here to play. And again, a few days later, when the rooster went to the spider to urge it to work, it replied that it had terrible pain in his legs. Then, while its friend was working, it made a hearty breakfast, lay down on the bank of the stream and for a long time sang, with all the breath in its throat. It's almost noon, how beautiful this day. They are all there to work hard, I just want to dance. The rooster returned from work in the fields exhausted, but still visited spider's hut to see if his friend had recovered. The rooster also wanted to tell it about the plants, which grew green and robust. But there was no sign of the spider. The porcupine and the goat, forced to stay at home all day for

problems related to old age, witnessed the spider farce every day. They discussed privately, even asking the turtle, who was the oldest and wisest of the group, and finally decided to reveal the truth to the rooster. The rooster, disappointed by the behavior of the spider (it believed was a friend) was furious and drove the lying spider from the village. Now the spider wanders from house to house for food in exchange of a song.

Analysis

Both fairy tales tell of seemingly cunning spider who is taught a lesson with its own weapons. Both end with the defeat of the spider, the solution to the affair and the lesson given by the rooster. Both explain the physical characteristics of the spider, but the second tale focuses on the habits of life. The differences are also in the animals involved and in the lesson mode to be given to the spider.