

Story 972 (1961, Dictated)

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*all*  
The Woodcutter and the Snake *all*

There was once a woodcutter who went every day to the forest to cut wood. One day in winter when he was on his way home from the forest, he saw something black lying upon the snow. Approaching it, he discovered that it was a black snake that was frozen stiff.

The woodcutter picked up the snake and took it to his home. He placed it near the fireplace. After a short while it thawed out and was revived.

The children of the woodcutter were fascinated by this snake and wanted to play with it. But the snake struck out and tried to bite one of the children.

When the woodcutter saw this, he took his axe and quickly cut the snake in half. He said, "Those who do not understand good will find their punishment."