

TRACE

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

Wild Animals and the Dough Box Maker



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Once upon a time there lived an old man, who was making dough boxes. Once he was quite short of bread. But his neighbour, the landowner, said to him: - Make me a new dough box, then I'll give you some bread!

The old man agreed. He made a bulky dough box and started to carry it to his neighbour. But the weather on that day was terribly hot, his burden quite heavy, and the old man soon was out of breath. So he lay down in the forest under a bushy oak tree, putting the dough box over himself as a cover.

After a short while, a hare came running, sat down on the dough box, and wondered: - Such a lovely table, but - what a pity - there is no food upon it!

In the meantime, a fox arrived in a trot, sat down on the dough box beside the hare, and wondered: - Such a lovely table, but - what a pity - there is no food upon it!

After a while the wolf came running, sat down on the dough box next to the fox, and also wondered: - Such a lovely table, but - what a pity - there is no food upon it!

"After a while also the bear came, squat down on the dough box next to the wolf, and also wondered: - Such a lovely table, but - what a pity - there is no food upon it!"

So the wild animals were all sitting there until they came to a thought - but they certainly could do something to prepare a meal!

The bear said, "I know a wild beehive in the forest, I'll bring it."

The wolf said, "I know a fat ram in the sheep shed, I'll bring it."

The fox said, 'I know a fat gander in the farmstead, I'll bring it.'

The hare said, "I know a heavy cabbage head in the garden, I'll bring it."

Each went his own way. After a while the bear brought the beehive and dropped it on the dough box with a great bang. Then the wolf brought a ram, the fox brought a gander, and a hare brought a cabbage head.

They started their feast. Suddenly the man stirred under the dough box, and the bear got frightened and exclaimed, "Who's moving the table?"

No one answered, and they all continued eating. After a while, the man stirred the dough box again, and the wolf exclaimed, "Who's moving the table?" No one answered, and all of them continued eating.

After a while, the man stirred the dough box again, and the fox said, "Who's moving the table?"

No one answered, and they all continued their feast. A moment later, the man under the dough box turned to his other side, greatly shaking the dough box.

The hare shouted, "Who's moving the table? It's not safe here anymore, let's run away!"

And so they all took to their heels, everyone running in a different direction. But the old maker of dough boxes now had honey, meat and a cabbage head.

Besides the man also got bread from his neighbour in reward for the dough box - and now he could live without any worry.