

The wild man

Many, many years ago, in a distant kingdom, there lived a powerful and wise king who had a son—a very curious and brave prince. The boy lived in the castle, surrounded by luxury, but what he enjoyed most was running through the gardens and playing near the mysterious forest that stretched out beside the kingdom.

But this forest hid a secret that everyone knew and feared: the Wild Man. It was said that he was an enormous creature, covered in hair from head to toe, with glowing eyes and incredible strength. The villagers claimed that this being would carry off anyone who ventured too deep into the woods, and for this reason, no one dared to go near it.

One day, the king’s soldiers managed to capture the Wild Man. With many ropes and a great deal of effort, they brought him to the castle and locked him in a large iron cage. Everyone watched him with fear, but he remained silent, his eyes filled with sadness.

The prince, full of curiosity, approached him. He had never seen a man like this before. He didn’t look like a monster… just a being who was different. When he was left alone, the Wild Man spoke in a deep yet gentle voice:

“Boy, if you let me out, I promise to show you wonderful things.”

The prince hesitated. He knew his father would be very angry if he set him free... yet, deep down, he felt that this man was not evil. So, slowly, he reached out his hand and opened the door of the cage. At that moment, the Wild Man sprang up, took the prince by the hand, and ran toward the forest. The boy didn’t even have time to cry out! Yet, surprisingly, he felt no fear. The Wild Man meant him no harm; he was simply taking him deep into the forest, where light filtered through giant trees and everything seemed filled with magic.

From that day on, the prince lived in the forest with him. The Wild Man taught him the secrets of nature: how to sense the wind to tell if a storm was approaching, how to speak with animals, how to find food and water, and how to be strong and brave without the need for weapons or riches.

In time, the prince grew into a tall, strong, and wise young man. Yet, deep down, he still missed his father and his castle. One day, looking toward the city from the edge of the forest, he said:

“I wish to return to my kingdom.”

The Wild Man looked at him with a smile and replied:

“You are ready. But remember: if you ever need help, you have only to call my name.”

The prince returned, but upon reaching the castle, no one recognized him. He was dressed in garments made of leaves and animal skins, looking just like any other wild inhabitant of the forest. No one believed him when he claimed to be the prince.

But soon, a great tournament was organized at the castle, where the finest knights would compete to demonstrate their strength and skill. The prince, who by now knew all the secrets of nature and the art of combat, took part. With great agility, he defeated all the other knights. No one had ever seen anyone so strong and skillful!

When the king saw this brave young man and looked into his eyes, he understood everything. Those eyes… they were his son’s! With tears of emotion, the king embraced him, and the prince recounted his entire adventure.

The king then realized that the Wild Man was no monster, but a wise being who had taught him great lessons. From that moment on, no one pursued him again, and the prince reigned with justice, as well as a love for nature and freedom.

And that is the end of our story.