

Story 1789 (1976 Tape 16)

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The Fox and the Wolf in the Well

There was once a fox who became very thirsty. Near where he lived there was an abandoned well. This well was equipped with a pair of buckets. These buckets were arranged so that when one was down in the well, the other was above the rim of the well mouth. The thirsty fox climbed into one of the buckets, and his weight carried him at once down into the well. There he drank enough water to satisfy his thirst

At just that time a wolf came along and looked down into the well. He too was thirsty. Seeing the fox at bottom of the well, the wolf asked, "Hey, my friend, how did you get down there? I am very thirsty, and I should like to get down there to drink some water."

"That is very easy, my friend," answered the fox. "Get into that bucket up there. It will carry you down here, and I shall go up there. Later I shall raise you up

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The wolf was much heavier than the fox, and so when he dropped downward in the one bucket, he raised fox in the other one. After the wolf had drunk all of water he wanted, he waited for the fox to raise him out of the well. He called up, "My friend, aren't you going to take me out of here?"

The fox answered, "Oh, my friend, don't you know how life is? Some rise in this world, and some drop lower. That's life!"