

TRACE

**Traditional Children's Stories for a common
Future**

Golden Egg



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Once there lived an old man and an old woman. They had a mottled hen. It laid a golden egg.

The old man struck the egg once, then struck it again and again, but could not break it; the old woman struck the egg once and struck it many times, but she could not break it either. A little mouse ran by and pushed the egg down with its tail.

The egg fell to the ground and was broken. The old man and the old woman began to cry.

The hen started cackling and told them: "Don't cry, dear old man, don't cry, dear old lady, I'll give you another egg - not golden, but just an ordinary one. You'll be able to break this one and to eat it as well!"