

The man, the boy, and the donkey

This is a very old story, but it teaches us something that is still true today. One day, a wise man said to his young son, “Come with me and I will show you something.” The father got onto his donkey and told his son to walk behind him. On the road, some people pointed at the man and said, “Look at that man. Why doesn’t he let the boy ride the donkey?” The man and the boy heard this, so they changed places. The boy rode and the man walked.

A few minutes later, they passed some other people. The people pointed and said, “Look at the boy. How can he ride while his old father walks?” So the man and the boy got onto the donkey.

Then they passed some other people, who said “That poor donkey can’t carry two people. They are much too heavy.” So they got off the donkey and they both walked. They walked through a village, and people laughed at them, saying, “Look at those two fools. Why do they walk when they have a donkey?” The man and the boy thought, and then the man said, “We’ve tried walking and we’ve tried riding. Let’s try carrying it.” So they carried the donkey, and all the people in the village laughed at them, saying, “Look! They are carrying the donkey! They are mad!”

Finally, they put the donkey down, and the man said to his son, “This is a lesson for you, my son. In this life, you can never please everyone.”