



Be confident and be yourself!

A wise old man had a son who never wanted to go out. He was very complexed about his looks and worried about what people would say about him. His father told him to never listen to what others say.

“Tomorrow we will go to the market together. You will see what I mean”. He said.

The next day, early in the morning, father and son left for the market. The wise old man rode a donkey, and his son walked next to him. When they reached the market place the merchants started shouting: “Look at that man! He has no pity! While he is resting on the back of his donkey the poor boy is breaking his legs!”

“Did you hear that?” asked the wise old man to his son.

“Tomorrow we are coming back to the market!”

The next day they returned to the market. This time the boy rode the donkey, while his father walked next to him. At the market place the same merchants sang out: “What a terrible sight! What a bad mannered son! Coming to the market at leisure while his father is bent over by fatigue!”

“Did you hear that?” asked the boy’s father.

The next day they went back to the market for the third time. This time they both walked, with the donkey by their side.

“Look at those idiots!” laughed the merchants! “Walking all the way to the market! As if they didn’t know that donkeys are made to ride!”

“Did you see that?” asked the boy’s father.

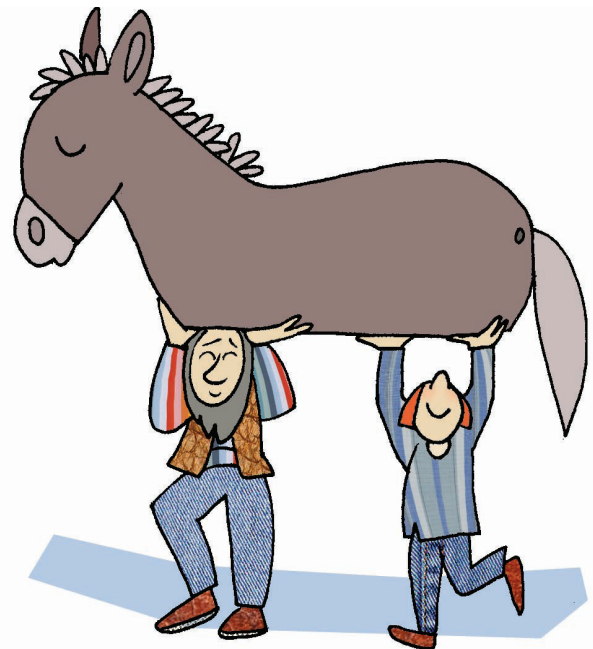
The fourth day they went back to the market and both rode the donkey.

“How shameful! Look at them!” cried the merchants.

“They have no compassion for that animal!”

The fifth day they went to the market carrying the donkey on their shoulders. The merchants burst out laughing! “Those two are really nutty!” They said. “Carrying their donkey instead of having the donkey carry them!”

The wise old man summed up the lesson: “Dearest son, you have seen it with your own eyes. Whatever you do in life people will find some reason or another to criticise you. This is why you shouldn’t worry about their opinion: **be confident! Follow your conscience, do what you feel is right and continue on your way!**”



We are often afraid of what other people may say about us. “What will they say if I do this, if I say that, if I wear this...?” We need to have the courage to be ourselves! Judging and giving advice are two different things. One can be hurtful; the other helpful. We need to learn to make a difference!