

The emperor’s new clothes

In a distant kingdom lived an emperor who was obsessed with his appearance and with owning the finest clothes in the world. He loved dressing well so much that he spent all his money on outfits, paying no attention to anything else. He would change his clothes several times a day, and he delighted in being admired by others.

One day, two men arrived in the kingdom, posing as weavers. They claimed to possess a special skill: they could create magical fabric so exquisite that it could only be seen by those who were intelligent and competent. Fools and the inept would be unable to see it.

Excited by this idea, the emperor thought, “This fabric will be perfect! With it, I shall be able to discover who in my kingdom is intelligent and who is not.” And so, he hired the weavers immediately.

The two impostors set themselves up in the palace and began to “work” on the garment. They sat at large looms and made a great show of being busy, even though there was nothing in their hands or on the looms. They requested gold thread and fine silks, which they then hid away to keep for themselves. But no one could see the fabric… because, in truth, there was none at all!

Growing impatient, the emperor sent his ministers to check on the progress of the work. Upon approaching the empty looms, the ministers saw nothing. Yet, not wanting to appear foolish, they pretended to admire the “invisible fabric.”

“Oh, it is beautiful! The colors are magnificent, and the design is unique!” they exclaimed. When they returned, they told the emperor that the clothing was extraordinary. The emperor, filled with excitement, decided to go and see it for himself. But when he reached the looms, he couldn’t see anything either. “This can’t be! I can’t be a fool!” he thought. So, he pretended to see it too.

“It is absolutely splendid!” he exclaimed.

Finally, the impostors announced that the outfit was finished. Pretending to dress him, they moved their hands as if they were adjusting invisible garments.

“This outfit is so light that it will feel as though you are wearing nothing at all!” the impostors said.

Delighted and convinced, the emperor decided to hold a grand parade to show off his new attire. The people gathered in the streets to watch, and when the emperor appeared… everyone was left speechless. No one wanted to appear foolish, so they all began to exclaim:

“What a magnificent outfit! Such colors! Such elegance!”

But, in the crowd, a little boy could not hold back and shouted:

“But the emperor is naked!”

The people began to whisper, and soon everyone admitted what they already knew: the emperor was wearing nothing at all! Even so, the emperor—feeling both proud and ashamed—decided to continue the parade as if nothing had happened.

The lesson of The emperor’s new clothes

This tale teaches us not to be swayed by appearances and to be sincere, even when social pressure suggests otherwise. It also critiques pride and vanity, showing that it is better to accept the truth than to live in a state of deception.