The Thrice-Fed Horse

There was a merchant once who was hawking his goods in a rural area. One day he was received as guest in the home of a well-to-do farmer. His horse was put in the farmer's stable.

That night as he lay in his bed, the merchant heard through the wall of his room the host and his wife talking in the next room, but he misunderstood what they were saying. Wishing to have sexual intercourse with his wife, the host said to her, "Put the feed bag on the horse." Sexual intercourse -- euphemism for

"How well and happy you are today, putting the feed bag on three times in the same day."

"No, it was not three times--just twice," said the husband. The guest interrupted them, shouting through the wall, "The third time it was I who put the feed bag around the horse's neck."