

6.14 The wise shoemaker

There was a shoemaker in a village in Hungary. His name was Yosser. Yosser was a good shoemaker but he was also very wise. People came to his shop with their problems as well as their shoes!

Sometimes mothers came and asked, 'What can I do with my son? He is so lazy!'

Sometimes farmers came and asked, 'What can I do with my farm? I have no money and I cannot buy any corn!'

Yosser always gave good advice. More and more people came to him. He hardly had time to make any shoes! Rich people came to see him. They travelled for a day to get to his village. They just wanted to get his advice.

Now one day, a rich man in Budapest wanted to have a wonderful wedding for his daughter. He wanted the wedding to be famous. Of course, he invited the best cooks to make wonderful food. And, of course, he invited the best musicians to make wonderful music. But everybody has good cooks and musicians. Then he got an idea! He decided to visit Yosser, the wise shoemaker! 'Yosser will come to the wedding and then the wedding will be famous!' So the rich man invited Yosser. Yosser was very pleased! He wanted to go to Budapest! It was his first time in a big city!

Yosser arrived in Budapest. It was raining and the streets were full of holes and the holes were full of water. Yosser looked at the big houses and fell into a hole full of water and mud! He got out of the hole but he was wet and dirty. He ran to the house of the rich man. The servants opened the door and saw Yosser. They said, 'Go away! No beggars today! It is the daughter's wedding and it is going to be a famous wedding!' And they threw Yosser into another hole!

Now, Yosser knew another rich man in Budapest. Yosser went to this house. He washed himself and he borrowed some fine clothes from the other rich man. He borrowed some high, soft, brown leather boots; a pair of soft, white woollen trousers; a white silken shirt; and a green coat with golden buttons. Then he went to the house of the wedding. Everybody was happy to see Yosser! 'You must have the best seat at the wedding!' said the rich man. 'You must sit next to the bride and groom!'